



## Yes, they could



Photos: JUKKA RAUTIO & JANI RAJAMÄKI

**UNDISPUTED NO 1:** It doesn't matter if the Swedes were dressed in blue (in Turin, insert photo) or in yellow (in Riga), it was the year when they defeated everyone to win "The Double", Olympic gold and IIHF World Championship gold in the same year. On top of that, Sweden's men are run-away leaders in the IIHF World Ranking. Things can hardly get better, can they?

## For Sweden, 2006 is a year to remember

Ice hockey has been played in Sweden since the 1920s, but no year has been more successful than 2006: Olympic gold, IIHF World Championship gold and a historic women's Olympic silver. What a triple!

### RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

■ The previous issue of *Ice Times* gave the historic background to the "curse of the Olympic gold". On the seven occasions since 1972, when an Olympic ice hockey tournament and the IIHF World Championship were played in the same year, no Olympic champion had been able to repeat a few months later in the world championship.

Even the superior Soviet teams of the 70s failed twice during that decade, but the Swedes finally beat the curse with splendid victories on February 26 and on May 21 in the year of 2006, which will forever be written with golden letters in the chronicles of Swedish ice hockey.

And if this is not enough, Sweden's men are run-away leaders in the IIHF World Ranking with a whopping 4095 points, 110 points ahead of the Czechs and 205 points ahead of Canada.

The 2006 IIHF World Championship in Latvia proved two things:

□ The depth in quality in international hockey is better than ever. Understandably, we had a great turnover in the team rosters from Turin to Riga, but the hockey was nevertheless spectacular. I am not sure if any Olympic game in Turin reached the same emi-

nence as the Czech Republic-Russia quarterfinal in Riga.

□ The IIHF's marquee event is an excellent venture for the host organizers. Latvia 2006 generated a 19 million CHF revenue just in ticket sales, an IIHF World Championship record. Over 320,000 tickets sold in a small country like Latvia, with both arenas at an arm's length distance, which is also a very encouraging figure.

■ With 2006 in the books, we have started a new Olympic cycle that will lead us to Vancouver 2010. On June 7, the IIHF together with the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC), announced that the ice hockey tournaments in Vancouver will be played on the smaller, North American, ice surface.

It was a good and responsible decision. Apart from saving huge amounts in reconstruction costs and enabling more fans to buy tickets, we ensured that hockey will remain in the 18,500-seat state-of-the-art GM Place close to the Olympic Village and in Vancouver's downtown area. Spending all that money to gain four meters for two weeks would not make fiscal sense.

We are convinced that with the strict rule interpretations on restraining fouls, the star players will still be able to excel on the 60 x 26 meters North American sized ice surface.

■ With this, the 2005-2006 international ice hockey season is over. But it will only be a couple of months before we welcome you to the 99th season of IIHF hockey.

René Fasel  
IIHF President



## IHWC.NET is a smash hit

■ For the seventh consecutive year, IHWC.NET provided complete coverage of the IIHF World Championship as the website maintained its position as one of the most frequently visited annual world championship sites in any sport.

Not surprisingly, Latvian internet users topped the list of visitors world wide as almost 50 million hits were recorded in the hosting nation, followed by Canada, USA, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

■ The excellent number of more 107 million page views was distributed among 178 countries with Guadeloupe rounding off the list. Apparent interest in international hockey was recorded in countries like Guam, Qatar, Tadjikistan, Macau and last, but not least, the Vatican City.

IHWC.NET is planning to continue keeping our readers happy for the 2007 event in Russia.

## The Hockey Book

■ For the first time - complete results of all official IIHF competitions at all levels collected in one publication. The impressive International Ice Hockey Encyclopedia is compiled by the German ice hockey historian Stephan Müller and lists results, standings and other facts from the Olympic ice hockey tournament, IIHF World Championships on all levels and categories, Canada Cup and World Cup of Hockey, European and Asian Championships, European Club Competitions, North American Pro Leagues.



It also lists the club champions of all IIHF member national federations.

"This book is one of the very few attempts to cover what has happened in international ice hockey since the pioneers took their first shots at Les Avants in 1910," writes IIHF President René Fasel in his foreword.

■ You can order this book directly from the author by sending an e-mail to: [info@sport-record.de](mailto:info@sport-record.de)

iceTimes is published bi-monthly.

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# Ties are history in IIHF championships as congress decides on several format changes

The IIHF Annual Congress made the following decisions in Riga during its session on May 19:

■ The draw, which was used for the past two years to determine the four IIHF World Championship groups, will not be used for the 2007 and 2008 events. Instead, the IIHF World Ranking will be used as the sole criteria for determining the groups. Thus, the groups for the 2007 IIHF World Championship in Russia (Moscow & St. Petersburg), will be determined by the IIHF World Ranking that will be in place immediately following Latvia 2006. See page 5 for the groups in Russia 2007.

■ There will be a change in the quarter-final match-up format for 2007 and 2008. The cross-over quarter-final system that previously followed the completion of the Qualifying Round (1E - 4F, 2E - 3F etc) will be abandoned, and the quarter-final pairings will be established within the Qualifying Round groups (1E - 4E, 2E - 3E etc). This means that no teams will need to switch cities for the quarter-finals. The change will reduce travel for teams, media and fans, since the distance between St. Petersburg and Moscow in 2007 and between Quebec City and Halifax in 2008 would make both the scheduling and travel inconvenient.

Both semi-finals W(1E-4E) - W(2F-3F) and W(1F-4F) - W(2E-3E) will then be played in the primary venue.

■ The congress approved the introduction of the three-point system in all IIHF World Championship events. The winner of a game will be awarded three

points. In case of a tie, teams will be awarded one point each and the game will be followed by a five-minute overtime period (teams skate 4-on-4) and a penalty shoot-out, if the score is still tied after overtime. The team that wins in overtime or the shoot-out is awarded an additional point.



Photo: DOMINIC EBENBICHLER  
**NO MORE TIED UP:** Scores like Switzerland-Slovakia 2-2 in Riga will be a thing of the past. All future IIHF games will have a winner.

■ The congress approved a change of the format of the IIHF World Women Championship. As of 2007, nine teams will participate in the elite division instead of the previous eight. The nine teams will be seeded in three groups in the Preliminary Round followed by a second round, which will determine positions for the Gold Medal and Bronze Medal games. This format was used as a temporary solution at the 2004 IIHF World Women Championship in Halifax, Canada after the SARS disease wiped out the 2003 event in China.

■ It was confirmed by the Council that the IIHF World Ranking following the 2008 IIHF World Championship in Canada will determine the eight teams that will be automatically qualified for Vancouver 2010. The remaining four teams will be determined through a qualification process which will be played during the 2008-2009 season and will conclude in February 2009, one year prior to the Olympic tournament.

■ The congress did not approve the proposed change in the relegation format. This means that the current format, where the two last teams from the four-team Relegation Round group get relegated to Division I, will stay intact.

## Slovakia won 2011 race

■ The IIHF Congress in Riga allocated the 2011 IIHF World Championship to Slovakia. Bratislava, the national capital, and Kosice will be the host cities.

A visibly touched Juraj Siroky, President of the Slovak Hockey Federation and IIHF Council member, thanked Congress for giving Slovakia this opportunity. The Congress acknowledged the Slovak presentation, which was impressive. The voting procedure was followed on site by a large Slovak media contingent.

Prior to the voting, Finland withdrew from consideration, which left Hungary, Slovakia and Sweden as candidates. The voting then followed:

- Slovakia 70
- Sweden 20
- Hungary 14

Both Finland and Sweden promptly announced their intentions to bid for 2012, which will be allocated during the Congress in Russia next year. One week later Hungary announced their bid for 2012.

■ This will be the first time Slovakia has ever hosted the IIHF World Championship, although Bratislava co-hosted the event in both 1959 and in 1992, but as a city of the former Czechoslovakia. The Slovaks won their first-ever gold medal at this tournament in Sweden 2002, and have also captured silver (Russia 2000) and bronze (Finland 2003).

See page 10 for complete list of future allocations.

## Association News

**FRANCE:** The independent French Ice Hockey Federation (FFHG) was founded on April 29, 2006. Earlier, the federation was part of the French Ice Sports Federation. Go to: [hockeyfrance.com](http://hockeyfrance.com)

**CANADA:** Former NHLer and Team Canada defenseman **Craig Hartsburg**, named Best Defenseman at the 1987 IIHF World Championship, will be the head coach of Canada's 2007 national junior team which will try to defend its world title at the upcoming IIHF World U20 Championship in Sweden.

