



# IceTimes

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## Sweden makes it two

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From the IIHF President

## Building partnership

By René Fasel

**The 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship showed us one thing, that hard work and positive partnerships can bring tremendous success, both on the ice and off the ice.**

Consider Sweden, a true model federation that has built up an incredibly efficient program that is founded on strong partnerships within the country's development system, the domestic leagues, and the association.

What are the results? A country of 9 million people is producing more NHL players than ever before (10% of NHLers in fact come from Sweden), and at the same time has collected its second straight IIHF World Championship.

Full credit must also go to Team Switzerland, which came a shootout away from pulling off a miracle victory against the Swedes. Nevertheless, the Swiss can hold their heads high after defeating first Finland then Canada in the playoffs to set up a thrilling finale in Copenhagen.

If I could name another winner of the 2018 World Championship, there is no doubt that the work of the Denmark 2018 organizing committee should be recognized.

As a first time host, expectations for Denmark to deliver were conservative. A targeted goal of 300,000 tickets sold was the aim, but the organizers went above and beyond projections, bringing in over 500,000 fans through the gates.

In fact, by the time Sweden lifted the trophy, a whopping 520,481 spectators had watched World Championship ice hockey, thus making Copenhagen/Herning 2018 the 7th highest-attended tournament of all time.

A determined promotional campaign for the tournament within the country, a bold decision to have the home team playing in Herning, and the excellent efforts made to attract international fans to Denmark combined to make the 2018 World Championship an organizational success.

I am very proud that, thanks to great effort and great cooperation, we were able to show the best of ice hockey to all Danes. Hopefully, we also managed to inspire a new generation of young men and women to pick up sticks and hit the ice, thus ensuring the continued upward growth of the sport in this great country.

Congratulations to medallists Sweden, Switzerland, and USA, and also to the organizer, we thank you for a great tournament.

Congratulations also to the latest induction class for their entry into IIHF Hall of Fame, which took place on the final day of competition. We had another exceptional group of players and builders, whom you can read about on Page 7.

Prior to the final games we also held our Annual Congress in Copenhagen (more on Page 5). There were many discussions taking place, especially in regards to the set of proposed changes to our Statutes and Bylaws.

Some of these discussions were not easy. We have had to work hard to promote clarity and transparency in all we do, but it is apparent that more work needs to be done by the IIHF and its membership to craft a sustainable structural model for our federation, one that will be able to grow and develop to better serve its members.

In the end we will always move forward with hard work, open communication, and a willingness to cooperate. No matter how heated our discussions may get...as long as we are always talking to each other we can make sure that we move ahead in a positive way...so that we make international ice hockey better and benefit all of its stakeholders, not just some of them.





## News and Notes

### 2019 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The International Ice Hockey Federation has announced the groups of the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Slovakia, 10-26 May 2019.

#### [CLICK HERE TO SEE THE GROUPS](#)

Host Slovakia will play the preliminary round in Kosice in Group A that further includes Canada, United States, Finland, Germany, Denmark, France and Great Britain, which earned its first top-level participation since 1994.

Group B will be played in the capital of Bratislava in close proximity to two of the participating countries, the Czech Republic and Austria. The group also includes defending champion Sweden, Russia, silver medallist Switzerland, Norway, Latvia and newly-promoted Italy.

The groups are based on the 2018 IIHF Sport Regulations and the 2018 IIHF Men's World Ranking established following the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship with one horizontal swap to accommodate special organizational needs and geographical considerations.

### 2020 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Czech Ice Hockey Association has announced the two host cities of the 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship in the Czech Republic.

The event will happen in Ostrava and Trinec from 26 December 2019 to 5 January 2020 one year after Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, will host next winter.

The Ostravar Arena (previously known as CEZ Arena) in Ostrava successfully hosted the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in 2004 and 2015. The city of 300,000 inhabitants will be the main venue where the Czech U20 national team will play and the medal games will be held. The arena offers a capacity for almost 10,000 fans.

The Werk Arena in Trinec opened in 2014 and can hold 5,200 fans. Trinec, a town of 37,000 inhabitants, is about 45 kilometres away from Ostrava. Both cities are located in the Moravian-Silesian Region in the east of the country.

The last time the Czechs hosted the World Juniors was in 2008 in Pardubice and Liberec.

