

## Picture Perfect: CHL begins with a bang



**IN THE BEGINNING:** *The Champions Hockey League officially got underway with the Qualification Tournament in Nurnberg, Germany. What has fans and the media buzzing so far is the 'clean' look of the ice and jerseys, which feature virtually no advertising. Switzerland's SC Bern won the qualification in Germany, but it seems the Swiss team has a tough road ahead after losing their first two games. For more on the CHL, see page 6.*

## Victoria Cup, Champions Hockey League and much more in 2008-09



*There is no better feeling than being able to deliver what you have promised. After months and months of talking, the hockey world was finally presented with the inaugural Victoria Cup, and one week later the first official Champions Hockey League game. Yes, it was a sense of relief.*

**RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL**

■ The discussions and preparations for the two events have been going on for almost two years. We have experienced many ups, but also several downs. To start a new league in today's complex sports environment is a challenge.

You need a professional and very experienced marketing partner, and we have that with Ovation Sports. Furthermore, you cannot start an massive undertaking like this without full support and assistance from the national member associations, their national leagues and the clubs. With the Victoria Cup, we also depended on a splendid cooperation with the NHL and the NHLPA. I say thank you to all of our partners.

There is a huge potential and excitement for the Europe vs. NHL rivalry on the club level. The inaugural Victoria Cup game, which took place in Berne on October 1, proved once again that this is the case. We couldn't have dreamed of better start. European champion Metallurg Magnitogorsk jumped to a sensational 3-0 lead, but midway through the game, the New York Rangers fought back and scored the 4-3 winner 20 seconds before the end, in dramatic fashion.

Without either participant being the 'home team', the game drew almost 14,000 fans and the SC Bern vs. Rangers appetizer the day before was attended by more than

16,000 fans. I must applaud the Swiss fans and say thank you for helping make our first Victoria Cup a memorable one.

■ The Champions Hockey League started at four venues on October 8 and even we were taken aback by all the positive reviews. Basically; the players, the club officials, the fans and the media loved it. Everyone said what amounted to the following: it was something different, it was exciting, and the absence of mass advertising on the boards and jerseys was very appealing.

After the strong start it seems that the best and most professional clubs in Europe are ready for a pan-European challenge, something which broadens their horizons and fosters new visions.

With the positive reactions, we must stay alert and humble. A start is just that; a start. We must continue to work hard for the CHL to be established as Europe's prime club competition. As all know, we are not alone in this highly competitive market.

■ Sadly, October was also the month when tragedy struck. Alexei Cherepanov, the 19-year old Russian super-talent collapsed during a KHL game in Chekhov, Russia and he died shortly afterward. This is not the first time it has happened in our sport and, tragically, there have been fatalities in other team sports. Our sport must always be prepared for accidents and health failures by having the best possible care and resources available at the venues.

When it comes to this, there is no compromise.

**René Fasel**  
IIHF President

## Council Complete: Two females join the group

### Plus other highlights from the 2008 Semi-Annual Congress in Montreux

■ **MONTREUX, Switzerland** – Beate Grupp (GER) and Monique Scheier-Schneider (LUX) were elected to the IIHF Council, the executive body of the IIHF.

The election was the highlight of the 2008 Semi-Annual Congress in Montreux. The two women will add to the 11 men on the council and bring the total number of members on the council to 13.

■ **Beate Grupp**, who served as doctor of the German women's national team in the late 90s, has been on the council since 2003.

Monique Scheier-Schneider has worked for the Luxembourg Ice Hockey Association since 1974. She has been the general secretary of the association since 1992, as well as managing various Luxembourg national teams since 1999.

■ **Grupp** received 72 votes, while Scheier-Schneider received 47 votes. Norway's Anette Boe, the third candidate, received 32 votes.

Sweden's Doris Högne Rydheim, who was a council member since 2003, will leave the council.

#### In other Congress News from Montreux:

■ An intensive workshop was held to discuss the current World Championship format and ways to improve or amend it to maximize development for smaller nations. Following the workshop, an open forum was

held in the Congress room to encourage the exchange of ideas. The forum was only for initial discussion and no changes were made to the current World Championship format.

■ **George Kingston**, made a presentation about hockey development. Kingston, who is a consultant with the Norwegian national team, emphasized that skill development can only be obtained through practice and that all development programs must start within the national association's program.

Kingston's presentation made it clear that a national program with an emerging hockey country does not develop by playing five games in a division II or III World Championship. He caught everyone's attention with the fact that even the best players in today's game have less than 50 seconds of puck possession time during one game.

The coach pointed out that the money spent on travel to those far-away events could be more wisely spent on development at home.

■ The IIHF championship Calendar was formalized and all host nations are now known (see page 10). The U18 level will have two Division III events, while Women's Division III, IV and V was dropped from this year's calendar. Women's did add one event, as a Division I championship was added to the Women's U18 level.



Grupp



Scheier-Schneider

## NEWS & NOTES FROM THE HOCKEY WORLD

■ **GERMANY:** The German Ice Hockey Association (DEB) announced **Uwe Harnos** as its new President following the resignation of **Hans-Ulrich Esken**. Harnos was previously the Vice President of the DEB.

■ **ROMANIA:** Romania announced a new president of its hockey association. **Barna Tanczos** will take over the post from **Janos Gyrgy Kurko**.

■ **CANADA:** Hockey Canada announced the host cities of the 2010 and 2012 IIHF World U20 Championships. Saskatoon and Regina beat out three other bids for the right to host the 2010 event. The games will be played at the Credit Union Centre in Saskatoon and the Brandt Centre in Regina. Meanwhile, the 2012 World Juniors will be played in Alberta at the Pengrowth Saddledome in Calgary and Rexall Place in Edmonton, the home of the NHL's Calgary Flames and Edmonton Oilers

■ **ZURICH:** The IIHF received five bids for the 2014 IIHF World Championship. The Czech Republic, Latvia, Belarus, Hungary and Ukraine have each applied. The host will be selected in May 2009 at the Annual Congress in Bern, Switzerland.

■ **CANADA:** Hockey Canada announced that **Melody Davidson** will return behind the bench for the 2009 Women's Worlds. She will be assisted by **Peter Smith** and **Doug Lidster**. Meanwhile, **Stephanie White** was named Canada's head coach at the World Women's U18 Championship. She will be assisted by **Danielle Goyette** and **Caroline Ouellette**. Finally, **Pat Quinn** was named the head coach of Canada's U20 team at the upcoming World Junior Championship. Most recently, Quinn earned a gold medal with Canada's U18 team in 2008.

■ **DENMARK:** The Danish Ice Hockey Association named **Per Backman** the new head coach of its men's national team. Backman, a Swede, will begin his duties with the Olympic Qualification tournament.

■ **ITALY:** The Italian Ice Sports Federation named a new men's national team head coach as **Rick Cornacchia** will take over the helm of the recently-relegated team.

■ **UKRAINE:** The Ukraine will have a new face behind its men's national team bench as **Oleksandr Seukand** returns to the post he previously held from 2003-2007.

■ **POLAND:** Rounding out the national team coaching changes, is Poland, who named Swede **Peter Ekroth** to a two-year contract as the team's head coach.

**UNITED STATES:** The late **Anatoli Tarasov** was awarded the Wayne Gretzky International Award as part of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The award is given to international individuals who have made major contributions to the growth and advancement of hockey in the United States.

**GERMANY:** **Jürgen Arnold** was named the new chairman of the German top professional hockey league (DEL). The 48-year-old was elected by the league council after his predecessor Gerd Schröder passed away.

## Fasel elected to IOC Executive Committee

■ **IIHF president René Fasel** was elected into the International Olympic Committee's executive board in August.

The executive board is the highest body within the IOC and assumes the ultimate responsibility for its administration.

The 15-member board was elected for a four-year term at the 120th IOC session in Beijing prior to the opening of the 2008 Summer Olympics. The Swiss Fasel replaces Italian Ottavio Cincuenta, the president of the International Skating Union, as the winter sports representative on the board.

"Working at the highest level of the Olympic movement is like a dream come true," said René Fasel. "I am very honored by this appointment."

Fasel, who also serves as the president of the Association of the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF), was nominated to join the board at the general assembly of the AIOWF in Athens in June.

Fasel was re-elected on May 21 at the IIHF General Congress in Montreal to serve a fourth successive term as president of the IIHF. He has held that role since 1994 and he is currently also the chairman of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games coordination committee.

## STAFF APPOINTMENTS

■ The IIHF welcomed new Marketing Director, **Christian Hofstetter** on October 1. A Swiss native, he worked with the football Euro 2008 SA, in sponsorship for Feldschlösschen Brewery and for Nike in marketing. He also played 14 seasons for the Swiss NLA club, Fribourg-Gottéron.