**RUSSIA:** Former goaltending great **Vladislav Tretiak**, 54, was elected as new President of the Russian Ice Hockey Federation on April 25. Tretiak replaced Alexander Steblin. See more on page 12 for Tretiak.

**CZECH REPUBLIC:** The Czech Ice Hockey Association announced that national team head coach **Alois Hadamczik** has signed a new two-year contract, for the 2007 and 2008 IIHF World Championships. Hadamczik has coached the national team for one season.

■ The 2007 IIHF World U20 Championship will be played in Leksand and Mora, Sweden on December 26, 2006 - January 5, 2007. It will be the 31st "World Juniors" championship since the first official event in 1977. Check out the official host organiser's website: [www.worldjuniors2007.com](http://www.worldjuniors2007.com) On the website you'll find everything from ticket & venue information to hotel accommodation in the beautiful area around Lake Siljan where the two hockey communities Leksand and Mora are located.





Ice Times in May 2005

## Sure enough, Bengt-Ake is a winner

■ After only 15 months as a head coach on the international level, Bengt-Ake "Gus" Gustafsson managed to lead Sweden's Tre Kronor to gold medal at both the Olympics in Turin as well as at the IIHF World Championship in Riga. The ultimate Grand Slam of international hockey - on top of everything Gustafsson was the first to accomplish this truly unique double.

He is hard pressed to talk about his leadership qualities, but admits, rather reluctantly, that he has a knack making his players feel comfortable:

"When a player is called to the national team, they feel that they can be the same players they are on a daily basis on their club teams," says Gustafsson. "I try to make them realize that they are selected because of who they are and what they have done. They don't have to pretend. This makes them feel secure and confident. And a confident group usually delivers."



Photo: JANI RAJAMÄKI

**SO MUCH, SO SOON:** In May 2005, the IIHF Ice Times asked if Bengt-Ake Gustafsson was a winner. His emphatic reply came one year later with having led Tre Kronor to both Olympic and IIHF World Championship gold in four months. With the Olympic medal safely stored away back home in the city of Karlskoga, Gustafsson poses with the Riga glitter in the locker room.

■ When talking to "Gus" about his two golden squads, he makes it perfectly clear that he appreciates his Riga collection from May as much as he liked his Turin star ensemble in February. He isn't even sure that "Team Turin" would defeat "Team Riga" if such a game would ever be staged:

"Despite what hockey people in general might think, I am convinced that this would be a tight game," says Bengt-Ake. "It would probably end with a one-goal win, but I can't say which team would be the winner."

Gustafsson is more at ease talking about the inner strength of Swedish hockey, reflected in the fact that Tre Kronor is by far the most consistent national team since

the introduction of the playoff system in the IIHF World Championship in 1992, with four world championship gold medals, six silver, four bronze and thirteen "final-four" appearances.

"Sweden has depth and stability in its program and unlike some other nations, we are usually not dependent on one or two star players. In our system, more or less anyone can step in and assume almost any role."

■ Gustafsson, who also led Sweden to the 1987 and 1991 World titles as a player, is now one of only six people who have won the IIHF World Championship both as player and head coach. See page 6 for the list of the exclusive group.

## Europe's Super Six clubs to play for record prize sum at ECC III

■ The draw of the two three-team divisions for the 2007 IIHF European Champions Cup (January 11 - 14, 2007) was conducted in St. Petersburg, Russia on June 1 as part of the ECC General Assembly meeting.

The champion clubs of the top six ranked European countries were seeded according to the final standing in the 2006 ECC. (See groups to the right.)

■ The teams will play a single round-robin within their division on January 11-13 and the divisional winners will meet in the Gold Medal game on January 14. All games will be played at the 12,350-seat St. Petersburg Ice Palace.

A tentative game schedule was released immediately following the draw. (The schedule will be finalized later following the requests from TV-broadcasters.)

■ The "Super-Six" club teams of Europe will play for a record prize sum of 800,000 Swiss francs. The IIHF European Champions



Cup is Europe's prime competition for club teams and crowns the club champion of Europe.

The ECC held its inaugural tournament in 2005. The Russian league's Avangard Omsk (in 2005) and Dynamo Moscow (in 2006) are the previous winners.

■ All of the 2007 ECC teams will participate in the tournament for the first time. This means that the event has had 17 different clubs in three years, an indication of how difficult it is to repeat as national champions and thus qualify for the ECC.

Finland's Kärpät Oulu - runners-up in both 2005 and 2006 - is the only club to appear in two ECC's so far. They will not be back this year since HPK Hämeenlinna claimed the Finnish title.

Of the 2007 participants, Sparta Prague, Lugano and Färjestad-Karlstad have won their national championship seven times, while AK Bars Kazan, Zilina and HPK are first-time winners.

### Alexander Ragulin Division

HPK Hämeenlinna (FIN)  
Sparta Prague (CZE)  
MsHK Zilina (SVK)

### Ivan Hlinka Division

AK Bars Kazan (RUS)  
HC Lugano (SUI)  
Färjestads BK (SWE)

#### January 11:

HPK - Zilina

AK Bars - Färjestad

#### January 12

Zilina - Sparta

Färjestad - Lugano

#### January 13

Sparta - HPK

Lugano - AK Bars

**January 14:** Gold Medal game

## 2006 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL

## ALL-STAR TEAM (selected by the media)



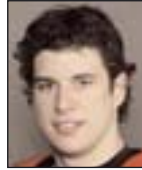
G: Mezin, BLR



D: Nummelin, FIN



D: Kronwall, SWE



F: Crosby, CAN



F: Vyborny, CZE



F: Ovechkin, RUS

## DIRECTORATE BEST PLAYER AWARDS

**Best Goalkeeper:** Johan Holmqvist, SWE

**Best Defenseman:** Niklas Kronwall, SWE

**Best Forward:** Sidney Crosby, CAN

**MVP:** Niklas Kronwall, SWE



Photo: JANI RAJAMAKI

**HOME ICE ADVANTAGE:** Latvian fans enhanced their status as the most passionate in hockey.

## Wonderous Riga: Reliving 2006 World Championship

By Andrew Podnieks  
RIGA

The 70th IIHF World Championship in Riga is now over. Another chapter of international hockey is in the books, and as we say goodbye to Riga, we must take a look back at the last three weeks of hockey to see how posterity will remember this tournament. So, here is a subjective look at the many highs (and a few lows) of the 56 games that comprise the latest World Championship.

**Game 3 - Great Danes:** Denmark predictably trailed Canada 3-0 in the game and then shockingly recovered to tie the score 3-3. Canada prevailed 5-3 but not without a bit of sweat and hard work. After the strong opening game, the Danes faltered in the preliminary round and ended up playing in the relegation round.

**Game 4 - Hometown Heroes:** The horns were rocking in Riga as Latvia held the high-powered Czechs to an entertaining 1-1 tie before a delirious sellout crowd at the new Riga Arena.

**Game 5 - Underdogs?** Belarus announced a new attitude by beating Slovakia 2-1 en route to a terrific tournament in which it qualified for the quarter-finals.

**Game 6 - Pluss & Minus:** Switzerland beat Italy 3-1, which was no great moment in itself. But, in the second period, Swiss forward Martin Pluss caused a penalty shot and then was awarded one himself. When he took his shot, the goalie moved too soon and Pluss re-took the shot. He missed both, and Italian John Parco missed his.

**Game 7 - Russia Rolls:** Russia hammered Kazakhstan 10-1. But the story of the game was the underaged duo of Evgeni Malkin, who scored a sensational goal in the process and Alexander Ovechkin who had a hat trick.

**Game 18 - Powerful Polar Bears:** Norway beat

Denmark, 6-3, to avoid playing in the Relegation Round. The Norwegians were led by new star in goal, Mathias Gundersen.

**Game 22 - That's Amore:** Italy loses to Ukraine 4-2. Late in the game, a fight breaks out in the hallway between Tony Iob and Ukrainian captain Sergiy Klymentiev in the low point of the tournament. Both players were given suspensions. Iob did not return to action for the remainder of the championship.

**Game 24 - No Ice, No Problem:** Sweden and Switzerland played to an exciting 4-4 tie, with the Swiss rallying from 4-2 down in the third. The game was delayed 75 minutes, though, because a large chunk of ice came loose. This was the only glitch in an arena that was built from scratch inside a large convention hall.

**Game 26 - A tip from the crowd:** Canada scored nine power-play goals on the way to an 11-0 win over host Latvia. But the routine win soon became the talk of the tournament as Latvia's loyal fans crossed a line between crowd support and interaction. The game was twice disrupted by unruly fans who threw coins and other objects onto the ice.