### IIHF PLAYER TRACKING

The IIHF used new player tracking technology at this year's World Championship in Copen-

hagen and Herning, tracking everything from puck possession to player speed with cameras were mounted high in the arena rafters. These worked in tandem with four peripheral cameras lower down to identify the players, the puck, and their relative positions on the ice.

#### [VIEW PLAYER TRACKING STATS](#)

Specialized software used a complex mathematical algorithm to analyze this data, together with the game time, to determine where the players were on the ice and for how long, as well as how far a player skates each shift. This software is also able to keep track of the puck at all times, computing how far the puck travels, and at what speed. This means the speed of every shot attempted can be measured, as well as tracking everything from puck possession to player speed to passing efficiency and more.



FASTEST PLAYERS (KM/H)		
92		GAETAN HAAS 37,6
15		GREGORY HOFMANN 36,9
91		ARTUR GAVRUS 35,5

### IIHF WORLD RANKING

Team Canada had to settle for fourth place in the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship but it was enough to defend first place in the 2018 IIHF Men's World Ranking that takes into account the results of the last four years.

#### [CLICK HERE FOR WORLD RANKING](#)

Beating Russia in the quarter-finals was crucial for Canada to defend first place as the Russians were second in the ranking. Not anymore. Sweden moved up to second place after winning the Worlds in Copenhagen, Russia is down to third.

Thanks to the bronze-medal win in Copenhagen, the United States moved up two spots to fourth place at the expense of Finland and the Czech Republic.

Switzerland, which lost seventh spot to Germany in February after the Germans' silver-medal win at the Olympics, reclaimed seventh place thanks to winning silver in Copenhagen while Germany is 8th with a big gap to followers Norway and Slovakia, who complete the top-10.

Thanks to reaching the quarter-finals, Latvia moved up to 11th place. Also World Championship host Denmark moved up two spots and is now 12th before France, Belarus,

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Slovenia, Korea and Austria.

The Men's World Ranking now includes 50 countries with the recent addition of Turkmenistan and Kuwait in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

### CHL

The draw of the Champions Hockey League was held at the Royal Arena in Copenhagen.

2018/19 will mark the second season of the CHL with the new format and before starting the draw, the CHL talked about an exciting past season and satisfaction with the new format that only allows the top teams of many countries and leagues in Europe – except the Russian-based Kontinental Hockey League that chose not to participate – to play in the competition whether they are shareholder of the organization or not.

The format that brought success continues and 32 teams including many national champions were put into four different pots according to the criteria and ranking of the CHL.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE GROUPS](#)

### CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech national team announced its new head coach, Milos Riha (pictured, on left),

and its new general manager, Petr Nedved (on right).

Riha, 58, retired as a player in 1991 and has coached continually since then in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Russia. His most recent job was with Slovan Bratislava of the KHL, where he was relieved of his duties part way through last season. He was the KHL's coach of the Year in 2010/11 and spent most of the last years in the Russian-based league.

Riha takes over for Josef Jandac, who in each of the last two seasons guided the Czechs to good finishes in the group stages of the World Championships before falling in the quarter-finals each year.

Nedved, of course, is a name that needs no introduction to the hockey world. The long-time NHL player is a dual citizen of the Czech Republic and Canada, and played for both countries in the Olympics. This past February, he made news by coming out of retirement to play one game in the Czech second division against Jaromir Jagr, and impressively recorded two points in the game. Now 46, this is Nedved's first off-ice job in hockey.



### RUSSIA

Ilya Vorobyov, who was named interim head coach of the Russian men's national team just three weeks before the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, will continue as head coach. The Ice Hockey Federation of Russia signed a two-year deal with Ilya Vorobyov and his assistant coaches Anvar Gatiyatulin, Alexei Kudashov, Igor Nikitin and Alexei Zhamnov.

43-year-old Vorobyov won the Kontinental Hockey League with Metallurg Magnitogorsk in 2016 and joined the coaching staff of the Russian men's national team as an assistant coach the same year before being promoted in April.

In Vorobyov's first Worlds as head coach, Russia finished the preliminary round in second place with a 5-0-1-1 record but lost the quarter-finals 5-4 in overtime to Canada and finished in sixth place, the worst placing in five years.

Vorobyov and the Russian national team hope to correct this at the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Slovakia where they will play in Bratislava in a group with Sweden, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Norway, Latvia, Austria and Italy.



### USA

Mike Hastings, currently with the Minnesota State University Mankato men's team, will serve as Team USA head coach at the 2019 IIHF World Junior Championship.