■ New CHL Media Manager **Wanda Bura** joined the IIHF on Sept. 1. She worked in media relations at the Euro 2008 and at the UEFA Champions League. She has previously worked with the HC Lugano and Geneva-Servette clubs.



■ **Marcis Gracis** joins the IIHF in the role of IT Support. Gracis, who hails from Latvia, comes to the IIHF after working at many previous IIHF World Championship events as part of his private consulting firm.



## The season in review

■ Did you get your copy of the IIHF Annual Report? Published every autumn, the full-color, 100-page report is a complete recap of the 2007-2008 season. With everything from championship results, to congress minutes, to unique photos, this is the one-stop book for international hockey fans.

■ If you are currently not on the IIHF mailing list, you can request a copy of the Report by e-mailing [media@iihf.com](mailto:media@iihf.com)



iceTimes is published bi-monthly.

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# New committee members named

❑ The IIHF revamped its committee structure, paring down the number of active committees, while increasing the number of members on a few of the new groups. The Committee Members were confirmed at the Semi-Annual Congress in Montreux and will be operational for a four-year term. Below is the new structure and members.

## ❑ Executive Committee

Chairman: René Fasel  
Murray Costello (CAN)  
Kalervo Kummola (FIN)  
Shoichi Tomita (JPN)  
Horst Lichtner (IIHF)

## ❑ Audit Committee

Johnny Baumann (SUI)  
Hans Dobida (AUT)  
Kai Hietarinta (FIN)

## ❑ Asian Oceanic Committee

Chairman: Shoichi Tomita  
Committee will be announced in November 2008

## ❑ Competition Committee

Chairman: Murray Costello  
Jon Haukeland (NOR)  
Heikki Hietanen (FIN)  
Jim Johannson (USA)  
Bob Nicholson (CAN)  
Franz Reindl (GER)  
Toshiyuki Sakai (JPN)  
Ferenc Studniczky (HUN)  
Martin Urban (CZE)

## ❑ Development Committee

Chairman: Frank Gonzalez  
Tommy Boustedt (SWE)  
Joaquin de la Garma (MEX)  
Gerald Guennelon (FRA)  
Zoltan Kovacs (HUN)  
Djordje Ljoljic (SER)  
Kevin McLaughlin (USA)  
Petr Misek (CZE)  
Michael Pfuhl (GER)

## ❑ Environment Committee

Chairman: Beate Grupp  
Harry Bogomoloff (FIN)  
Svetlana Sokolova (RUS)

## ❑ Event Committee

Chairman: Ernest Aljancic  
Peter Forsberg (SWE)  
Sergej Gontcharov (BLR)  
Peter Lüthi (SUI)  
Haris Muhic (BIH)  
Igor Nemecek (SVK)  
Kim Pedersen (DEN)  
Scott Smith (CAN)

## ❑ Facilities Committee

Chairman: Kalervo Kummola  
Charles R. Botta (SUI)  
Valery Fesyuk (RUS)  
Pat Kelleher (USA)  
Sviatoslav Kiselev (BLR)  
Rene Marcil (CAN)  
Henrik Bach Nielsen (DEN)

## ❑ Historic Committee

Chairman: Tony Rossi  
Committee will be announced in November 2008

## ❑ Legal Committee

Chairman: Frederick Meredith  
Vladimir Balas (CZE)  
Ron DeGregorio (USA)  
Andras Gurovits Kohli (SUI)  
Yasuo Fukuda (JPN)  
Uwe Harnos (GER)  
Doris Högne-Rydheim (SWE)

## ❑ Medical Committee

Chairman: Murray Costello  
Mark Aubry (CAN)  
A. Kadir Dokmeci (TUR)  
Jan Nohejl (CZE)  
Paul Piccininni (CAN)  
Michael Stuart (USA)  
Markku Tuominen (FIN)  
Beat Villiger (SUI)

## ❑ Officiating Committee

Chairman: Juraj Siroky  
Reto Bertolotti (SUI)  
Jarmo Jalarvo (FIN)  
Pavel Halas (CZE)  
Matt Leaf (USA)  
Gerhard Lichtnecker (GER)  
Honorary: Bob Nadin (CAN)

## ❑ Women's Committee

Chairman: Beate Grupp  
Michele Amidon (USA)  
Timo Bäckman (FIN)  
Julie Healy (CAN)  
Lars G. Karlsson (SWE)  
Lubomira Kozanova (SVK)  
Barbara Müller (SUI)

## ❑ Co-ordination Committee

Chairman: Christer Englund  
Jörgen Lindgren (SWE)  
Vladislav Tretiak (RUS)  
Jukka-Pekka Vuorinen (FIN)  
Peter Zahner (SUI)  
Matjaz Zargi (SLO)

## ❑ Disciplinary Committee

Chairman: Gerhard Mösslang  
Marcos de Robles (SPA)  
Ivo Eusebio (SUI)  
Martin Holmgren (SWE)  
Janko Popovic (SLO)

## ❑ Strategic Consulting Group

Chairman: René Fasel  
Philippe Blatter (SUI)  
Jan-Ake Edvinsson (SWE)  
Bill Hay (CAN)  
Kirovs Lipmans (LAT)

*\*All committee members still must confirm their participation to the committees.*

## OBITUARIES

■ Former referee and referee supervisor **Juraj Okolicany** passed away following complications from surgery. He was 65. The Slovakian was most recently honored with the Paul Loicq Award at the 2008 World Championship for his numerous contributions to international ice hockey. He began officiating in 1962 and was part of the IIHF Referee Committee since 1998.

■ Croatian defenseman **Domagoj Kapec** died at the age of 18 after a car accident. He represented Croatia in three World U18 Championships and three World U20 Championships, most recently at last year's IIHF World U20 Championship Division II Group B, in Estonia.

■ Czechoslovak hockey great and IIHF Hall of Famer **Frantisek Tikal** passed away on August 10. He was 75. Tikal was a dominant defenseman of international hockey in the early and mid-60s. His career spanned 17 seasons. Tikal played with the Czechoslovak national team from 1957-1965. He played in the Olympic Winter Games in 1960 Squaw Valley and in 1964 in Innsbruck and in the IIHF World Championships 1957-1960 and 1963-1967.

■ **Reto Tratschin**, former president of the Swiss Ice Hockey Association from 1968-1976 also passed away. During his time as chairman, the Swiss national team was promoted from Pool C to the top level of the IIHF World Championship program. He was also a leader in forcing teams to have closed ice arenas in the National League A in 1974 and allowing imports. In 1975, he was elected to the IIHF Council where he served until 1978.

■ **Gerd Schröder**, the president of Germany's top league DEL and club Frankfurt Lions, passed away at the age of 49 after a severe case of pneumonia. Schröder was the majority owner of the Frankfurt Lions and had chaired the DEL board since 1998.

■ IIHF Paul Loicq Award winner **Aggie Kukulowicz** passed away on September 26 at the age of 75. Kukulowicz had a professional career on the ice that spanned the 50s and 60s, but internationally he left his mark when, fluent in Russian, he acted as Team Canada's interpreter during the 1972 Summit Series. He also assisted in with the IIHF in international affairs from 1975-1993.

## SWITZERLAND 2009 UPDATE



■ All eyes are now on Switzerland, the host of the 2009 World Championship. The Swiss just concluded hosting a successful Congress in Montreux and now turn their entire focus on the upcoming championship.

■ **Bern:** International hockey fans were recently treated to a sneak peek of what awaits the world when the Championship kicks off at the new Post Finance Arena in Bern. Bern served as the host city for the Victoria Cup at the start of October. While the arena was still surrounded by cranes and hard hats on the outside, indoors it lived up to its hype as one of the top hockey destinations in Europe as two packed houses enjoyed the games (for details on the Victoria Cup, see page 5).

■ **Zurich-Kloten:** The renovation of the arena in the Zurich suburb of Kloten was officially completed at the start of October and looks to be in top shape for the World Championship in April. The arena is the second venue of the championship. It also received a new name, Kolping Arena.

■ **Tickets:** Ticket sales opened in September with an impressive 60,000 tickets bought on the first day of sales. The tickets will be sold in blocks are available online at [www.ticketcorner.com](http://www.ticketcorner.com).



## History on display

Russian legend **Vladislav Tretiak** and **René Fasel** were on hand to inaugurate the IIHF 100 Year Exhibition at the IOC Museum as part of the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in Montreux.