**Game 39 - Golden rematch:** The Czechs beat Canada 6-3 in a great game and what was a rematch of the gold medal game from 2005. Canada trailed 3-0 before tying the game, but the Czechs persisted and skate to victory in an end-to-end match.

**Game 41 - We'll be back:** Italy tied Slovenia 3-3 with a late goal that ensured the Italians stay in the top pool for 2007 while sending the Slovenians down to Division I for next year. It was a fitting conclusion to an unpredictable relegation round which saw all four teams with a chance to stay in the top division entering the final day of the round robin.

**Game 44 - Who says ties aren't exciting?** Russia's late goal lifted the team to a 3-3 tie with Sweden in the most exciting game to date. End-to-end rushes and free-wheeling skating make this a treat to watch from start to finish.

**Game 46 - The start of an empire?** Belarus beat Switzerland 2-1 to advance to the quarter-finals and send the Swiss home. On one side, the loss is a bitter finish for the Swiss, who played a strong championship, but on the other it's a defining moment for Canadian-born coach Glen Hanlon, who led the Belarusians for the second year running.

**Game 49 - Star Spangled Flop:** Sweden shut out the United States, 6-0, in a dominating performance from start to finish that underscored the importance for American NHLers back home to say yes to USA Hockey on a regular basis. While the youthful U.S. squad was enjoyable to watch, the team wasn't ready for the elite eight of the World Championship.

**Game 51 - Going the extra mile:** The Czechs beat the Russians 4-3 in the tournament's best and most thrilling game. Intense, pro-Russian fans, dazzling rushes from Malkin and Ovechkin, great attacks by the Czechs. This game had it all. It turned out to be the only game of the championship that went into overtime.

**Game 54 - No gold for young 'uns:** Sweden beats Canada 5-4 in a game that's lop-sided at times and tense at others as Canada fights hard to tie the game. Sidney Crosby makes arguably the pass of the tournament on Patrice Bergeron's goal early in the third. But ultimately, the Maple Leaf-clad teens went home empty handed.

**Game 56 - Tre Kronor makes history:** Sweden totally shut down the Czech Republic, winning 4-0 and became the first nation to win gold at the Olympics and the IIHF World Championship in the same year.

# 2006 World Ranking determines groups for 2007 Worlds in Russia

■ It was a busy season in the hockey world with both the Olympics and World Championship played less than three months apart from each other. Perhaps nothing shows just how much happened on the ice better than the IIHF World Ranking, which saw some of its most dramatic movements in the last months since its invention three years ago.

Canada, leaders in 2003, 2004 and 2005, was knocked from the top spot and replaced by a deserving Sweden squad, which won gold medals at both the 2006 Olympics and 2006 World Championship. Sweden's solid play in the previous three World Championships ultimately led to the top spot reward. The Czechs, based on the strength of medal finishes at the last three events skated into the second spot, followed by Canada in third.

## 2006 MEN'S WORLD RANKING

'06 Rank	Country	Points	Post Turin rank	Move
1	SWE	4095	1	0
2	CZE	3985	2	0
3	CAN	3890	3	0
4	FIN	3830	4	0
5	RUS	3725	6	1
6	SVK	3685	5	-1
7	USA	3580	7	0
8	SUI	3500	8	0
9	LAT	3310	9	0
10	BLR	3230	13	3
11	KAZ	3115	11	0
12	GER	3110	10	-2
13	UKR	3005	14	1
14	DEN	3005	15	1
15	NOR	2935	18	3
16	AUT	2930	12	-4
17	ITA	2915	17	0
18	SLO	2870	16	-2
19	FRA	2720	19	0
20	POL	2580	20	0
21	JPN	2540	21	0
22	HUN	2430	22	0
23	NED	2360	23	0
24	EST	2325	24	0
25	LTU	2270	26	1
26	ROM	2135	25	-1
27	CRO	2000	28	1
28	CHN	1970	27	-1
29	SCG	1745	29	0
30	BUL	1715	30	0
31	GBR	1580	31	0
32	KOR	1320	32	0
33	ISR	1275	35	2
34	AUS	1215	34	0
35	BEL	1200	33	-2
36	PRK	1105	36	0
37	ESP	1040	37	0
38	NZL	925	38	0
39	MEX	845	43	4
40	ISL	840	39	-1
41	RSA	830	40	-1
42	TUR	775	41	-1
43	LUX	705	42	-1
44	IRL	585	44	0
45	ARM	580	45	0

■ It's not only teams at the top that have been rewarded for solid performances. After a back-and-forth battle, Switzerland now has a strong hold on the eighth-place spot, which qualifies the nation for the European Champions Cup.

Meanwhile, Germany's relegation to Division I and a poor showing at the Olympics can be seen in the nation's two-place plummet. On the other side of the coin are Belarus and Norway, which both had stellar World Championships and made three-place jumps.

The ranking was updated immediately following the 2006 World Championship in Riga and reflects some of the many plots witnessed during the season.

■ For teams, the World Ranking is much more than a mere number for bragging rights. The ranking holds the key to Olympic qualification for several of the top teams and this year, for the first time, the 2006 World Ranking (right) was also used to determine the Preliminary Round groups for the 2007 IIHF World Championship in Russia.

After using a draw system the last two seasons, the IIHF came to the conclusion that using the World Ranking to determine the groups would allow for a better balance amongst teams in the preliminary and qualifying rounds.

In most cases, the place where a team finished at the previous World Championship reflects the tier that the team was placed for the preliminary round groups. Only Switzerland and Germany's World Ranking moved them up a level. Germany's 11th place ranking moved them into the third tier rather than the fourth where normally a newly-promoted team would go, while the Swiss were in the second tier despite not making the quarterfinals in Riga.

Below are the preliminary round groups for Russia 2007.

### RUSSIA 2007 GROUPS

Below are the groups for the 2007 IIHF World Championship in Russia. (Numbers in brackets indicate 2007 seeding according to World Ranking). The cities for the playing groups will be announced at a later date.

Top three teams in each group advance to the Qualifying Round. The fourth placed teams go to Relegation Round.

<p><b>Group A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sweden</li> <li>8. Switzerland</li> <li>9. Latvia</li> <li>16. Italy</li> </ul> <p><b>Group C:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Canada</li> <li>6. Slovakia</li> <li>11. Germany</li> <li>14. Norway</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Group B:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Czech Republic</li> <li>7. USA</li> <li>10. Belarus</li> <li>15. Austria</li> </ul> <p><b>Group D:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Finland</li> <li>5. Russia</li> <li>12. Ukraine</li> <li>13. Denmark</li> </ul>
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# Youth rules Riga



**THE BIG THREE:** From left to right the next generation of hockey stars; Canada's Sidney Crosby and Russia's Alexander Ovechkin and Evgeny Malkin

■ A few days into the World Championship, Canada added veteran Brendan Shanahan to its roster in Riga. The star forward arrived to a flurry of media all with the same line of questioning: 'Tell us about Sidney'.

Such was a sign of the times, when seasoned NHL stars took the back seat to teenaged sensations. Like in football, you need only say the first name of the latest diaper dandies to get instant recognition: Sidney, Alexander, Evgeny. Not only were the trio bombarded with media and fan requests, but they were looked upon to provide, well not veteran leadership, but rather rookie leadership.

And did the trio succeed? Ice Times takes a look at the new names of hockey and how they fared in Riga:

**Sidney:** It was never hard to find Sidney Crosby off the ice in Riga: simply follow the swarm of reporters and autograph seekers. The surprisingly down to earth 19 year-old sensation handled every request with the poise of a seasoned professional, of course the circus surrounding Crosby is nothing new to the Pittsburgh Penguin, who sells out visiting team arenas with fans eager to see 'The Next One'. On the ice it was just as easy to spot the rookie, just wait for a Canada goal and likely #87 was somewhere on the ice. Crosby exceeded all expectations, finishing the championship as the scoring leader, with eight goals and eight assists. He also walked away with the Media All-Star team honors and was named the Best Forward by the Directorate.

**Alexander:** Who is the man behind the tinted mask? It's none other than Alexander Ovechkin, the future of Russian hockey. At 20 years old, Ovechkin is the grandfather of youngsters and by far the most seasoned veteran of international competition. This was already Ovechkin's second senior World Championship (in 2005 he had one goal and one assist). But this year the not-quite-rookie made his presence felt. On the Olympic squad he led the Russians with five goals, while in Riga he finished fifth overall in scoring with six goals and three assists, including netting a hat trick against Kazakhstan. Insiders say Ovechkin brings a new competitive spirit and natural leadership to the Russians.