Mike Hastings will replace David Quinn (new with the New York Rangers) as head coach of the 2019 U.S. National Junior Team, it was announced by USA Hockey. The U.S. National Junior Team will take part in the 2019 IIHF World Junior Championship 26 Dec. 2018 – 5 Jan. 2019, in Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Quinn, the former Boston University head coach, stepped down from the position after accepting the head coaching job of the NHL's New York Rangers.

Hastings will be behind a U.S. bench for the fifth time and his first as head coach of a U.S. team in an IIHF event.

An assistant coach on the 2005 U.S. National Junior Team, Hastings filled the same role on the 2003 U.S. National Junior Team and twice served as head coach for the U.S. Junior Select Team, helping the team win the 2000 Viking Cup.



# Annual Congress

## Changes to Statutes & Bylaws, Rulebook

By Martin Merk



**The 2018 IIHF Annual Congress approved changes to the IIHF Statutes & Bylaws, and finalized the rule change process for the 2018-2022 IIHF Rule Book.**

The IIHF Statutes & Bylaws are reviewed every four years and this year also involved changes as part of the IIHF Governance Reform Group that was created two years ago by the IIHF President to ensure the IIHF structure meets the requirements of modern standards for non-profit organizations and for good governance.

The decisions regarding the new IIHF Statutes & Bylaws include:

- Full membership can now also be granted to an ice sports or winter sports federation of a country where there is no governing body solely for ice hockey if they fulfil the minimum standards to play in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship such as the IIHF members from Italy and Spain.



*Congress sought to build a set of requirements to meet modern standards of good governance for non-profit organizations.*

- The IIHF can assume the responsibility for the governance of other forms of hockey on the ice with the approval of Congress and issue governing regulations.

- The IIHF can request the conduct of an independent audit by an independent external auditor of the member national association's accounts in accordance with international accounting standards to ensure governance consistency with the IIHF member national associations.

- Suspensions of member national associations by the IIHF Council can be appealed according to the Disciplinary Code, which currently states the appeal goes to the Disciplinary Board (old: Congress).

- An Extra-Ordinary Congress may be held electronically by any means of communication through which the members may simultaneously hear each other during the conference and ballots shall be by an electronic means approved by Council.

- Reduction from a super majority (75%) to a qualified majority (two third of the votes) for following decisions: adoption or modification of a statute and appointment of an honorary member.

- Election of the Council Members, Auditors, Disciplinary Board Members and Appeal Board Chair needs a simple majority (greater than 50%).

- The requirements for IIHF Council nominations have been adjusted.

- An IIHF Council member cannot serve longer than 12 years in total in one position (12 years as President, 12 years as a Vice President, 12 years as a Member) starting as of the 2020 elections.

- A concept of separation of powers between the IIHF Council (political and strategical) and IIHF Office (operational) and the duties, roles and responsibilities of the President, Council and CEO will be worked on. A report will be presented to the 2018 Semi-Annual Congress in September and shall be voted on within the next 12 months.

- The IIHF Office may determine a player who is suspended by a member national association, league or club including non-affiliated IIHF-recognized organizations is not eligible





Andre Ringuette / HHOF-IIHF Images

The new IIHF Rule Book will go into effect on 1 July 2018.

to participate in an IIHF competition which runs concurrently to the player's suspension but it's not mandatory to do so anymore.

- The Disciplinary Board chair, deputy chair and not less than four other members as well as the Appeal Board Chair shall be elected by Congress (old: Council).

- The Council with the recommendation of the Competition Committee shall seed national teams in cases a new sovereign state has been established by separation from an existing sovereign state, a country is incorporated into another existing sovereign state with a member affiliated to the IIHF, two or more countries are united into a sovereign state and the member representing it is granted membership status with the IIHF or a country is divided into two or

more sovereign states with members affiliated to the IIHF and the previous country does not exist anymore.

- The IIHF must conduct all IIHF operational activities related to commitment of IIHF income/expenses in accordance with IIHF Procurement Guidelines, including, but not limited to, tender rules. The IIHF Procurement Guidelines must be in accordance with all applicable laws. This allows the IIHF to comply with good governance principles for non-profit organizations.

With these changes the IIHF makes a big step in the modernization of the IIHF Statutes & Bylaws and will continue this process during the next 12 months and beyond.