*The opening at the IOC Museum was attended by 350 guests. The 100 Year Exhibition displays not only the history of the IIHF, but the origins of the game going back to the first game played at Montreal's Victoria Skating Rink in 1875.*

*The exhibition was a joint venture between the IIHF and Hockey Hall of Fame, which provided the artifacts and other historic documentation that is on display at the IOC Museum.*

PHOTO: RICHARD JULLIART

# The best teams from around the globe

*A complete list of club champions from the 2008 season*

■ The 2008 season at last came to a close when the final championship trophy was handed out in Australia. When Newcastle's Ray Sheffield hoisted the Cup (see photo) the annual list of IIHF Club Champions was complete. Check the list below to see if your team was among the elite in the 2008 season.

Armenia	Urartu Yerevan
Australia	Newcastle Northstars
Austria	Red Bull Salzburg
Belarus	Keramin Minsk
Belgium	White Caps Turnhout
Brazil	Hipica de Campinas
Bulgaria	Akademika Sofia
Canada (NHL)	Montreal Canadiens
Canada (Memorial Cup)	Spokane Chiefs
China	Qiqihar
Chinese Taipei	Chaiyi Sharks
Croatia	KHL Mladost Zagreb
Czech Republic	Slavia Prague
Denmark	Herning Blue Fox
DPR Korea	Pyongyang
Estonia	Kalev-Valk Tartu
Finland	Karpat Oulu
France	Dragons de Rouen
Germany	Eisbaren Berlin
Great Britain	Sheffield Steelers
Greece	Iptameni Athens
Hong Kong	Dragon Centre
Hungary	Alba Volan Szekesfehervar
Iceland	Skautafelag Akureyri
India	Jammu & Kashmir Blue team
Ireland	Dundalk Bulls
Israel	Haifa Hawks
Italy	Bolzano Foxes



Japan (Asian league)	Oji Paper Tomakomai
Japan	Seibu Tokyo
Kazakhstan	Barys Astana
Korea	High1 Chuncheon
Latvia	Liepajas Metalurgs
Lithuania	Energija Elektrenai
Malaysia	Fangs Kuala Lumpur
Mexico	San Jeronimo Osos
Mongolia	Otgon od Ulaanbaatar
Netherlands	Tilburg Trappers
New Zealand	Botany Swarm
Norway	Storhamar Dragons
Poland	Cracovia Krakow
Romania	SC Miercurea Ciuc
Russia	Salavat Yulayev Ufa
Serbia	Partizan Belgrade
Singapore	Harrys
Slovakia	Slovan Bratislava
Slovenia	Acroni Jesenice
South Africa	Western Province
Spain	CG Puigcerda
Sweden	HV71 Jonkoping
Switzerland	ZSC Lions Zurich
Thailand	Curve Coyotes Bangkok
Turkey	Polis Akademisi Ankara
Ukraine	Sokil Kyiv
United States (NHL)	Detroit Red Wings
United States (NCAA)	Boston College

## INLINE HOCKEY UPDATE

■ South Africa won the best-of-two qualification series against Namibia and earned a spot in the 2009 IIHF InLine World Championship, which will be held in Ingolstadt, Germany, June 6-13.

The InLine Hockey World Championship uses a rotating continent qualification system. This season, Asia and Africa were the two continents taking part in the qualification. Namibia and South Africa faced off in a home and away series for the African qualification.

■ South Africa won the first game of the qualification when they earned a 3-2 victory in Swakopmund, Namibia. The second match in Johannesburg, South Africa, ended in a 1-1 tie, but with the first victory secured, South Africa earned the right to play at the 2009 InLine World Championship.

Both teams participated in the 2007 InLine World Championship, however both had a tough championship and were relegated. The pair met at the championship with Namibia earning a clear 8-3 victory.

■ On the other side of the globe, Chinese Taipei earned an automatic berth to the 2009 championship as there were no Asian challengers.

Chinese Taipei and South Africa will both skate in the Division I event, which will be held simultaneously with the top division championship. Last season, the qualifying team, Canada, earned a place into the top division after winning the Division I gold medal. Bulgaria and New Zealand were relegated from last season's championship.

# International club hockey includes more than the CHL

■ With all eyes on the newly-created Champions Hockey League, it is easy to forget that there are other club crowns to be won. While the Continental Cup and European Women's Champion's Cup have been lurking in the background all summer, the time has come for the two events to once again take center stage as the both get underway this fall.

## The Continental Cup and CHL

■ With both the Champions Hockey League and the Continental Cup underway, several are wondering, just what is the difference between the two European competitions? It's simple. The Champions Hockey League is exactly what the title implies, a league that features the champions from the top hockey nations in Europe. This season, only the Top Seven nations are represented in the CHL, with either regular season or playoff champions represented.

On the other hand, the Continental Cup features a far broader field that includes more European hockey nations. While the traditional participant from the smaller nations is the club champion, it is not unheard of for the later round participants to be a uniquely selected team.

The similarity between the pair is that both are played in round robin stages, and both will have the title awarded in January.

## The 2009 Continental Cup

■ The 2009 edition of the Continental Cup is already underway as the first round was completed at the start of the season. On tap are three more rounds that include five round robin groups before the champion is crowned in January.

■ Winning the first round and Group A of the Continental Cup was Serbian team HC Novi Sad. The plucky squad came from behind in the standings after they lost their opening first game against Bulgaria's Slavia Sofia in a shootout.

Croatian champion Mladost Zagreb was the clear favourite after a 13-4 win over Dundak and an 11-2 victory against Slavia Sofia on day two, but the final showdown against Novi Sad proved to be the squad's downfall.

Despite being outshot 40-53, Novi Sad won 4-1. Canadian national team goaltender Milan Lukovic was the hero with 52 saves.

HC Novi Sad advanced to the second round with the win. The second round is in mid-October and features two groups of four teams (see schedule to the right).

## Continental Cup Schedule

### Second round, Oct. 17-19

Group B in Elektrenai, LTU:  
Energija Elektrenai (LTU),  
Cracovia Krakow (POL)  
Sokil Kyiv (UKR)  
Tilburg Trappers (NED).

Group C in Miercurea Ciuc  
Miercurea Ciuc (ROU),  
Dunaujvaros (HUN),  
CG Puigcerda (ESP),  
HC Novi Sad (SER).

Third round, Nov. 21-23  
Group D in Liepaja, Latvia:

Liepajas Metalurgs (LAT)  
Keramin Minsk (BLR)  
ICH Gorniyak Rudny (KAZ),  
Winner Group B.

Group E in Bolzano, Italy:  
Bolzano Foxes (ITA)  
Coventry Blaze (GBR)  
HDK Maribor (SLO)  
Winner Group C.

Super Final, Jan. 16-18

Group F in Rouen, France:  
Rouen Dragons (FRA)  
MHC Martin (SVK)  
Winners Groups D & E

## The European Women's Champions Cup

■ While the European Champions Cup was eliminated with the start of the CHL, the European Women's Champions Cup is alive and well.

AIK Solna has won every title since the invention of the annual event, but this year will not be back to defend their title. Also different this year is the fact that no team is automatically qualified to the final round. Instead the top two teams from the Second Round will move onto the finals.

The 2009 EWCC will be played in three stages with two groups in October, two in December and the final round at the end of January.

## VICTORIA CUP RECAP

# Victoria Cup victory a New York nail biter

■ ■ They say the best things come to those who wait. But it's a pretty sure bet that New York Ranger head coach Tom Renney didn't mean for his team to wait until the last 20 seconds of the Victoria Cup to secure the 4-3 win against Russian foe Metallurg Magnitogorsk.

In what was billed as one of the most historic match-ups between East and West, the Victoria Cup delivered. The hockey Gods could not have written the script any better, well unless you were a Metallurg fan.

When the Victoria Cup was first planned, it was vaguely said to be a challenge between a top European team and an NHL Challenger. Then it evolved to be the European Champions Cup winner, which was Russian Metallurg Magnitogorsk, and the NHL challenger was revealed to be Original Six member, New York. Naturally in the media it played out as East vs. West, established league vs. upstart new league, and money vs. money.

■ ■ Of course, those more interested in the action on the ice than the media cliches off the ice, were keen to see if a Russian team, already a month and a half into the season, could beat an NHL team, just preparing to play the first game of the year and packed with a roster of try-out hopefuls.

It was clear that this was one match the Russians had every intention of winning, and one the Rangers had no intention of losing. While the difference between those to mindsets might seem indistinguishable, the razor thin line became crystal clear when the Russians went roaring out to a 2-0 lead by the end of the first period.

■ ■ The first goal came just moments into the game, sending a roar up from the numerous Metallurg fans in attendance. Even the club's mascot, an orange fox, was on hand to witness the early goal. With moments remaining in the first period, the lead doubled as the neutral Swiss fans debated whether to trade their allegiance to the sparky Russians.