**Evgeny:** The 19-year-old Evgeny Malkin doesn't just score -- he scores in style. Chances are if there's a high-light reel goal, it came from Malkin's stick. The towering center is low-key away from the ice, but the instant he steps on the ice the fireworks begin. In his first World Championship, Malkin finished in the top 10 in scoring with three goals and six assists, including scoring arguably the best goal of the championship in sprawling fashion against the Kazakhs. While he's been able to avoid much of the media glare, it won't be long before he has his own Crosby-like following.

# The best story from Riga 2006 - it'

By Szymon Szemberg

With all games played, all goals scored and all silverware handed out, this is what remains for the history books from the 70th IIHF World Championship in Riga, Latvia:

■ ■ Sweden became the first country to win both the Olympic men's gold and the IIHF World Championship gold in the same season.

■ ■ Henrik Zetterberg, Jorgen Jonsson, Kenny Jonsson, Niklas Kronwall, Mika Hannula, Mikael Samuelsson, Ronnie Sundin and goaltending backup Stefan Liv are the only eight players in the world who can show Olympic gold medals and IIHF World Championship gold medals from the same year. Jorgen Jonsson, by the way, won a triple. He also captured the Swedish championship with his club team Farjestad.



Photo: EUROPHOTO

**MARATHON MAN:** *Petteri Nummelin's 12 IIHF World Championships is four more than dad Timo's eight, but father still has two more national team games. Petteri has no plans to retire yet, though.*

■ ■ With the gold in Riga, Sweden cemented its position as the most consistent of all hockey nations since the introduction of the playoff system in 1992. Over that 15-year period Sweden has four world championship gold medals, six silver, four bronze and thirteen "final-four" appearances. Only in 1996 and in 2000 did Sweden miss the semi-final.

■ ■ Despite Sweden's and the Czech Republic's Worlds prominence since 1992 (Czechs have five gold medals and three bronze), it was the first time that these countries met in a Gold Medal game. It was also the first time the Czechs lost a final game since the introduction of the playoff format, thus the first time the country had to settle for a silver medal.

■ ■ Sweden's captain Kenny Jonsson and Russia's whiz-kid Alexander Ovechkin were the only players who grabbed individual honours in both Turin and Riga in 2006. Jonsson, named Best Defenseman by the Olympic Directorate, was selected to the Media All-Star Team in Riga, while Ovechkin was an All-Star forward in both tournaments.

■ ■ Canada's Sidney Crosby, 18, became the youngest player to win the IIHF World Championship in scoring (with 8 goals and 8 assists for 16 points in 9 games) since the modern era started in 1954. Canadians Jim Logan (7+15=22) and Gordon "Red" Berenson (9+2=11) were 19 years old when they topped the 1956 and the 1959 events, respectively, in scoring .

■ ■ Sweden's Niklas Kronwall became the first defenseman to win the MVP award in the IIHF World Championship. Although, the MVP trophy has only been handed out since the 1999 championship.

■ ■ Finland's defenseman Petteri Nummelin, 33, became only the fifth player to record participation in 12 IIHF World Championships (top pool). Nummelin has not missed a single championship since he debuted in 1995. Riga 2006 was the third time Nummelin was named to the tournament All-Star team. Nummelin needs two more World Championship participations to tie Jiri Holik (Czechoslovakia) and Sven Tumba-Johansson (Sweden) who are on top of the all-time list with 14. Petteri, with 223 national team games, is only two behind father Timo's 225, who participated in "only" eight world championships.

■ ■ The second on the active all-time world championship list is Sweden's Jorgen Jonsson, who has 11 IIHF World Championships. Jonsson played his first world event one year before Nummelin, in 1994, but missed both 1995 and 1996 before he became a mainstay with Tre Kronor in 1997. Jonsson, who now has two Olympic gold medals and two IIHF World Championship golds, also boasts the most national team games among active players with 262.

■ ■ Jorgen and Kenny Jonsson, became not only the first brother duo to win both the Olympic hockey gold and the IIHF World Championship gold in the same year, but they also became the second pair of brothers to play on the same world championship winning team in recent years. Canada's Scott and Rob Niedermayer won for Canada in 2004 as they were the first brothers since the Makarovs (Sergei and Nikolai in 1981)



to drink bubbly from the same trophy.

■ ■ Swedish twins Henrik and Joel Lundqvist also struck double gold - but separately. Henrik was Sweden's goaltending hero in Turin, but the New York Rangers didn't give him medical clearance for Latvia 2006. Joel, a two-way forward from Frolunda Indians, didn't make the Olympic team, but he won the gold in Riga instead.

■ ■ Belarus' goaltender Andrei Mezin became the first player from a country other than one of the traditional hockey powers to be named to the All Star team.

■ ■ 37 years after Swedish goaltending hero Leif "Honken" Holmqvist was named Best Goaltender at the 1969 IIHF World Championship by the tournament directorate, Johan "Honken" Holmqvist received the same recognition in Latvia 2006. They come from the same area (around the city of Gavle), but are not related.

■ ■ Bengt-Ake Gustafsson joined an exclusive group of hockey nobility that have won the IIHF World Championship both as players and head coaches. Vsevolod Bobrov (Soviet Union/Russia), Boris Mikhailov (Soviet Union/Russia), Ivan Hlinka, Josef Augusta and Vladimir Ruzicka (all Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic) are the others who have scored the double.

■ ■ Alexei and Andrei Mikhnov became the fourth pair of brothers to compete for different nations and to play against each other in an IIHF World Championship. Alexei, 23, is a budding star on the Russian team while Andrei, 22, is a talented youngster playing for Ukraine. They met on May 11 when Alexei's Russia defeated Andrei's

# ...s yours to pick



Photo: JANI RAJAMAKI

**BRO' POWER:** Kenny Jonsson and Jorgen Jonsson had a season that they will never forget. The brothers are two of only eight hockey players in the world that can claim to have won both the Olympic and World Championship gold in the same year. Here, Kenny and Jorgen show off their spring winnings in the locker room following the gold medal game in Riga.

Ukraine 6-0 in the Qualifying Round. The previous brother duos on opposing teams were Robert Reichel (Czech Republic) - Martin Reichel (Germany), Steve Rucchin (Canada) - Larry Rucchin (Italy) and Frantisek Tikal (Czechoslovakia) - Zdenek Tikal (Australia). The last pair met in the 1960 Olympics which also counted as the world championship.

■ Czech Zbynek Irgl became the 13th player - and the least known - to score an overtime goal in the IIHF World Championships since the introduction of the playoff format. Irgl, who plays for Czech league HC Vitkovice, was added to the roster one week into the tournament and it proved to be a great move by coach Hadamczik since it was Irgl who got the Czechs the winner against Russia in the quarterfinal, 7:58 into OT. The Czech-Russia battle was by far the best game of the 2006 World Championship and brought back memories to the epic Czechoslovakia vs Soviet Union games of the 60s and 70s. It was the only overtime game of the 2006 championship.

■ Latvia 2006 was the sixth consecutive tournament where Maxim Sokolov was the goaltender for Team Russia, making the "Maximator" the most experienced international goalie of the 2000s.

■ Latvia 2006 had a total attendance of 324,794 spectators, which puts the event in seventh place on the all-time attendance list.



Photos: JANI RAJAMAKI

**MVP MEETS LEGEND:** Borje Salming (right) suddenly showed up in the Swedish locker room after the prize ceremony in Riga and was the first one to congratulate Latvia 2006 MVP Niklas Kronwall.

## The reluctant MVP joins group of great D-men

■ Niklas Kronwall doesn't believe that he is as good as people say. Nevertheless, as he was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2006 IIHF World Championship, continuing the legacy of great Swedish defensemen. From Lasse Björn and Roland Stoltz, through Lennart "Lill-Strimma" Svedberg, Borje Salming, Tomas Jonsson, Calle Johansson and, finally, Nicklas Lidstrom.

Kronwall was of course overjoyed when Borje Salming came in to the Swedish locker to join the gold celebration and posed for the above photo with Latvia 2006 MVP. Regardless of the fact that Salming never won any international honours, he is still considered as the best defenseman ever to wear the Tre Kronor jersey, which he donned between 1971 and 1992.