### Sport Regulations

Congress made a change concerning the penalty-shot shootout as of the upcoming season. Only the decisive goal will count in the result of the game. New: It shall be credited to the team that scored the goal (not to the player) and charged against the team that was scored upon (but not the goaltender concerned).

Clarification was added that the ice surface between the face-off spots will be dry-scraped (no water) with one or two ice resurfacer machines prior to the shootout.

### IIHF Rule Book

The 2018-2022 IIHF Rule Book, valid as of the upcoming season, was approved at the last Congress in autumn 2017. However, a new rule on late hits was added today by Congress to address one of the proposals previously accepted.

A late hit in the new Rule 153 is defined as a bodycheck to a skater who is in a vulnerable position because of not being in control or possession of the puck anymore and will be sanctioned with a penalty. It can be a minor penalty if the opponent is aware of the impending contact. A major penalty and automatic game-misconduct penalty is assessed for a late hit against an unsuspecting opponent or a match penalty if the opponent is recklessly endangered.

An additional clause also sanctions an early hit, meaning a bodycheck before the opponent has received the puck, with an interference penalty.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW RULE CHANGES](#)

### Awards & Honours

Following a positive report on the 2018 Olympic Games, IIHF President René Fasel called the two delegates for the DPR Korea and Korea Ice Hockey Associations, and presented



Andre Ringuette / HHOF-IIHF Images

DPR Korea and Korea officials were honoured at Congress.

them both with an award for their contribution to the Unified Korea Ice Hockey team initiative.

Congress concluded with the honouring of long-serving members of the international ice hockey family. IIHF Sport Director Dave Fitzpatrick and IIHF Officiating Manager Konstantin Komissarov will leave the IIHF Office after 23 and 16 years respectively in service.

IIHF Life Member Hans Dobida was given an award for his long-time contribution to the IIHF by IIHF President René Fasel.

IIHF Vice President Kalervo Kummola was recognized by the International Olympic Committee with Pierre de Coubertin Trophy for his outstanding merits towards the sport and the Olympic Movement.



## Hall of Fame 2018

Newest class inducted in Copenhagen

By Jon Sanful



Seven members of the international hockey community were inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame this year in Denmark.

Gord Miller hosted the induction ceremony on 20 May, the morning of the final in Copenhagen. IIHF President Rene Fasel welcomed esteemed guests, including the eighth International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge, who was on hand to celebrate the inductees. Detroit Red Wings legend and 2014 IIHF inductee Niklas Lidstrom was also there for the festivities.

The first player inducted on the day was **Jere Lehtinen**. Drafted by the Dallas Stars in 1992, Lehtinen established himself as an elite two-way player. He represented Finland five times at the Olympics and four times at the World Championships, helping Suomi win gold in 1995.

Lehtinen played all 14 seasons in the NHL with the Dallas Stars leading his team to a Stanley Cup in 1999. Ken Hitchcock, who coached Leh-



From left: Jesper Damgaard, Rob Blake, Kirovs Lipmans, Jere Lehtinen, Daniel Alfredsson, Chris Chelios, Philippe Lacarriere, and Bob Nadin formed the IIHF Hall of Fame class of 2018, inducted in a ceremony in Denmark.

тинен in Dallas, described him as the perfect hockey player.

"Whenever Jere was on the ice, things were under control," Hitchcock shared with Miller when they recently spoke of Lehtinen. "If a player was playing poorly, put him on Jere's line and that player would come right back."

He was the closest Finn to the Triple Gold Club but a finals loss to Sweden at the 2006 Olympics prevented him from join that elite group.

"Being on international teams made me a better player," said an emotional Lehtinen. "I'd like to thank my parents for supporting, feeding and ta-

king care of me, and my brother for challenging me every day to be better. I'd also like to thank my wife and children, without you this would not be possible."

**Philippe Lacarriere** joined his father Jacques in the IIHF Hall of Fame. Lacarriere played for the French national team and was captain from 1965 to 1967. In all, he represented France 68 times as a player. Lacarriere was the head of the hockey tournament at the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France.

Lacarriere served as a member of the IIHF's Disciplinary Committee from 1990 to 1994, and at the end of that term was named to the IIHF Council,



Philippe joined his father Jacques Lacarriere in the Hall.

a position he held for two terms over nine years. When he retired in 2010, **Chris Chelios** was the only player remaining in the NHL from the 1981 draft. He played 26 seasons and Olympics over three decades. He began his career with the Montreal Canadiens and won the Stanley Cup in his second full season. Chelios was a member of Team USA at the 1996 World Cup of Hockey when the Americans upset the Canadians to win one of their biggest international championships to date.