The fox, and the Metallurg fans could hardly believe their eyes when midway through the third period, the scoreboard read 3-0 after Nikolai Zavarukhin deflected the puck in on a power play. It seemed that with 30 minutes gone and down three goals, the answer to all those pesky pre-game questions were clear: don't mess with Metallurg.

But unfortunately for the Russians, there was an even more compelling argument from the Rangers: Don't mess with Chris Drury.

The American forward gave the Rangers their first glimpse of hope when he scored on a two-man advantage late in the second period to give the Rangers much-needed momentum going into the locker room for the break.

■ ■ The momentum propelled the Rangers through the third period as Dan Fritsche pulled the team to within one goal just over five minutes into the third period, while Drury followed with the game-tying goal at the 50:13 mark.

But just when it looked like New York had the game in control, Metallurg settled down and played a nearly 10 solid minutes of hockey. Virtually everyone in the arena was resigned to an overtime period... everyone except Ryan Callahan. The Ranger forward intercepted what can only be described as every defenseman's worst nightmare of a pass. Skating in with no one between him and goaltender Alexander Mezin, Callahan finished the play and Metallurg with just 20 seconds left in the game.

The goal sent a wave a jubilation through the Rangers bench as the entire group breathed a collective sigh of relief that they didn't lose. For Metallurg, the reality of the loss set in with a resounding thud as they stood through the ceremony and looked at their runner up medals with complete disbelief.



**GATHER ROUND THE CUP:** *The Rangers had to battle, but in the end were the team that got to lift the first-ever Victoria Cup. Metallurg put up a good fight for two periods, the New York came out on top, 4-3.*

■ ■ One can't fault the New York Rangers if perhaps they overlooked the magnitude of the Victoria Cup game in the first 40 minutes. The team was on a full tour of Europe and was followed like royalty from the moment they stepped foot on Swiss soil.

The Rangers also got a false sense of confidence after they played their first game in Switzerland, an 8-1 drubbing against one of the top Swiss clubs and host, SC Bern. That game was a far cry from what the Rangers experienced the next night against Metallurg.

Also weighing heavy on the Rangers' minds was their season opener in Prague following the Victoria Cup. Throughout the third period, equipment managers were busy packing the team up for an early flight the following morning to Prague, where the season officially began with a pair of games against the Tampa Bay Lightning. While winning the Victoria Cup is nice, coming home from Europe with four points was the team's ultimate goal.

■ ■ Still, after the gutsy performance of Metallurg, next year's chosen NHL team is sure to arrive at next year's Victoria Cup with every intention of going for a win and not avoiding a loss.

## RUSSIAN STARS SHINE IN LEGENDS GAME

The legs might be rusty, but the skill is still there. As the New York Rangers and Metallurg Magnitogorsk were preparing for the Victoria Cup, fans got a chance to see a team of Swiss legends host the Russian legends of HC Gazprom Export take the ice.

The Russian selects, captained by KHL President, IIHF Council Member, Alexander Medvedev, bolstered a squad that combined for over 50 IIHF World Championship titles highlighted by the likes of Vyacheslav Fetisov, Valeri Kamensky and Andrei Kovalenko.

"It's always fun to play these games against old friends," claimed Fetisov. "It's good for us, good for the fans."

The Swiss fans had the chance to see former players like Jörg Eberle, Felix Hollenstein and Jakob Kölliker, an IIHF Hall of Famer, back on the ice. Nevertheless, the loudest noise came when Renato Tosio's name was announced. The goaltender spent almost his entire career with SC Bern. He event treated fans with his trademark jump when he left the ice midway through the game.

In line with what they are known for, the Swiss timing was perfect in the first half, taking a 2-0 lead. Bin line with what the Russian squad is known for, they didn't let the 2-0 lead stick for too long. The squad came out in the second half and fired in nine goals, showing exactly why this was a legends game. The score ended a respectable 9-5, and both teams came off the ice with ginning faces, and in some cases groaning bodies.



# What to expect from Europe's new league



*With the start of the new Champions Hockey League, fans, teams players and observers are full of questions about Europe's newest club hockey competition. Luckily the IIHF has the answers everyone is looking for. Read on to learn more about the CHL.*

**□ Why is now considered to be the right time for a Champions Hockey League?**

The best clubs in the top-seven European leagues are so well developed and professional that they are ready for another challenge, more than just their regular league games and the playoffs. It's no more different from soccer where clubs like Manchester United and Barcelona need European competition to go parallel with their national leagues.

**□ So this was not the case around ten years ago when the IIHF introduced the European Hockey League (EHL)?**

The EHL came during an era when the top European clubs were on the verge of becoming fully professional. The focus was more on club development and securing revenue streams. Many clubs saw the EHL as a distraction. They were simply not ready for it.

**□ But surely, when the IIHF and the marketing agent Ovation-Sports were forming the Champions Hockey League, you must have looked at the EHL in order not to repeat the mistakes?**

Yes. And three things which needed to be different were identified. 1) The financial reward had to be more substantial than in the EHL, which basically was very under-funded. 2) The EHL had too many games between teams where there was a huge quality gap. The CHL had to have a format where the best play against the best. 3) The CHL must have a link to an annual match-up between the best club in Europe and an NHL-challenger. This is why the Victoria Cup was created. All three things have been addressed.

**□ What does the IIHF do and what does Ovation Sports do?**

Basically, the IIHF handles the sport side, while Ovation is in charge of the marketing, promotion, sponsors and broadcasters. They are both experienced. Ovation is basically the same group which branded and marketed the UEFA Champions League in the early 90s. Today, it is the biggest success story in all of European team sports.

**□ Does the Champions Hockey League want to compete with the soccer's Champions League?**

This is not the goal in the first phase. Soccer in Europe is king, we realize that. The goal is to become the biggest team sport - after soccer.

**□ How has the marketing strategy worked out so far?**

Beyond any expectations. The entire brand concept, with the logo, the concept of

the ice and the boards, the music sequence, the unique player introduction and the clean jerseys, has been very well received. Probably no one at the IIHF and Ovation would think that this would be such a success in such a short time.

**□ Are there any explanations for that?**

There are probably two reasons. Sports people are weary of ice rinks that are so littered with advertisement that you hardly see the ice or the puck. We are also in an era where sports fans go retro, they love stuff from the 60s or early 70s and the clean CHL jerseys remind them of a time when sport was pure.

**□ Apart from the looks, why is this so important?**

The objective is to make the clubs known all over Europe. The only way you can do that is by exposing their brand, their logo and their name. And how can you do it when a jersey has 20 corporate logos?

**□ How important was the October 8 opening day?**

Crucial. The first impression lasts. We had basically three sell-outs out of four and great reviews from media. It was especially encouraging that Swedish media was so positive. Sweden has been a very tough market for European club hockey. We sense a new trend and a new approach to international club hockey in that country. But there is no time to rest. The Champions Hockey League has a long way to go before you can call it established.

**□ Was the Victoria Cup as good as they say?**

It was a perfect start and a great appetizer for the Champions Hockey League as both events are similarly branded. Some North American websites and blogs called the NY Rangers vs. Metallurg game 'a classic'. The European champion was up 3-0 midway through the game, the Rangers crawled back into the game and scored a dramatic winner with 20 seconds left. Despite that, the game didn't have a home team, almost 14,000 showed up for the game. What more can you ask for?

**□ Will the Victoria Cup format stay the**



**MAPPING OUT HISTORY:** The participants of the first-ever Champions Hockey League were the regular season champions. The first few weekend



**THE RACE IS ON:** For European supremacy. Here Slavia and Linköping play in the first weekend of action.



Champions Hockey League hail from all around Europe. The champions from Europe's top six nations were automatically qualified, while the others have already been played to near sell-out crowds around the continent.

## CHL SCHEDULE

### Group A

Oct. 8 Eisbären Berlin-Kärpät Oulu  
 Oct. 22 Kärpät Oulu-Metallurg Mag.  
 Oct. 29 Metallurg Mag.-Eisbären Berlin  
 Nov. 12 Kärpät Oulu-Eisbären Berlin  
 Nov. 19 Metallurg Mag.-Kärpät Oulu  
 Dec. 3 Eisbären Berlin-Metallurg Mag.