**GAME OVER:** Kronwall scored a beauty of a goal to make it 3-0 and the Swedes never looked back.



**TRIPLE:** After being named to the All Star team and Best Defenseman by the directorate, Kronwall also received the MVP trophy from the hands of IIHF President René Fasel.

Salming played 17 seasons in the NHL and was the man who in 1973 broke down the barriers for all the Europeans who followed.

"It was huge when Borje came in and we could have this photo taken," said Niklas to the *Ice Times* several weeks after the gold medal game. "This was the first time that I met him and it was an honor. It was Borje who proved that Europeans could make it in the NHL. He is still considered a God in Toronto."

■ Niklas Kronwall, meanwhile, is making a nice name for himself, both internationally and in Detroit. It is the second consecutive IIHF World Championship where he is named to the All-Star team as selected by media, but as opposed to 2005 in Austria, 2006 was a Grand Slam of historic proportions.

Apart from being one of eight players who won gold both in Turin and in Riga, Kronwall was named MVP in Riga, was again named to the All Star team and named Best Defenseman by the tournament directorate.

"It still feels kind of unreal when I think back on the season," says Niklas who, in a typically Swedish fashion, thinks that he didn't really deserve the MVP and the Best Defenseman awards.

"Kenny Jonsson was our leader on defense, he should have had it," says Niklas.

## 2006 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL

# USA is golden again at U18 World Championship

They did it again. The Americans earned their second consecutive gold medal at the World U18 Championship in Sweden after cruising to the top spot with a 6-0-0 record. Throughout the championship, the U.S. was clearly the team to beat as they lived up to their pre-tournament hype as the favourites.

The gold medal just further exhibited the recent American dominance at the U18 level. The team has earned three medals in the last three years and in the last five has a medal haul that includes three golds and a silver.

■ Just how dominant have the Americans been at the U18 World Championship recently? Consider that the last game the team lost at the championship dates back to April 18, 2004, when the squad lost in the gold medal game against the Russians, 2-3. Two years without a loss, while it's not quite on par with the Soviet men's dominance of the 1970s, it is never the less impressive considering the unpredictability that comes with junior hockey.

The recipe for the American success used to be considered as complex and controversial, but since the golds have started rolling in it is now seen as one of the most ambitious development programs in the world. Unlike the other teams assembled in Angelholm and Halmstad, the U.S. had been training together as a group for the entire season.

The U18 squad was assembled in late August and played against junior and college teams that were at times as much as four to five years older than the mostly 17 year-old Americans. The team also played overseas as a unit during the November and February international breaks. The results have been an undeniable success, so much so, that other nations have started thinking about starting similar programs.

The fact that the team worked so well together as a unit,



**TWICE IS NICE:** The American U18 team is getting good at striking the championship pose around the U18 trophy. It was the second straight year the team has won the gold medal.

allowed some individuals to shine for the U.S. Four of the top five scorers were Americans, while Jamie McBain and Pat Kane were named the top defenseman and forwards respectively by the tournament directorate.

■ Besides the strong U.S. performance, the tournament was abuzz about the biggest single-season turnaround by a team in U18 history. Finland, which had played in the relegation round for the last two seasons, stunned the tournament field by not only qualifying for the playoff round, but also taking home the silver medal. In fact, the Finns came closer than any other team to spoil the U.S. party as the Americans had to rely on two late-

period goals (one in the last second of the second period, and another in the last two seconds of the game) to earn the 3-1 golden win.

For Finland, the showing was a huge redemption for two disappointing seasons of just missing the playoff round. Led by goaltender Riku Helenius, who was named the Directorate's top goaltender, the Finns played solid, not flashy, hockey throughout the championship.

■ It was one of the rare times that both teams in the final game left happy. The U.S. thrilled to take home its second straight gold, while the Finns were satisfied with their reversal of fortune and the silver.

## Austria and Germany back on top after Div. I wins

■ On May 11, 2005 a collective gasp went through the hockey world as the unthinkable happened at the World Championship when both Germany and then-host Austria were both relegated from the top division.

One year later, both squads have licked their wounds and recovered in somewhat grand fashion, winning their respective Division I Championships to return to the elite 16 teams. While winning the Division I's can be considered a success, for both of these teams, anything less than a promotion would have been beyond disappointment, especially for the Germans, who before the 2005 relegation debacle held a strangle hold on the 8th spot in the IIHF World Ranking.

■ And while the return for both teams back to the top division may have seemed like a no brainer to most of the hockey world, there were still 10 competing teams that served to make things as difficult, and at times dramatic, as possible in the German's and Austrian's bid to return to the top division.

**Germany:** When looking at its five opponents at the Division I, Group A Championship in Amiens, France, the Germans knew that things would not be as simple as they hoped in their effort to win the group. While everyone expected France to be the German's biggest obstacle, there was also a persistent Japan team to con-

tend with and a plucky Hungarian squad. Germany started the tournament in grand fashion, out-scoring its first three opponents 23-2. But the games, against Japan, Israel and Great Britain were merely warm-ups for the two key promotion-related games. In the first test, Germany came out tight against Hungary and paid, trailing 2-1 past the midway point of the game. But a four-goal rally in the third period saved the day for Germany,



**RUSSIA OR BUST:** The Austrians will get to rejoin the World Championship party in Russia next season after taking top honors in Tallinn, Estonia.

which skated onto a 6-2 victory, setting up a showdown against undefeated host France. While most expected the game to be a thriller, the Germans came out, having

learned its lesson against the Hungarians, and controlled virtually every aspect of the game, earning a 5-0 win in front of a sellout crowd, and more importantly earning the promotion with a perfect 5-0-0 record.

**Austria:** The Austrian's path back to the top division also included a perfect 5-0-0 record and a dominating performance in which the Austrians out-scored its opponents 27-9. But the story out of Tallinn, Estonia, wasn't so much about what the Austrians did, but rather what the other teams failed to do. Host Estonia, finished in fourth place, well below expectations, meanwhile, Poland, who some hoped to compete with Austria for the promotion, was virtually out of the running by the time the two teams faced-off on the final day. The failure of these teams opened the door for an unexpected hero-Lithuania. Powered by 24 goals and a 3-1-1 record, among them a first-time win against Poland, the Lithuanians earned their highest-ever finish at the men's level, skating into second place. Of course, first place was well out of reach this particular season as the Austrians were on a mission to get back to the top level, and like the Germans, they succeeded.



2006 IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTO GALLERY



**DO IT YOURSELF:** Sweden's Mikael Samuelsson didn't have to lift a finger on this Sweden goal as Canada's Brad Stuart was kind enough to put the puck in on the self-goal. Of course, Samuelsson did lift his arms in celebration of the goal and Sweden's 5-4 victory.

**GAME, SET, MATCH:** Jeff Carter keeps the goal in focus as he scores the game-winning goal in a 4-2 win against Finland.



**THE THRILL OF VICTORY...** and the agony of defeat are seen at the same moment on the face of a happy Ukrainian, who scored in a 4-2 win, while Italy's Michele Starzabosco looks dejected. However, both teams went home happy, as each will return to the top division next year.

**JUST OUT OF REACH:** Both the qualifying round and the puck were just out of Peter Hirsch's reach. The Danish goaltender stretches as far as he can, but the puck (just above his glove) still eludes him. The Danes had better fortune in the Relegation Round, which they won, and will be back next year.



**STRONG LINE-UP:** Sweden and the Ukraine were perfectly coordinated, at least in this photo, where the blue and yellow clad players provide perfect symmetry while waiting for the puck.



**SHOVING SHOULDER SHOWDOWN:** There's no such thing as a routine face-off, at least when Switzerland's Martin Plüss and Sweden's Henrik Zetterberg meet at the dot. Here the pair put all their strength into winning the face-off.



**SNEAKY LITTLE THING:** Belarus goaltender Andre Mezin turns to see that the puck snuck past him into the goal against Finland. But overall for Mezin the tournament was a success as the squad skated into the quarterfinals and he was named to the All-Star team.