Chelios congratulated his fellow inductees and thanked his family, coaches and members of the USA Hockey family. He also paid tribute to Jim Johansson, the longtime USA Hockey executive and a former teammate of Chelios', who passed away in January.

"I would be remiss if I didn't mention a good friend that everybody in this room lost, Jim Jo-





*Daniel Alfredsson share his insights on playing ice hockey.*

hansson, who I went to school with and who I played hockey with and I wish he was here today to see this. No one was prouder to wear the jersey as he did for two Olympics and follow in his father's footsteps to represent his country as a player and in management. No one loved the game or his country more than Jim."

The Paul Loicq Award was presented to **Kirovs Lipmans** of Latvia. As President of the Latvian Ice Hockey Federation, Lipmans helped guide Latvia from the C Pool in 1993, qualifying for the A Pool in 1997. Lipmans was instrumental in helping to develop hockey in his country.

Lipmans oversaw construction of arenas across the nation and many new facilities, including the one that hosted the 2006 World Championship in Riga. In 2001, Lipmans was awarded the Order of the Three Stars (4th Class), the highest honour a Latvian can receive.

**Rob Blake** has won at every level. A member of the prestigious Triple Gold Club, Blake won a Stanley Cup in 2001 with the Colorado Avalanche. Prior to that, he won World Championship gold in 1994 and 1997 and was a member of Team Canada that won gold at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, ending a half century without having done so.

"I was fortunate to play in a number of World Championships and Olympics. One of the greatest experiences was the first Olympics in Nagao, Japan in 1998. I think the decision that Hockey Canada made to have us stay in the Olympic Village was one of the best ideas to come about. For us to experience the other athletes, their training and preparation was a tremendous honour."

**Bob Nadin** made history of his own on the afternoon. Nadin won the Paul Loicq Award in 2007, and now he's been inducted as a Builder. Nadin, refereed at the international level in Sapporo at the 1972 Olympics. Nadin was the CAHA (Canadian Amateur Hockey Association) referee-in-chief from 1976-86. From 1992 to 1996, Nadin was a supervisor for the NHL. With the IIHF he was part of the Rules and Referee Committee.

Denmark's **Jesper Damgaard** received the Bibi Torriani Award. He played in 17 consecuti-