### Group B

Oct. 8 HV71-SC Bern  
 Oct. 22 SC Bern-Espoo Blues  
 Oct. 29 Espoo Blues-HV71  
 Nov. 12 SC Bern-HV71  
 Nov. 19 Espoo Blues-SC Bern  
 Dec. 3 HV71-Espoo Blues

### Group C

Oct. 8 Salavat Y. Ufa-C. Budejovice  
 Oct. 22 C. Budejovice-Slo. Bratislava  
 Oct. 29 Slo. Bratislava-Salavat Y. Ufa  
 Nov. 12 C. Budejovice-Salavat Y. Ufa  
 Nov. 19 Slo. Bratislava-C. Budejovice  
 Dec. 3 Salavat Y. Ufa-Slo. Bratislava

### Group D

Oct. 8 Slavia Prague-Linköpings HC  
 Oct. 22 Linköpings HC-ZSC Lions  
 Oct. 29 ZSC Lions-Slavia Prague  
 Nov. 12 Linköpings HC-Slavia Prague  
 Nov. 19 ZSC Lions-Linköpings HC  
 Dec. 3 Slavia Prague-ZSC Lions

### Playoff Round

Dec. 10 Semi-Final (best-of-two)  
 Jan. 7 Semi-Final (best-of-two)  
 Jan. 21 Final Round  
 Jan. 28 Final Round

Semi-finals pairings are Group D vs. Group B winner and Group A vs. Group C winner

## Seen and heard around the Champions Hockey League

☐ In the court of public opinion, the verdict is in: The start of Champions Hockey League and its 'warm-up' event, the Victoria Cup were smashing successes. Here's a sampling of what experts around the arena had to say after the September and October events:

### Aftonbladet columnist Mats Wennerholm (Sweden)

"The new Champions Hockey League has shown what you can do to put new life into a forsaken and forgotten tournament like the old European Cup for club teams. The CHL has a great brand policy, professional TV broadcasts with appealing graphics, a brand new website with video streaming of highest quality and new, very nice jerseys for each team. And all this basically without any advertisement on the ice and on the boards."

### MTV 3 commentator Peter Ahola (Finland)

"Looking at the overall picture, it was a first class operation. The ice, the rink, the jerseys. Everything looks nice. It was a great start and a classy operation."

### Sportsinformation reporter Marco Keller (Switzerland)

"I thought for this early in the season, it was a good level of hockey. It looked like it could be a playoff game. The intensity was very high, especially for early October. It's the best game of the hockey season I have seen so far and it looks classy"

### Czech Sports Daily

"Champions Hockey League: A great show in Prague."

### Slavia Prague GM/Coach Vladimír Ruzicka

"These are new times in Europe. In comparison to former European league, this competition has a completely different concept and better financial incentives. This is a priority for us in the first part of the season. Our goal is to reach semifinals."

### Nürnberger Nachrichten, Sebastian Böhm (Germany)

"Yesterday, Nuremberg saw the best ice hockey game since the first one 97 years ago. Too few Nurembergers experienced this top sport event. In Nuremberg the IIHF turned the arena into an extraordinary location for European ice hockey. Free of advertising, the special made Champions Hockey League jerseys look sophisticated."

### Stefan Liv, HV 71 goaltender

"Yes, it was fun. And these shirts, I wish we could wear them in our own league."

### John Van Boxmeer, head coach, SC Bern

"The Qualifier Games were a preview of how seriously all these teams are taking this. They are treating these games like Playoff games. These are not just extra games we are playing, these are way beyond any league games that we have played in the three years that I have been here. The quality of hockey is excellent and it is a credit to the CHL."

### Tom Renney, head coach, New York Rangers

"The Victoria Cup is the jumpstart for the kind of international competition where the two champions have the opportunity to play against each other. Some of the greatest players in the world play here as well and it should be high time that they get to play against each other. The boundaries of global hockey are slowly dissolving and this is healthy for the game."

### same for Year Two?

The IIHF, Ovation Sports will very soon start those discussions with the NHL and the NHLPA. There are some other options than a one-off final game. You can have a four team tournament with two semi-finals and a gold medal game or a three team tournament, where teams play a single round-robin and the top two play the gold medal game. Both sportive and financial criteria will determine which format will be chosen.

☐ **Back to the Champions Hockey League - there is a decision that the CHL will expand already next year. Is that correct?**

Yes. There will be two qualification phases prior to the 12-team Group Stage. In all, teams from the 22 highest European ranked leagues will participate.

☐ **But doesn't that conflict with the objective that "best-play-the-best"?**

Not at all. If a team from, let's say Norway, qualifies to the Group Stage that means that the team has earned a place by winning two rounds of qualifications. If you do it, then you deserve to be there. But

there are no byes.

**There is no question that there is a competition for positioning on the European hockey market. The KHL wants to expand to cities like London, Paris and Milano and they would also like to include teams from other European league. The NHL has also unspecified plans for Europe. How does the Champions Hockey League look at it?**

It is a competition, but also a cooperation. The IIHF and Ovation Sports have an excellent relation to the NHL and the NHLPA. The best teams from the KHL are representing Russia in the Champions Hockey League. Right now, the CHL is in the driver's seat. It is the only pan-European league right now. And it's important that the CHL succeeds. If not, the field will be left empty for other players. But it is a very exciting and stimulating environment.



## OFFICIATING UPDATE

# Victoria Cup hosts referee seminar

■ While most eyes were on the ice throughout the Victoria Cup, there was plenty of action behind the scenes as the IIHF hosted a Referee Symposium during the two-day event.

Referees from seven European nations converged on Bern, Switzerland as a follow-up to last summer's Top Referee Camp. Also in attendance were 11 referee supervisors that hailed from all around the globe.

But what made this seminar unique was the presence of participants from the NHL. Terry Gregson, Senior Officiating Manager was one of the instructors. He was joined by the two NHL referees and two NHL linesmen that worked the Victoria Cup event.

"We made the first step by inviting the top 50 or so officials to one camp last summer," said Sport Manager Konstantin Komissarov. "But it was important for us to have a follow up to that camp, and we knew the Victoria Cup presented the perfect opportunity."

■ The main topic of discussion was the four-man system and how to best implement it throughout Europe. Already the IIHF is taking steps to give its officials as much experience with the extra referee on the ice, by using it in all Referee Exchange Program games (see box to the right for details on this year's program). Within the framework of the four-man system, the officials discussed communication, technical aspects and IIHF and NHL standards.

"The four-man system is here to stay," said Komissarov. "It is important that we now work on perfecting the system and give our officials maximum exposure to working in pairs."

■ The 15 participating referees used the chance to exchange information on standards on both sides of the Atlantic, while the 11 supervisors also took advantage of the rare teaching environment.

Naturally, there was on-ice work too, as the officials took to the Bern rink on the closing evening of the seminar to obtain information about drills for the four man system. They also had the chance to watch the blended NHL/IIHF crews put an also blended NHL/IIHF Rule book to use during the two games.



**28-MAN CREW:** The participants of the official's seminar in Bern take a break from classroom and gather for a group photo.

"It was interesting for us officials to see how the blended rules worked," said Komissarov. "While the average fan, and likely most players, likely didn't notice a difference, for those at the seminar it was an interesting study to watch unfold."

■ The participants were primarily the group that will work with this year's Referee Exchange Program.

■ In other officiating seminar news, Hong Kong recently hosted its first-ever Referee clinic for Level I officials. The clinic was held as a way to expand knowledge from the IIHF Development Camp. Referee instructor Keith Fong instructed eight officials during the clinic, which was held at Hong Kong's Olympic House. The officials varied in background from InLine hockey to officiating in Canada.

A similar Level II clinic along with an ice session will be held later in the fall.



**A BANNER DAY:** In Hong Kong the referees display their colors proudly at the end of their day-long clinic

# Five years later, exchange program still going strong

■ Five years ago the IIHF Referee Exchange Program was a somewhat controversial experiment that sent the top referees from the top European nations to whistle league games with the hope of evening out the level of officiating at international events. Five years later, international referees have become a common sight at club games as players, fans and coaches have come to accept the program and even welcome it as a gauge of where their officiating stands in Europe.

■ This season, the program returns, but continues to evolve as club hockey in Europe moves along. This season, the referees in the program will only work in the four-man system since this is what is used at all top international events. The newly-created CHL will also serve as a hotbed for this year's referee exchange program as many of the games will be incorporated into the schedule. Below is a list of the participating officials in this year's program. For a complete schedule, visit IIHF.com.

CZE	Frano Martin	Referee
CZE	Minar Milan	Referee
CZE	Husicka Radek	Referee
CZE	Sindler Vladimir	Referee
FIN	Laaksonen Tom	Referee
FIN	Levonen Jari	Referee
FIN	Partanen Sami	Referee
FIN	Sorakangas Tuomo	Referee
GER	Piechaczek Daniel	Referee
GER	Jablukow Georg	Referee
GER	Schimm Willi	Referee
GER	Schuetz Richard	Referee
RUS	Bulanov Vyacheslav	Referee
RUS	Kulakov Sergei	Referee
RUS	Olenin Konstantin	Referee
RUS	Ravodin Alexei	Referee
SVK	Orszag Peter	Referee
SVK	Baluska Vladimir	Referee
SVK	Kubus Josef	Referee
SVK	Loksik Peter	Referee
SWE	Persson Soren	Referee
SWE	Johansson Morgan	Referee
SWE	Sjöberg Patrick	Referee
SWE	Claesson Pehr	Referee
SUI	Kurmann Danny	Referee
SUI	Reiber Brent	Referee
SUI	Stricker Daniel	Referee
SUI	Popovic Karol	Referee

# Victoria Cup crews blend together

The Victoria Cup was the first-international event that featured a blended crew mixed between NHL and IIHF officials. The quartet worked also with a blended rule book that adopted the best of NHL and international standards.