## 2006-2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP			
2007	RUSSIA, Moscow & St Petersburg	27.04-13.05.07	
2008	CANADA, Quebec City & Halifax	TBA	
2009	SWITZERLAND, Zurich & Bern	TBA	
2010	GERMANY, Cologne & Mannheim	TBA	
2011	SLOVAKIA, Bratislava & Kosice	30.04-15.05.07	
IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A			
2007	CHINA, Qiqihar (KAZ, FRA, POL, EST, NED, CHN)	15-21.04.07	
IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B			
2007	SLOVENIA, Ljubljana (SLO, LTU, JPN, HUN, GBR, ROM)	15-21.04.07	
IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A			
2007	CROATIA, Zagreb (CRO, BUL, BEL, SCG, ESP, TUR)	08-14.04.07	
IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B			
2007	KOREA, Seoul (ISR, KOR, AUS, DPR, MEX, ISL)	02-08.04.07	
IIHF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III			
2007	IRELAND, Dundalk (NZL, RSA, ARM, IRL, LUX, MON)	15-21.04.07	
IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP			
2007	CANADA, Winnipeg & Selkirk (Grp. A: USA, CHN, KAZ / Grp. B: CAN, GER, SUI / Grp. C: SWE, FIN RUS)	03-10.04.07	
2008	APPLICANT: CHN	TBA	
2009	FINLAND, Vantaa & Hämeenlinna	05-12.04.09	
IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I			
2007	JAPAN, Nikko (JPN, CZE, FRA, DEN, NOR, LAT)	02-08.04.07	
IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II			
2007	DPR KOREA, Pyongyang City (ITA, SLO, DPR, AUT, SLO, NED)	17-23.03.07	
IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III			
2007	APPLICANTS: TBA (GBR, BEL, HUN, AUS, KOR, RSA)	TBA	
IIHF WORLD WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION IV			
2007	APPLICANTS: TBA (NZL, ROM, ISL, CRO, EST, ISR, TUR)	TBA	
IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP			
2007	SWEDEN, Mora & Leksand (Grp A: CAN, USA, SWE, SVK, GER / Grp. B RUS, FIN, CZE, SUI, BLR)	26.12.06-05.01.07	
2008	CZECH REPUBLIC, TBA	26.12.07-05.01.08	
2009	CANADA, Ottawa	TBA	
IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A			
2007	DENMARK, Odense (LAT, DEN, SLO, POL, UKR, EST)	11-17.12.06	
IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B			
2007	ITALY, Torre Pellice (NOR, KAZ, ITA, FRA, AUT, GBR)	11-17.12.06	
IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A			
2007	ROMANIA, TBA (HUN, CRO, ROM, ESP, AUS, ISL)	11-17.12.06	
IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B			
2007	LITHUANIA, Elektrenai (JPN, NED, KOR, SCG, MEX, LTU)	10-16.12.06	
IIHF WORLD U20 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III			
2007	TURKEY, Izmit (CHN, NZL, TUR, BUL, ARM, BEL)	08-14.01.07	
IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP			
2007	FINLAND, Tampere & Rauma (Grp A: USA, CAN, RUS, GER, LAT / Grp. B: FIN, CZE, SWE, SVK, SUI)	11-22.04.07	
2008	APPLICANTS: RUS		
IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group A			
2007	SLOVENIA, Ljubljana (BLR, SLO, KAZ, FRA, AUT, ITA)	07-13.04.07	
IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION I, Group B			
2007	POLAND, Sanok (NOR, DEN, JPN, POL, UKR, GBR)	04-10.04.07	
IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group A			
2007	HUNGARY, TBA (HUN, NED, EST, BEL, MEX, ISR)	14-21.03.07	
IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II, Group B			
2007	ROMANIA, TBA (KOR, LTU, AUS, CRO, SCG, ROM)	12-18.03.07	

IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III  
2007 CHINA, Beijing (ESP, RSA, ISL, NZL, Qualifier, CHN) 04-11.03.07

IIHF WORLD U18 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION III QUALIFICATION  
2007 TURKEY, Ankara (TUR, BUL) 28.01.07

## OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

2010 CANADA, Vancouver February 2010

## IIHF IN-LINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2006 HUNGARY, Budapest 10-16.07.06

## IIHF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

IIHF EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP (ECC)  
2007 RUSSIA, St Petersburg 11-14.01.07

2007 IIHF EUROPEAN WOMEN CHAMPIONS CUP (EWCC)  
Preliminary Round TBA  
Final TBA

2007 IIHF CONTINENTAL CUP  
First Round 22-24.09.06  
Second Round 13-15.10.06  
Third Round 17-19.11.06  
Final 05-07.01.07

## NATIONAL TEAM BREAKS

2006/2007 Season  
1st International Break Aug. 28 -Sept. 3, 2006  
2nd International Break Nov. 6 t- 12, 2006  
3rd International Break Dec. 11- 17, 2006  
4th International Break Feb. 5 - 11, 2007  
2007/2008 Season  
1st International Break Aug. 27 to Sept. 2, 2007  
2nd International Break Nov. 5 - 11, 2007  
3rd International Break Dec. 10 - 16, 2007  
4th International Break Feb. 4 - 10, 2008

## OTHER INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

IIHF WORLD OLDTIMERS FESTIVAL  
2007 SWEDEN, Gothenburg 15-22.04.07  
2008 CANADA, TBA TBA  
2009 Applicant: CHN TBA

EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL  
2007 SPAIN, Jaca 08-21.02.07

WINTER UNIVERSIADE  
2007 ITALY, Turin 17-27.01.07

## CONGRESSES

IIHF SEMI-ANNUAL CONGRESS  
2006 GREECE, Athens 28-30.09.06  
2007 CANADA, Vancouver 20-23.09.07  
2008 SWITZERLAND, Montreux 25-27.09.08

IIHF ANNUAL CONGRESS  
2007 RUSSIA, Moscow 10-13.05.07

IIHF ANNUAL & GENERAL CONGRESS  
2008 FRANCE, Paris 29.05-03.06.08



**RUSSIA TREBLE?:** The third edition of the IIHF European Champions Cup will be played in St. Petersburg, Russia on 11-14 January 2007. Vadim Shakhraichuk's Dynamo Moscow (pictured) won last year and Avangard Omsk in 2005. See more on page 3.

RESULTS SUMMARY

**IIHF World Championship**

**Riga LATVIA May 5-21**

**Preliminary Round - Group A**

Finland - Slovenia	5 - 2	(1-2, 2,-1 2-0)
Latvia - Czech Republic	1 - 1	(1-1, 0-0, 0-0)
Czech Republic - Slovenia	5 - 4	(4-1, 1-2, 0-1)
Finland - Latvia	5 - 0	(0-0, 2-0, 3-0)
Slovenia - Latvia	1 - 5	(1-0, 0-4, 0-1)
Czech Republic - Finland	3 - 3	(2-1, 1-0, 0-2)

Finland	3	2	1	0	13-6	5
Czech Republic	3	1	2	0	9-8	4
Latvia	3	1	1	1	6-7	3
Slovenia	3	0	0	3	8-15	0

**Preliminary Round - Group B**

Switzerland - Italy	3 - 1	(0-0, 0-1, 3-0)
Ukraine - Sweden	2 - 4	(1-1, 1-2, 0-1)
Switzerland - Ukraine	2 - 1	(2-0, 0-1, 0-0)
Sweden - Italy	4 - 0	(2-0, 1-0, 1-0)
Italy - Ukraine	2 - 4	(0-1, 1-1, 1-2)
Sweden - Switzerland	4 - 4	(1-0, 0-1, 3-3)

Sweden	3	2	1	1	12-6	5
Switzerland	3	2	1	0	9-6	5
Ukraine	3	1	0	2	7-8	2
Italy	3	0	0	3	3-11	0

**Preliminary Round - Group C**

Belarus - Slovakia	2 - 1	(0-0, 2-1, 0-0)
Russia - Kazakhstan	10-1	(4-1, 4-0, 2-0)
Russia - Belarus	3 - 2	(1-0, 0-2, 2-0)
Slovakia - Kazakhstan	6 - 0	(0-0, 3-0, 3-0)
Slovakia - Russia	3 - 4	(2-2, 1-1, 0-1)
Kazakhstan - Belarus	1 - 7	(1-1, 0-3, 0-3)

Russia	3	3	0	0	17-6	6
Belarus	3	2	0	1	11-5	4
Slovakia	3	1	0	2	10-6	2
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	3	2-23	0

**Preliminary Round - Group D**

United States - Norway	3 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 2-0)
Denmark - Canada	3 - 5	(0-3, 3-0, 0-2)
United States - Denmark	3 - 0	(0-0, 2-0, 1-0)
Canada - Norway	7 - 1	(3-0, 4-0, 0-1)
Norway - Denmark	6 - 3	(1-2, 3-0, 2-1)
Canada - United States	2 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 1-0)

Canada	3	3	0	0	14-5	6
United States	3	2	0	1	7-3	4
Norway	3	1	0	2	8-13	2
Denmark	3	0	0	3	6-14	0