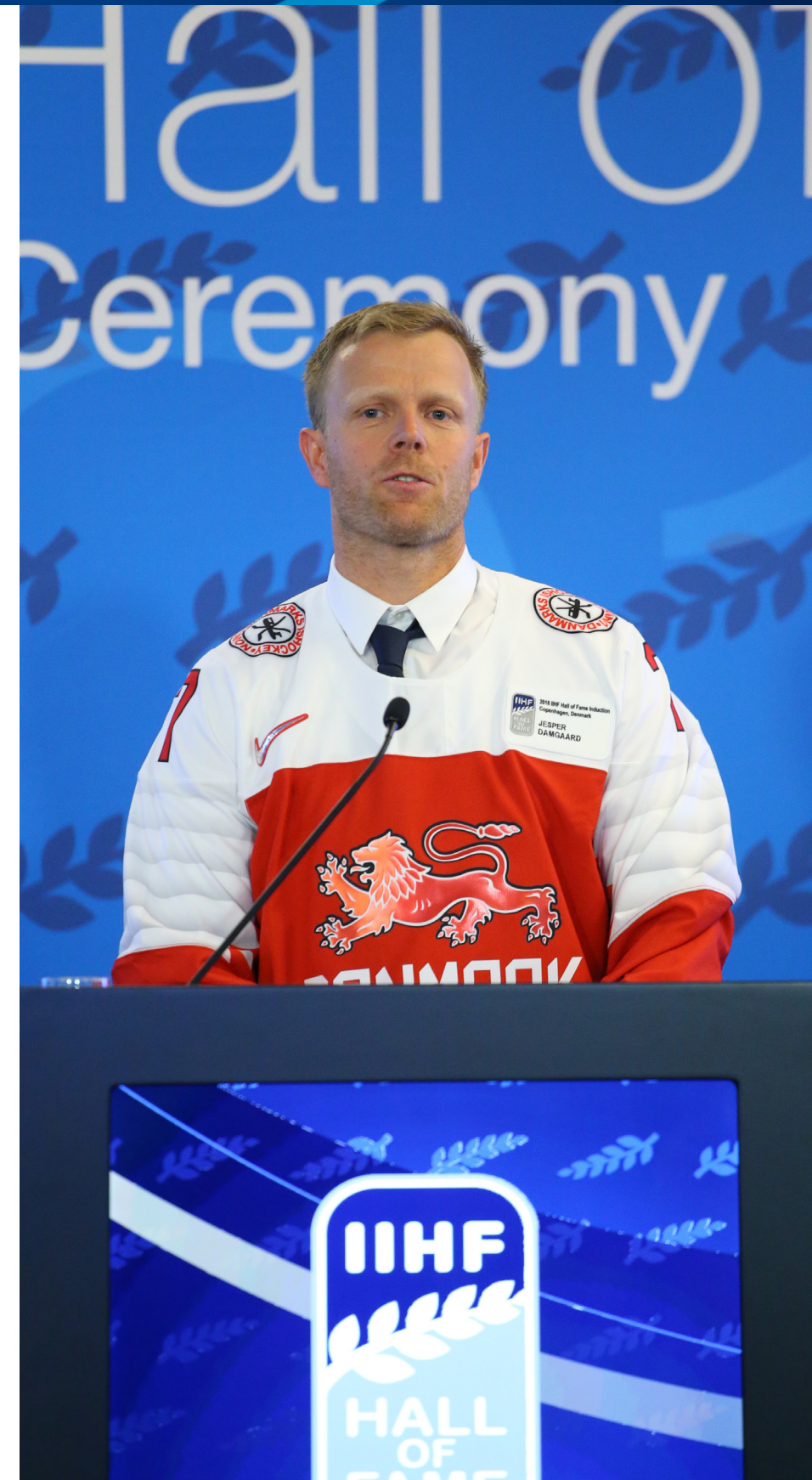
ve World Championships and helped advance the national team from the B Pool to the A Pool. He wore the captain's C for eleven years and his number 7 was retired by the Danish federation.

"I am honoured and proud to be standing here today," said Daamgard. "If anyone said back then that Denmark would be hosting the World Championship and playing in the A Pool, I would be laughing at them. It was not believable but it is true."

**Daniel Alfredsson** was the final player inducted. Alfredsson played in five Olympics, winning gold with Sweden at the 2006 Torino tournament. He also played in seven World Championships, winning two silver and two bronze medals. In the NHL, Alfredsson played fourteen seasons and was captain of the Ottawa Senators. He led the team to the 2007 Stanley Cup finals. Alfredsson played in 1,246 regular season games.

"The people is what makes this sport fantastic," said Alfredsson.

"We've all met friends in our careers from different countries, different places, the friendships you create are special. The locker room banter that goes on in Denmark, in Russia, or in Sweden, its all the same. And if you just show up and work hard you are going to earn the respect of your teammates."





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## Wrapping up the Worlds

Ten Things We Learned From Denmark 2018

By Andrew Podnieks







Another successful IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship has concluded, and is officially in the history books.

As we look back on three successful weeks in May in Herning and Copenhagen, we can reflect on many positives (and a couple of disappointments) as we prepare for 2019 in Slovakia.

### 1) Denmark is legitimate

Thanks to a great effort from Copenhagen and Hernin, Denmark proved itself to be a true hockey country and we can be certain the Danes will again be a most capable host in the future. The tournament attracted some 520,481 fans through 64 games, the 7th-highest total of all time.



Many fans came out for Denmark's first hosted IIHF Worlds.



Champions in 2017 and now in 2018, Team Sweden has won a total 11 gold medals at the IIHF World Championship.

### 2) Watch out for those Swiss

Switzerland might just be a legitimate medal contender on an annual basis.

Returning to the gold-medal game for the second time in six tries proves that the country's initial and historic appearance in 2013 was no fluke, and Patrick Fischer is showing himself to be a world-class coach in the process.

### 3) Stars align for contenders

The 2018 tournament also showed that stars can, and do, make a difference.

This year's MVP was Patrick Kane, one of the best players in the world but playing his first WM in a decade. USA Hockey has long had trouble recruiting its best, but Kane, the tournament's leading scorer, proved that with quality comes success.



Switzerland's talent base continues to show improvement.