The Rangers vs. Bern was officiated by Canadian Don Koharski (NHL) and Swede Marcus Vinnerborg (IIHF). The Victoria Cup game was called by Canadians Dan O'Halloran (NHL) and Finn Jyri Rönn (IIHF).

Before the face-off of the Bern-New York Rangers game a quick photo was snapped of the first-ever blended crew, they are (left-right) Milan Masik (IIHF) Don Koharski (NHL), Marcus Vinnerborg (IIHF) and Jean Morin (NHL).





## WOMENS HOCKEY REPORT

# IIHF Women's Hockey Development Camp: By the numbers

■ The 2008 IIHF Women's Hockey Development Camp was another success for the tried and true camp program. Throughout the years, thousands of participants have benefitted from the various Development Camps hosted by the IIHF. Here's a glimpse of the numbers behind this year's camp and others like it through the last several years:

**290** In total, there were 290 participants at this year's Women's Development Camp in Vierumaki. The group included players, coaches, equipment managers, referees, supervisors and a leadership program.

**2** The number of times the IIHF has held a Development Camp specifically for women in Vierumaki. The last women's camp was in 2004. The camp back then had 200 participants from 28 countries, many of whom went onto great things in their hockey careers, like Swedish goaltender Kim Martin.

**35** The number of nations represented at this year's Development Camp. The seven-nation increase is a key encouraging figure that women's hockey is developing in additional nations at a fast rate.

**58** Number of Development Camps that the IIHF has held since the idea was conceived at the turn of the century. The number includes the many regional development camps that are held in developing nations, in addition to the recent Asian Development Camps.

**>1** Years until the next Hockey Development Camp will be held in Vierumaki. The next camp plans are already underway as next summer the boys will make their return to development camp line-up. It is hoped that the female and male development camps will alternate years in the future.

**4** The number of Finnish national team players that came to camp for a day to demonstrate on-ice drills and work with the campers.

Joining the Vierumaki camp were Saara Tuominen, a forward with the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Satu

**2** Number of current NHL players that have attended an IIHF Development Camp. Jeff Tambellini of the New York Islanders and Anze Kopitar of the Los Angeles Kings have both gone through the development system as players. Kopitar attended a Regional Development Camp in Italy in 2002, while Tambellini attended the first-ever camp in 1999.

**15** Number of off-ice participant programs that were offered at his year's camp. Available programs included leadership, officiating, coaching among others. Traditionally, the camp offers anywhere from 15-20 off-ice programs. In 2005, there was even a program for the General Secretaries of the various hockey nations.



Tuominen, a forward with the Espoo Blues, Anna Julin also a forward with Espoo and Hanne Sikio a former national team player who is now coaching the HPK women's team.

**420** The most participants ever at an IIHF Development Camp. In 2005, the group included players from more than 40 nations and had nearly 20 different off-ice programs offered.

**3** Number of female Olympic medalists that have attended the Development Camp. Kim Martin (Sweden - goaltender), Alana Balhoski (USA - player) and Julie Healey (Canada - team leader) are the Olympic medalists. Numerous players have also earned World Championship medals, including the 2008 bronze medal game starting goaltender Noora Raty (Finland) and her opponent Florence Schelling (Switzerland).

**60** Number of local Finnish players under the age of 10 that take part in the Learn to Play program. The players, who hail from nearby Heinola and Lahti, come in every afternoon during the camp to receive instruction from the Learn to Play program participants. The program concludes with a Jamboree on the final day of action.

**1** Number of lions sighted every year at the Hockey Development Camp. Finkey the Lion, a mascot for the Finnish Association makes his way to the camp every year. He has attended the 2003 World Championship in Finland and will be at the World Women's Championship this spring. Always a good will ambassador, Finkey has watched the Development Camp grow through the years and is its number one fan.



## Women's hockey headlines from around the world

■ **LATVIA** The race for the 2010 Olympics has officially started as nine teams played in the Pre-Olympic Qualification Tournament in September. Group A was hosted by the Latvians and featured teams from Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Slovakia and Latvia. In the end, Slovakia's 2-0 opening day win against host Latvia proved to be the difference in moving onto the next qualification stage. The Slovaks won the tournament with a 4-

0-0 record and move onto the Final Qualification tournament in Germany in November.

■ **SLOVENIA** The second pre-qualification tournament was held in Maribor, Slovenia and featured four teams from Norway, Great Britain, Austria and Slovenia vying for the spot in the final Olympic Qualification. Norway eked out of the group in first place, with two slim wins, including a tight 1-0 victory against runner-up Austria. Norway will play in the Final Qualification Tournament in November in Shanghai, China. Only the winners from the two Final qualification tournaments in November will earn a berth in the 2010 Olympics. Those two teams will join the six nations that were automatically qualified based on their position in the IIHF Women's World Ranking.

■ **SWITZERLAND** There was good news and bad news for women's hockey from the IIHF Semi-Annual Congress in September. The good news is that the World Women's U18 Championship held last year for the first time was such a success that it has been expanded to include a Division I tournament as well. France will host the inaugural event, while Germany will play host to the top division.

The downside for the women's championship program was the deletion, at least for this season, of all Women's World Championships below Division II. Initially, it was planned to go through Division V, but it was determined that the potential participating nations would prefer to have more time develop their budding national team programs before playing in a championship.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS			OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES		
<b>IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP</b>			<b>OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION</b>		
2009	SWITZERLAND, Bern & Zürich - Kloten	24.4-10.5.09	2010	CANADA, Vancouver	12-28.2.10
2010	GERMANY, Cologne & Mannheim	7-23.5.10	<b>MEN'S FINAL OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION</b>		
2011	SLOVAKIA, Bratislava & Kosice	30.4-15.5.11	2009	GERMANY, Hanover	5-8.2.09
2012	FINLAND, Helsinki & Turku	4-20.5.12	2009	LATVIA, Riga	5-8.2.09
2013	SWEDEN, Stockholm & Malmö	TBA	2009	NORWAY, Oslo	5-8.2.09
2014	APPLICANTS: BLR, CZE, HUN, LAT, UKR		<b>MEN'S OLYMPIC PRE-QUALIFICATION</b>		
<b>IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A</b>			2008	HUNGARY, Budapest	7-9.11.08
2009	LITHUANIA, Vilnius	11-17.4.09	2008	POLAND, Sanok	6-9.11.08
<b>IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B</b>			2008	ESTONIA, Narva	6-9.11.08
2009	POLAND, Torun	11-17.4.09	<b>WOMEN'S FINAL OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION</b>		
<b>IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A</b>			2008	GERMANY, Bad Tölz	6-9.11.08
2009	SERBIA, Novi Sad	9-15.4.09	2008	CHINA, Shanghai	6-9.11.08
<b>IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B</b>			<b>INLINE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP</b>		
2009	BULGARIA, Sofia	6-12.4.09	<b>IIHF IN-LINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP</b>		
<b>IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III</b>			2009	GERMANY, Ingolstadt	6-14.6.2009
2009	NEW ZEALAND, Dunedin	10-16.4.09	2010	SWEDEN, Karlstad	TBA
<b>WOMEN'S:</b>			<b>IIHF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS (CHL not included)</b>		
<b>IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP</b>			<b>2008-2009 IIHF EUROPEAN WOMEN CHAMPIONS CUP (EWCC)</b>		
2009	FINLAND, Hämeenlinna	4-12.4.09	First Round	CZE, ITA, LAT & RUS	31.10-2.11.08
2011	APPLICANTS: TBA		Second Round	TBA & SWE	5-7.12.08
2012	USA, TBA	TBA	Final Round	TBA	30.1-1.2.09
<b>IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I</b>			<b>2008-2009 IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP</b>		
2009	AUSTRIA, Graz	4-10.4.09	First Round	SER	19-21.9.08
<b>IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II</b>			Second Round	LTU & ROU	17-19.10.08
2009	ITALY, Torre Pellice	12-18.4.09	Third Round	LAT & ITA	21-23.11.08
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP</b>			Final Round	FRA	16-18.1.09
2009	GERMANY, Fussen	5-10.1.09	<b>NATIONAL TEAM BREAKS</b>		
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I</b>			<b>2008/2009 SEASON:</b>		
2009	FRANCE, TBA	December 2008	1st International Break		Sept. 1-7, 2008
<b>UNDER 20:</b>			2nd International Break		Nov. 3-9, 2008
<b>IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP</b>			3rd International Break-		Dec. 15-21, 2008
2009	CANADA, Ottawa	26.12.08-5.1.09	4th International Break-		Feb. 2-8, 2009
2010	CANADA, TBA	TBA	<b>2009/2010 SEASON:</b>		
2011	USA, TBA	TBA	1st International Break		Aug. 31-Sept. 6, 2009
2012	CANADA, TBA	TBA	2nd International Break		Nov. 2-8, 2009
2013	APPLICANTS: RUS		3rd International Break		Dec. 14-20, 2009
2014	APPLICANTS: CAN		4th International Break-		Feb. 8-14, 2010
<b>IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A</b>			<b>2010/2011 Season:</b>		
2009	SWITZERLAND, Herisau	14-20.12.08	1st International Break		Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2010
<b>IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B</b>			2nd International Break		Nov. 8-14, 2010
2009	DENMARK, Aalborg	15-21.12.08	3rd International Break		Dec. 13-19, 2010
<b>IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A</b>			4th International Break		February 7-13, 2011
2009	ROMANIA, Miercurea Ciuc	15-21.12.08	<b>OTHER INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS</b>		
<b>IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B</b>			<b>WINTER UNIVERSIADE</b>		
2009	SPAIN, Logrono	10-15.1.09	2009	CHINA, Harbin	18-28.2.09
<b>IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III</b>			2011	TURKEY, Erzurum	27.1-6.2.11
2009	TBA	TBA	<b>EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL</b>		
<b>UNDER 18:</b>			2011	CZECH REPUBLIC, Liberec	12-19.2.11
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP</b>			<b>CONGRESSES</b>		
2009	USA, Fargo & Moorhead	9-19.4.09	<b>IIHF SEMI-ANNUAL CONGRESS</b>		
2010	APPLICANTS: TBA		2009	TUNIS, Tunisia	20-23.9.09
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A</b>			<b>IIHF ANNUAL CONGRESS</b>		
2009	BELARUS, Minsk	6-12.4.09	2009	SWITZERLAND, Bern	7-9.5.09
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B</b>					
2009	ITALY, Asiago	29.3-5.4.09			
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A</b>					
2009	SLOVENIA, Maribor	22-28.3.09			
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B</b>					
2009	ESTONIA, Narva	16-22.3.09			
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group A</b>					
2009	CHINESE TAIPEI, Taipei City	27.2-5.3.09			
<b>IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III, Group B</b>					
2009	TURKEY, Erzurum	Mid March 2009			