**Qualifying Round - Group E**

Canada - Latvia	11-0	(4-0, 1-0, 6-0)
Czech Republic - Norway	3 - 1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Finland - United States	4 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 1-0)
United States - Latvia	4 - 2	(0-0, 2-1, 2-1)
Norway - Finland	0 - 3	(0-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Canada - Czech Republic	4 - 6	(1-3, 2-1, 1-2)
Finland - Canada	2 - 4	(1-2, 0-1, 1-1)
Czech Republic - United States	1 - 3	(0-2, 1-0, 0-1)
Latvia - Norway	4 - 2	(2-0, 1-1, 1-1)

Canada	5	4	0	1	28-10	8
Finland	5	3	1	1	17-7	7
United States	5	3	0	2	11-10	6
Czech Republic	5	2	1	1	14-12	6
Latvia	5	1	1	3	7-23	3
Norway	5	0	0	5	5-20	0

**Qualifying Round - Group F**

Russia - Ukraine	6 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 5-0)
Switzerland - Slovakia	2 - 2	(0-1, 0-1, 2-0)
Sweden - Belarus	4 - 1	(4-0, 0-0, 0-1)
Belarus - Ukraine	9 - 1	(1-0, 3-1, 5-0)
Russia - Switzerland	6 - 3	(1-0, 1-2, 4-1)
Slovakia - Sweden	5 - 2	(2-0, 2-2, 1-0)
Sweden - Russia	3 - 3	(1-2, 2-0, 1-0)
Switzerland - Belarus	1 - 2	(0-1, 0-1, 0-1)
Ukraine - Slovakia	0 - 8	(0-1, 0-4, 0-3)

Russia	5	4	1	0	22-11	9
Sweden	5	2	2	1	17-15	6
Belarus	5	3	0	2	16-10	6
Slovakia	5	2	1	2	19-10	5
Switzerland	5	1	2	2	12-15	4
Ukraine	5	0	0	5	4-29	0

**Relegation Round - Group G**

Slovenia - Denmark	3 - 3	(0-2, 1-1, 2-0)
Italy - Kazakhstan	3 - 2	(1-0, 0-2, 2-0)
Kazakhstan - Slovenia	5 - 0	(2-0, 3-0, 0-0)

Italy - Denmark	0 - 5	(0-1, 0-1, 0-3)
Slovenia - Italy	3 - 3	(1-0, 2-1, 0-2)
Denmark - Kazakhstan	3 - 2	(1-0, 1-1, 1-1)

Denmark	3	2	1	0	11-5	5
Italy	3	1	1	1	6-10	3
Kazakhstan	3	1	0	2	9-6	2
Slovenia	3	0	2	1	6-11	2

*Kazakhstan & Slovenia relegated to 2007 World Championship Div. I*

**Playoff Round**

Sweden - United States	6 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 2-0) QF
Canada - Slovakia	4 - 1	(0-1, 1-0, 3-0) QF
Russia - Czech Republic	3 - 4	(1-0, 0-1, 2-2, 0-1) QF
Finland - Belarus	3 - 0	(1-0, 0-0, 2-0) QF
Finland - Czech Republic	1 - 3	(1-0, 0-1, 0-2) SF
Canada - Sweden	4 - 5	(2-3, 1-2, 1-0) SF
Canada - Finland	0 - 5	(0-1, 0-2, 0-2) Bronze
Sweden - Czech Republic	4 - 0	(2-0, 2-0, 0-0) Gold

**Final Ranking**

1. SWE, 2. CZE, 3. FIN, 4. CAN, 5. RUS, 6. BLR, 7. USA, 8. SVK, 9. SUI, 10. LAT, 11. NOR, 12. UKR, 13. DEN, 14. ITA, 15. UKR, 16. SLO

**Tournament Directorate Awards**

Best Goaltender: Johan Holmqvist (SWE)  
Best Defenseman & MVP: Niklas Kronwall (SWE)  
Best Forward: Sidney Crosby (CAN)

**Tournament Media All-Star Team**

Best Goaltender: Andrei Mezin (BLR)  
Best Defensesmen: Petteri Nummelin (FIN), Niklas Kronwall (SWE)  
Best Forwards: Sidney Crosby (CAN), David Vyborny (CZE), Alexander Ovechkin (RUS)

**Individual Scoring**

1. Sidney Crosby	CAN	9	8	8	16
2. Patrice Bergeron	CAN	9	6	8	14
3. Petteri Nummelin	FIN	9	3	11	14
4. Niklas Kronwall	SWE	8	2	8	10
5. Alexander Ovechkin	RUS	7	6	3	9
6. Mikhail Grabovsky	BLR	7	5	4	9
7. Andreas Karlsson	SWE	9	5	4	9
8. Mikael Samuelsson	SWE	8	4	5	9
9. Anze Kopitar	SLO	6	3	6	9
10. Evgeny Malkin	RUS	7	3	6	9

**IIHF World Championship Div. I, Grp. A**

**Amiens, FRANCE April 24-30**

Israel - Germany	2-11	(0-6, 0-3, 2-2)
Great Britain - Hungary	3 - 4	(0-1, 1-1, 2-2)
Japan - France	1 - 4	(0-2, 1-2, 0-0)
Germany - Japan	4 - 0	(1-0, 1-0, 2-0)
France - Great Britain	1 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 1-0)
Hungary - Israel	8 - 0	(3-0, 3-0, 2-0)
Israel - Japan	1 - 7	(0-1, 1-3, 0-3)
Germany - Great Britain	8 - 0	(4-0, 1-0, 3-0)
France - Hungary	3 - 3	(1-1, 2-1, 0-1)
Japan - Great Britain	4 - 2	(1-2, 1-0, 2-0)
France - Israel	9 - 0	(3-0, 2-0, 4-0)
Hungary - Germany	2 - 6	(1-0, 1-2, 0-4)
Great Britain - Israel	12-0	(2-0, 4-0, 6-0)
Hungary - Japan	3 - 6	(1-1, 1-3, 1-2)
Germany - France	5 - 0	(2-0, 3-0, 0-0)

Germany	5	5	0	0	34-4	10
France	5	3	1	1	17-9	8
Japan	5	3	0	2	18-14	6
Hungary	5	2	1	2	20-18	5
Great Britain	5	1	0	4	17-17	2
Israel	5	0	0	5	3-47	0

*Germany is promoted to 2007 World Championship*

*Israel is relegated to 2007 World Championship Div. II*

**IIHF World Championship Div. I, Grp. B**

**Tallinn, ESTONIA April 23-29**

Lithuania - Netherlands	3 - 3	(2-0, 0-1, 1-2)
Estonia - Poland	1 - 3	(0-2, 1-1, 0-0)
Croatia - Austria	0 - 6	(0-1, 0-4, 0-1)
Poland - Lithuania	1 - 2	(1-0, 0-0, 0-2)
Netherlands - Croatia	5 - 1	(1-0, 2-0, 2-1)
Austria - Estonia	3 - 1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0)
Austria - Lithuania	5 - 3	(1-1, 2-2, 2-0)
Poland - Netherlands	5 - 1	(2-0, 1-0, 2-1)
Croatia - Estonia	6 - 8	(2-3, 2-4, 2-1)
Poland - Croatia	7 - 1	(1-0, 2-1, 4-0)
Netherlands - Austria	2 - 8	(1-2, 1-3, 0-3)
Estonia - Lithuania	2 - 7	(0-4, 1-2, 1-1)
Austria - Poland	5 - 3	(3-1, 0-1, 2-1)
Lithuania - Croatia	9 - 3	(5-2, 1-0, 3-1)
Netherlands - Estonia	2 - 7	(0-2, 0-1, 2-4)

Austria	5	5	0	0	27-9	10
Lithuania	5	3	1	1	24-14	7
Poland	5	3	0	2	19-10	6
Estonia	5	2	0	3	19-21	4
Netherlands	5	1	1	3	13-24	3
Croatia	5	0	0	5	11-35	0

*Austria is promoted to 2007 World Championship*

*Croatia is relegated to 2007 World Championship Div. II*

**IIHF World U18 Championship**

**Angelholm & Halmstad, SWEDEN April 12-22**

**Preliminary Round - Group A**

Czech Republic - Germany	4 - 2	(1-0, 1-1, 2-1)
Russia - United States	2 - 4	(2-1, 0-0, 0-3)
Russia - Belarus	8 - 0	(4-0, 3-0, 1-0)
Germany - United States	0 - 9	(0-3, 0-4, 0-2)
Belarus - Czech Republic	2 - 5	(0-1, 1-3, 1-1)
Germany - Russia	5 - 9	(1-3, 1-4, 3-2)
United States - Czech Republic	5 - 0	(1-0, 2-0, 2-0)
Belarus - Germany	1 - 5	(0-2, 1-2, 0-1)
Czech Republic - Russia	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-1, 0-1)
United States - Belarus	12-1	(3-0, 8-1, 1-0)