Other big names like Sebastian Aho for Finland, Filip Forsberg and Oliver Ekman-Larson for Sweden, and Connor McDavid for Canada helped their teams go deep.

### 4) Sweden keeps on clicking

The Swedish system of hockey is like the Czech system of the late 1990s—it doesn't matter who plays, so long as they stick to the system. This year's winning Swedish team had only three players from last year's team (John Klingberg, Dennis Everberg, Oliver Ekman-Larsson), yet won gold again. This is also a testament to coach Rikard Gronborg, as well as the depth of Swedish hockey.





Austria managed to remain in the top division.

### 5) Goaltending does make a difference

Just ask Canada. Despite Connor McDavid up front and a solid roster all around, the poor play of Darcy Kuemper hurt Canada's chances for a fourth medal in a row. Anders Nilsson, meanwhile, had three shutouts and led Tre Kronor to the gold with solid play between the pipes.

### 6) Belarus on outside looking in

Belarus needs to solve some internal problems, and it has only a year to do so. It will co-host the 2021 World Championship with Riga, but after a terrible showing in Denmark, it has been relegated and must work its way back to the top in time for that event. The team didn't



Tre Kronor last won back-to-back IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship titles in 1991 (Turku) and 1992 (Prague).

win a game, fired coach Dave Lewis halfway through, and looked out of place. That never used to be the case.

### 7) Finland's got some young guns

Playing his first senior Worlds, Sebastian Aho proved to be not only comfortable but dominant at this level. His first two seasons in the NHL, with Carolina, were marked by tremendous improvement, and in Denmark he was arguably the best player. Still only 20, he promises to be a bright star for Suomi for years to come.

### 8) Austria stops the elevator

It was only one win in seven outings, but Austria's key 4-0 win over Belarus was enough to keep it in the top pool for next year. This might not sound like a big deal, but the Austrians became the first promoted team in a decade to remain up a second year (France 2008).

### 9) It's not how you start; it's how you finish

Russia won its first three games by scores of 7-0, 7-0, and 6-0, prompting queries about a team going through a tournament without gi-



The IIHF Ref Cam brought fans in the middle of the action.

ving up a goal. But it lost to Sweden on the final day of the round robin, and to Canada in the quarters, finishing in sixth place, those early three shutouts long forgotten.

### 10) Tech brings game closer to fans

Sometimes gimmicks are just gimmicks, masking a problem or distracting one's eye from a problem, but the helmet cams on the referees proved hugely successful simply because they provided a great and new perspective of the game.

Using new technology, the IIHF tried something new, and it proved inventive and unique. A gimmick, perhaps, but one that made the viewing of the game better.




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## Video Highlights: 2018 IIHF World Championship



Click here to view all the game highlights from the 2018 IIHF World Championship

### All-Star Team:

**GK:** Anders Nilsson, SWE

**D:** Adam Larsson, SWE / Oliver Ekman-Larsson, SWE

**F:** Rickard Rakell, SWE / Patrick Kane, USA /  
Sebastian Aho, FIN

Directorate Best  
Forward, All-Star



## Sebastian Aho, F, Finland

**8 GP, 9 G, 9 A, 18 P, +15**

Sporting a tournament-best +15 rating playing alongside Teuvo Teravainen and Mikko Rantanen, Aho was a force. He opened with a four-point effort against Korea and finished the preliminary round with a hat trick against USA. A spectacular effort by Swiss goalie Leonardo Genoni in the quarters kept Aho and the Finns from going deep in the playoffs.

Directorate Best  
Defenceman



## John Klingberg, D, Sweden

**10 GP, 1 G, 5 A, 6 P, +6**

Sweden's players dominated the tournament All-Star team, but it was Klingberg who got a special nod as the tournament's Top Defenceman. He recorded six points in ten games and logged the second-highest number of minutes for Sweden, behind only Oliver Ekman-Larsson.

Directorate Best  
Goalkeeper, All-Star



## Frederik Andersen, G, Denmark

**6 GP, 1.65 GAA, 94.38 SVS%, 1 SO**

Denmark battled hard and very nearly made the quarter-final round with the help of Andersen, who joined the team late after a stellar season with the Toronto Maple Leafs. The highlight of the tournament was his 33-save performance in a 3-2 upset win over Finland.