RESULTS SUMMARY

**Olympic Pre-Qualification - Women**

**Group A - Liepaja, Latvia September 2-7, 2008**

Bulgaria - Italy	0-41	(0-17, 0-12, 0-12)
Slovakia - Latvia	2-0	(2-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Croatia - Bulgaria	30-1	(8-0, 13-0, 9-1)
Italy - Slovakia	1-3	(1-2, 0-1, 0-0)
Latvia - Croatia	9-0	(1-0, 3-0, 5-0)
Bulgaria - Latvia	0-39	(0-14, 0-11, 0-14)
Slovakia - Bulgaria	82-0	(31-0, 24-0, 27-0)
Italy - Croatia	8-0	(1-0, 4-0, 3-0)
Latvia - Italy	5-1	(3-0, 1-1, 1-0)
Croatia - Slovakia	1-18	(1-5, 0-9, 0-4)

Slovakia	4	4	0	0	103-2	12
Latvia	4	3	0	0	53-3	9
Italy	4	2	0	0	51-8	6
Croatia	4	1	0	0	31-36	3
Bulgaria	4	0	0	0	1-192	0

*Slovakia moves onto Final Olympic Qualification Tournament, Group C*

**Group B - Maribor, Slovenia, September 3-5, 2008**

Norway - Great Britain	3-1	(1-0, 0-1, 2-0)
Slovenia - Austria	0-7	(0-1, 0-4, 0-2)
Austria - Norway	0-1	(0-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Slovenia - Great Britain	1-5	(0-2, 1-1, 0-2)
Great Britain - Austria	4-3 OT	(1-1, 2-1, 0-1)
Norway - Slovenia	15-1	(7-0, 5-0, 3-1)

Norway	3	3	0	0	19-2	9
Great Britain	3	1	1	0	10-7	5
Austria	3	1	0	1	10-5	4
Slovenia	3	0	0	0	2-27	0

*Norway moves onto Final Olympic Qualification Tournament, Group C*

**Olympic Pre-Qualification - Men**

**Group A - Ankara, Turkey October 9-11, 2008**

Mexico - Bulgaria	2-6	(1-2, 0-3, 1-1)
Spain - Turkey	14-1	(2-1, 6-0, 6-0)
Spain - Mexico	4-5	(3-2, 1-2, 0-1)
Bulgaria - Turkey	8-0	(2-0, 3-0, 3-0)
Bulgaria - Spain	2-6	(0-1, 1-4, 1-1)
Turkey - Mexico	2-9	(0-3, 1-2, 1-4)

Spain	3	2	0	0	1	24-8	6
Bulgaria	3	2	0	0	1	16-8	6
Mexico	3	2	0	0	1	16-12	6
Turkey	3	0	0	0	3	3-31	0

*Spain moves onto Pre-Olympic Qualification Tournament, Group B*

**Champions Hockey League Qualification**

**Nurmburg, Germany, September 12-14, 2008**

Sinupret - Bern	1-4	(0-0, 1-1, 0-3)
Bern - Kosice	5-4	(2-0, 2-3, 1-1)
Kosice - Sinupret	3-5	(0-2, 2-2, 1-1)

Bern (SUI)	2	2	0	0	0	9-5	6
Sinupret (GER)	2	1	0	0	1	6-7	3
Kosice (SVK)	2	0	0	0	2	7-10	0

*Spain qualified to Champions Hockey League, Group B*

**Champions Hockey League**

**First Round**

**Group A**

Berlin - Kärpät	3-2	(1-1, 1-0, 1-1)
Kärpät - Metallurg	October 22	
Metallurg - Berlin	October 19	
Kärpät - Berlin	November 12	
Metallurg - Kärpät	November 19	
Berlin - Metallurg	December 3	

**Group B**

HV 71 - Bern	6-2	(1-0, 2-0, 3-2)
Bern - Espoo	October 22	
Espoo - HV 71	October 19	
Bern - HV 71	November 12	
Espoo - Bern	November 19	
HV 71 - Espoo	December 3	

**Group C**

Salavat Ufa - C. Budejovice	7-1	(1-0, 3-0, 3-1)
C. Budejovice - S. Bratislava	October 22	
S. Bratislava - Salavat Ufa	October 19	
C. Budejovice - Salavat Ufa	November 12	
S. Bratislava - C. Budejovice	November 19	
Salavat Ufa - S. Bratislava	December 3	

**Group D**

Slavia Prague - Linköping	4-2	(2-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Linköping - ZSC Zurich	October 22	
ZSC Zurich - Slavia Prague	October 19	
Linköping - Slavia Prague	November 12	
ZSC Zurich - Linköping	November 19	
Slavia Prague - ZSC Zurich	December 3	

**Continental Cup**

**FIRST ROUND**

**Group A - Novi Sad, Serbia, September 19-21, 2008**

Mladost - Dundalk	13-4	(3-1, 7-3, 3-0)
Novi Sad - Slavia Sofia	4-5 SO	(2-2, 2-1, 0-1)
Slavia Sofia - Mladost	2-11	(0-3, 0-2, 2-6)
Dundalk - Novi Sad	2-4	(1-0, 0-1, 1-3)
Dundalk - Slavia Sofia	6-4	(2-0, 2-3, 2-1)
Novi Sad - Mladost	4-1	(1-0, 3-0, 0-1)

Novi Sad (SER)	3	2	0	1	0	12-8	7
Mladost (CRO)	3	2	0	0	1	25-10	6
Dundalk (IRE)	3	1	0	0	2	12-21	3
Slavia Sofia (BUL)	3	0	1	0	2	11-21	2

*Novia Sad (SER) qualified for Continental Cup Second Round, Group C*

**SECOND ROUND**

**Group B - Elektrenai, Lithuania, October 17-19, 2008**

Sokil - Tilburg	13-4	(3-1, 7-3, 3-0)
Cracovia - Energija	3-2	(1-1, 1-1, 1-0)
Tilburg - Cracovia	1-4	(0-1, 1-1, 0-2)
Energija - Sokil	1-6	(1-1, 0-2, 0-3)
Sokil - Cracovia	7-4	(2-0, 5-3, 0-1)
Energija - Tilburg	6-5	(2-1, 2-3, 2-1)