United States*	4	4	0	0	30-3	8
Russia	4	3	0	1	21-9	6
Czech Republic	4	2	0	2	9-11	4
Germany	4	1	0	3	12-23	2
Belarus	4	0	0	4	4-30	0

*\*United States qualified directly to semi-final.*

**Preliminary Round - Group B**

Slovakia - Canada	1 - 3	(0-0, 1-2, 0-1)
Sweden - Norway	5 - 2	(2-1, 1-1, 2-0)
Norway - Canada	2 - 9	(1-2, 1-5, 0-2)
Slovakia - Finland	3 - 6	(0-3, 1-2, 2-1)
Finland - Sweden	4 - 3	(3-0, 0-1, 1-2)
Norway - Slovakia	2 - 5	(0-2, 2-3, 0-0)
Canada - Sweden	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-0, 0-2)
Finland - Norway	2 - 1	(1-0, 0-0, 1-1)
Canada - Finland	0 - 0	(0-0, 0-0, 0-0)
Sweden - Slovakia	5 - 2	(3-0, 2-1, 0-1)

Finland*	4	3	0	1	12-7	7
Sweden	4	3	0	1	15-8	6
Canada	4	2	1	1	12-5	5
Slovakia	4	1	0	3	11-16	2
Norway	4	0	0	4	7-21	0

*\*Finland qualified directly to semi-final.*

**Relegation Round**

Norway - Slovakia	2 - 5	(0-2, 2-3, 0-0)
Belarus - Germany	1 - 5	(0-2, 1-2, 0-1)
Germany - Norway	2 - 2	(0-2, 2-0, 0-0)
Slovakia - Belarus	0 - 2	(0-0, 0-1, 0-1)
Belarus - Norway	6 - 6	(3-0, 2-2, 1-4)
Germany - Slovakia	1 - 2	(0-0, 1-0, 0-2)

Slovakia	3	2	0	1	7-5	4
Germany	3	1	1	1	8-5	3
Belarus	3	1	1	1	9-11	3
Norway	3	0	2	1	10-13	2

*Belarus & Norway relegated to 2007 U18 World Championship Div. I*

**Playoff Round**

Russia - Canada	1 - 4	(1-0, 0-1, 0-3) QF
Sweden - Czech Republic	0 - 3	(0-0, 0-1, 0-2) QF
Finland - Canada	3 - 2	(0-1, 1-1, 1-0, 1-0) SF
Czech Rep. - United States	3 - 4	(0-3, 1-0, 2-0, 0-1) SF
Russia - Sweden	5 - 2	(1-1, 2-1, 2-0) 5-6 Pl.
Canada - Czech Republic	1 - 4	(0-0, 0-3, 1-1) Bronze
United States - Finland	3 - 1	(0-1, 2-0, 1-0) Gold

**Final Ranking**

1. USA, 2. FIN, 3. CZE, 4. CAN, 5. RUS, 6. SWE, 7. SVK, 8. GER, 9. BLR, 10. NOR

**Tournament Directorate Awards**

Best Goaltender: Riku Helenius (FIN)  
Best Defenseman: Jamie McBain (USA)  
Best Forward: Bill Sweatt (USA)

**Tournament Media All-Star Team**

Best Goaltender: Jonathan Bernier (CAN)  
Best Defensesmen: Jamie McBain (USA), Erik Johnson (USA)  
Best Forwards: Justin Azevedo (CAN), Pat Kane (USA), Jiri Tlustý (CZE)

**Individual Scoring**

1. Pat Kane	USA	6	7	5	12
2. Jamie McBain	USA	6	2	9	11
3. Erik Johnson	USA	6	4	6	10
4. Ruslan Bashkirov	RUS	6	6	2	8
5. Mike Carman	USA	6	4	4	8
6. Justin Azevedo	CAN	7	4	4	8
7. Francois Bouchard	CAN	7	3	5	8
8. Bill Sweatt	USA	6	5	2	7



Photo: JANI RAJAMAKI, Europhoto

**MAJOR COMEBACK STORY:** Vladislav Tretiak left the international game prematurely in 1984, when he was only 32. Tretiak quit because the Soviet authorities didn't allow him to join the NHL Montreal Canadiens. Today, Tretiak is the authority and calls the shots. He is the new President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Russia and as such will represent Russian hockey in the IIHF Congresses and other major meetings. IIHF President René Fasel welcomed Vladislav back on May 21 in Riga by presenting him with his famous number 20 jersey.

## After 22 years - nr. 20 is back in business

By John Sanful  
RIGA

"We are happy to announce a remarkable comeback," said IIHF President René Fasel in Riga on May 21. "Vladislav Tretiak is back in the international hockey family as President of the Russian Hockey Federation."

■ Tretiak, who retired from active competition in 1984, was elected the President of the Russian Ice Hockey Federation on April 25, his 54th birthday. And it didn't take long for the four-time Olympic medalist and 10-time IIHF World Champion to present his platform. The new president, answering questions at a press conference in Riga on the last day of the championship, promised to do whatever is necessary to strengthen ice hockey in his country.

"I can assure you that the Russian Hockey Federation will do its utmost to bring progress to the ice hockey family throughout the world," said Tretiak. "Ice hockey was always popular, and will continue to be popular in our country."

One area that he wants to focus his attention in the coming months is cultivating new and innovative coaches for both the junior and senior men's teams. While Russia has continuously been successful in junior tournaments, the men's team has not won a gold medal since 1993.

■ Tretiak expressed his disappointment about his team's finishing out of the medals at the 70th IIHF World Championship in Latvia, but did cite the overtime loss to the Czech Republic in the quarter-final as one of the best games he's seen in Riga. "It was a very young team," he noted.

In preparing for the 2007 IIHF World Championship in Russia, Tretiak would like to possibly incorporate some of the players from this team alongside more NHL talent.

"I think we have a lot of good players from this team with a future on the national team," he said. "Maybe next year we will also have some players come over from the NHL and it will be a strong team. And I hope the result will be better."

■ When asked about Russian players rejecting the chance to represent the national team at the IIHF World Championship and what the implications are for saying no, Tretiak surprised many of those who attended the May 21 press conference when he explained how those matters could be dealt with.

"If a player rejects the invitation to the national team, it will be the federation that will decide how to sanction them," he said. "The decision will be done by the Executive Committee or the Council of the Federation."

Tretiak said he wants to cast a wide net when assembling the national team: "My opinion is that we have to

get all the best players that are available."

■ He also acknowledged that goaltender development at the top national level must be a priority. Ironically, the Soviet/Russian national team has not had a truly dominating goaltender on the international scene since Tretiak retired 22 years ago. Nikolai Khabibulin, Ilya Bryzgalov, Maxim Sokolov, Mikhail Shtalenkov or Andrei Trefilov are, or have been, capable goalies - but none of Tretiak-caliber.

"We have a problem with goalkeepers," he said. "If you look at the rosters of the Russian Super League you will see that about 80 percent of goaltenders are foreigners. We will discuss this at council meetings, because one of the main questions is about goalies."

Tretiak proposed that the RHF will look into creating a school for goaltenders and use the example of the NHL and major national teams by carrying a goaltending coach.

Tretiak is looking forward to the 2007 IIHF World Championship, and he's excited about the prospects for his country hosting the event and doing well.

"I would like to invite everyone to Russia next year, it will be a very well organized championship and we are excited about the new arena in Moscow," he said.

■ At the end of the press conference, René Fasel presented Tretiak with a Team Russia jersey with his number 20 on the back. It was a strange experience to see the most famous name-bar and number in international hockey on the back of a Russian national team jersey after Tretiak spent his entire career wearing the feared CCCP letters on his crimson team kit.

### VLADISLAV ALEKSANDROVICH TRETIK

Born: April 25, 1952 in Dmitrovo, Soviet Union.

■ Olympic champion: 1972, 1976, 1984. Silver medalist: 1980. The only hockey player with four Olympic medals.

■ IIHF World Champion: 1970, 71, 73, 74, 75, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83. Silver: 1972, 1976. Bronze: 1977.

■ Canada Cup champion: 1981.

■ Inducted to both the Hockey Hall of Fame as well as to the IIHF Hockey Hall of Fame.