Sokol Kiev (UKR)	3	3	0	0	0	19-8	9
Cracovia (POL)	3	2	0	0	1	11-10	6
Energija (LTU)	3	1	0	0	2	9-14	3
Tilburg (NED)	3	0	0	0	3	9-16	0

*Sokol Kiev (UKR) qualified for Continental Cup Third Round, Group D*

**Group C - Miercurea Ciuc, Romania, October 17-19, 2008**

Dunaujvaros - Novi Sad	13-4	(3-1, 7-3, 3-0)
Puigcerda - Miercurea Ciuc	1-12	(0-5, 0-4, 1-3)
Dunaujvaros - Puigcerda	8-1	(3-0, 3-1, 2-0)
Miercurea Ciuc - Novi Sad	8-1	(5-0, 0-1, 3-0)
Novi Sad - Puigcerda	5-6	(3-3, 2-2, 0-1)
Miercurea Ciuc - Dunaujvaros	1-4	(0-0, 1-3, 0-1)

Dunaujvaros (HUN)	3	3	0	0	0	20-6	9
Miercurea Ciuc (ROU)	3	2	0	0	1	21-6	6
Puigcerda (ESP)	3	1	0	0	2	8-25	3
Novi Sad (SER)	3	0	0	0	3	10-22	0

*Dunaujvaros (HUN) qualified for Continental Cup Third Round, Group E*

**Tragedy aftermath: How arenas can be prepared for the worst**

■ ■ *The hockey world is mourning the death of Russian 19 year-old budding star Alexei Cherapanov, who collapsed in the middle of a game and after numerous attempts to revive him, ultimately passed away in the hospital.*

Shortly following the tragedy, people were asking how this could have happened to a seemingly healthy hockey player in the prime of his career and perhaps the best shape of his life.



Not long after, fingers were pointed at a lack of First Aid care on site at the arena and other breakdowns in the system.

While no one can know for sure what went wrong on that day, one thing is certain, when rink owners and managers hear of such a tragedy it leaves them questioning 'what if that happened in my arena?'

The IIHF sat down with its Technical Committee member Pat Kelleher, who outlined how arenas can be prepared for a number of accidents on and off the ice.

■ ■ **OLDER ARENAS** Everyone knows the place. It's the rink that's falling apart at the seams, with dingy locker rooms and rickety bleachers. But it's the community legend, and not going anywhere anytime soon. So what can these arenas do to stay up-to-date with safety guidelines without breaking the bank? Here are just a few simple steps that managers can take to ensure a smoother road in the future.

1. **Keep Maintenance Logs:** Many arenas get into bad preventative maintenance habits and don't keep up with maintenance logs on machines and equipment. It isn't bad to have old equipment, in fact it can be the norm. But it is horrible to have poorly maintained equipment. Keeping a log also helps people with multiple staff members keep track of who has done what with the equipment.

2. **Perform a venue safety audit:** Once a month, take the time to do a simple walk through of the venue. Document items that need to be addressed and make sure there are staff members accountable to take care of the safety hazards. Be sure to follow up a few days later to make sure that the concerns are being addressed.

3. **Use Storage Rooms :** We see it at many rinks, open areas become default storage spaces of sticks, nets, and general maintenance equipment. These materials need to be removed from public spaces for obvious safety reasons. It's easy to let this slide over time, but once the precedent it set, it is hard to reverse. Remember to lock doors to storage and mechanical spaces.

4. **Test the safety systems:** The fire systems especially need to be checked and constantly maintained. It is crucial that everything is up-to-date.

■ ■ **NEW ARENAS:** When building new arenas there is enough on the plate of owners and managers, but remembering these simple steps in your planning can save you time and money in the future:

1. **Think like a 5 year-old:** Look at your venue through the eyes of a 5 year-old. Where will they go and what can they get into? Start in the parking lot and continue throughout the venue. Are there loose wires, slippery steps, sharp equipment items out in the open? All of these things should be considered in the planning process to make the arena as user friendly as possible.

2. **Train your staff:** There is no substitute for well-trained staff. Of course budgets don't always allow for massive training, but small things can make a big difference. First, make sure all staff members are trained in first aid and CPR. Make sure they know the numbers to call in case of an emergency. Have the local fire department come out and go over a building evacuation plan and teach staff members how to properly use a fire extinguisher. And always provide proper protective equipment for employees and make sure that the equipment is being utilized.

3. **Invest and plan:** Purchase the necessary safety equipment to meet government standards, and if possible look to go beyond those standards. Look into implementing Automatic Defibrillators in your venue and provide training on the equipment. Talk to your local hospital to find out the average response time when an ambulance is called. Store gas in appropriate locations and label a room if there are hazardous materials. Keep a current materials safety data sheet on all chemicals in the facility.

**FREDRIK STILLMAN**

**Born:** August 22, 1966 in Jönköping, Sweden

**International Achievements:**  
Olympic gold in 1994  
World Championship gold 1991, 1992  
156 national team games

**Club Achievements:**  
Swedish champion with HV71 in 1995  
598 games with HV71, 1982-2001

**Fun fact #1:**  
Stillman's No. 14 is one of only two retired HV71 jerseys hanging in Kinnarps Arena.

**Fun fact #2:**  
The only other club than HV71 that Stillman represented was the Berlin Capitals in 1995-96 and 1999-2000.

**WILL THEY CONQUER EUROPE?**

HV71 General Manager Fredrik Stillman sure hopes that this banner, which was unveiled as the team took to the ice in the Champions Hockey League opening game against Bern, is an accurate prediction of what awaits the team in the future. The arena was sold out in the CHL opener as fans were eager to see if their team would be the one to take the European crown.

PHOTO: HOCKEYFANS.CH

# HV 71 gets a kick out of conquering Europe

By Szymon Szemberg

■ ■ Olympic champion (1994) and IIHF World Champion (1991, 1992) Fredrik Stillman was one of Sweden's most accomplished defensemen of the modern era. Today, he is the sports director of the country's national champion HV71 Jönköping. Ice Times checked in with Stillman after his club's Champions Hockey League premiere on October 8.

□ When your CHL home opener against SC Bern was about to start, your fans unfolded a banner which said "It's time to conquer Europe." This shows a European vision which didn't exist in hockey just some years ago. What's your take on this?

I agree. The CHL gives European hockey a new dimension, something which the fans and clubs are ready for. If I may speak for the clubs, a Champions League in hockey is something that we have been waiting for. And now that we have played the first game, it's a reality. We have finally a competition which gives us an opportunity to check our skill level against the best clubs in Europe.

□ What were your first impressions following the 6-2-win over SC Bern?

Immediately, everyone in our club liked the event. It represented something new from what we are used to; The music sequence, the player introduction, the clean ice and the jerseys. You really got a kick out of it.

□ The reviews in the Swedish media were indeed very positive and all reporters made a point out of the clean ice and jerseys without any corporate logos. Why do you think this was such a hit with them?

It was something new, but it probably reminded them of the "good ol' " times. Media and fans also tend to compare everything with how it is in the NHL. And the setting reminded them of the NHL.

□ From the sports director's perspective - how has the CHL changed your job?

We realized early that we would need a deeper pool of players and we have that now. Just a couple of days after the premiere CHL game we signed two new players. We have also trained differently, a little bit more quality and more rest. After all, with the CHL we will be playing more games than ever.

□ Some CHL coaches expressed early concern that the heavy schedule will have a negative effect on the regular league performance, but HV71 proved immediately that this is not necessarily the case.

That's correct, the next day following the win against Bern we had a very tough road game in northern of Sweden, against MODO in Örnsköldsvik and we beat them 5-1. So the CHL game didn't affect us at all, to the contrary. But it's still too early to tell. There is no question that the extra CHL games will take their toll eventually. But we look at it from the positive side, not the negative. Hopefully, the Champions Hockey League is here to stay and we simply have to adapt.

□ What is the sportive ambition of HV71 with the CHL this year?

It is our objective to win the group and make it to the semi-final. Right now, we don't look beyond that. But of course, we would like to play an NHL team next September in the Victoria Cup, but for that you need to win the CHL. We have ambitions, but we take one step at a time.

□ How important is the prize money?

Professional hockey is a business, so a club's financial stability is very important. The prize money is obviously appreciated, but this is not the reason we play. The Champions Hockey League has given all participating clubs an opportunity to strengthen the brand of European club hockey. If we succeed, this will be even more valuable.