## Capitals win Cup

### Huge milestones for international players

By Lucas Aykroyd

**After decades of frustration, the Washington Capitals answered their critics with a 4-3 win over the Vegas Golden Knights on Thursday to earn the first Stanley Cup in franchise history. This championship ends a 44-year drought.**

Alexander Ovechkin, who received the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP, was ecstatic after the Game Five victory. The hulking 32-year-old Muscovite finally exorcised his playoff demons. Ovechkin becomes the first Russian ever to captain an NHL club to the Cup.

“Finally we got the result and we got the Cup,” Ovechkin said. “We did it. That’s all that matters. It doesn’t matter how we did it. Look at the smiles of our fans and my teammates. It’s unbelievable. I’m just happy.”

It was an unusual post-season, to say the least. The Capitals, who clinched all four series victories on the road, defeated the most successful expansion team the NHL has ever seen in Vegas.



*Washington Capitals superstar Alexander Ovechkin is the first Russian ever to captain an NHL club to the Stanley Cup.*

Lars Eller, the first Dane ever to hoist the Cup, scored the winning goal at 12:23 of the third period. That capped off a big hockey year for Denmark, which also hosted the IIHF World Championship for the first time in May.

“It means everything,” said Eller. “You couldn’t write the story better yourself, getting to score the game-winner yourself.”

Ovechkin chipped in two game-winners during these playoffs and showed great leadership with

15 playoff goals, the fifth-highest total in NHL history and a new Capitals franchise record.

Founded in 1975, the Capitals missed the playoffs for the first eight years of their existence. They got swept by the Boston Bruins in their first conference final appearance in 1990, and also got swept by the Detroit Red Wings in their only Stanley Cup final appearance in 1998. Since then, they’d never gotten further than the second round – until 2018.

The Capitals, who earned the President’s Trophy as the NHL’s top regular-season team in 2010, 2016 and 2017, surprised the pundits by going all the way this year after losing some big-name players in the summer.

Beyond Ovechkin’s saga, there were plenty of great individual stories for Washington. Yevgeni Kuznetsov led the playoffs with 32 points, becoming one of just 30 players to score 30 or more points in a single post-season. Canadian Braden Holtby’s miraculous stick save on Alex Tuch late in a crucial Game Two victory will go down in Washington sports lore. He finished with an excellent 92.2 save percentage and 2.16 GAA.

His backup Philipp Grubauer became the fourth Cup-winning German player. Although he will not get his name on the Cup, Washington’s Nathan Walker became the first Australian ever to suit up in the NHL post-season when the 24-year-old forward played one game against Pittsburgh, recording an assist. Walker participated in the on-ice celebrations.

No new members were added to the IIHF’s Triple Gold Club. However, the result gives both Ovechkin (Worlds gold in 2008, 2012, 2014) and Backstrom (Worlds gold in 2006, 2017) a theoretical chance to join the club if either Russia or Sweden wins the 2022 Olympics in Beijing.

Stephen R. Sylvanie / USA Today Sports / Reuters



## League roundup

### Club results from around the world



**KOREA (ASIA LEAGUE)** – For the fourth consecutive time the the Asia League, the Korean powerhouse Anyang Halla made it to the final and for the third straight year Anyang Halla ended up celebrating.

This time, the team beat the Oji Eagles from Japan in four games. With the title, Anyang Halla is the first team to win three titles in a row and extends its lead of Asia League championships to five.

Despite the Asia League title ending up in the same hands, the 2017/18 Asia League season was a memorable and different one. For the first time since 2004 it was played without a team from China, which has now several teams in the Russian system instead. The season was also shortened due to the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang 2018 that includes the Korean men's national team. No league games were played in January and February.

Despite these challenges, Anyang Halla prevailed and concluded a historic year for Korean hockey. Korea is now both in national



Reiji Nagayama

team and in club hockey the top Asian country having overtaking traditional Asian powerhouse Japan. That's special when considering Korea counts just 171 registered senior male players, compared to nearly 8,000 in Japan.



**BELARUS** – Neman Grodno successfully defended its Belarusian Extraliga title, overcoming Yunost Minsk 4-2 in the grand final.

The victory, a repeat of last season's triumph, moves Neman onto seven President's Cup wins and puts the Grodno club level with Yunost on the all-time leader board.

The Minsk team was more competitive throughout the series after being swept by Neman in the final last year, producing a 2-0 win in Grodno to deny Neman victory on home ice.



BIHA

The decisive game was another hard-fought battle. Yunost twice led as it looked to save the series, but goals from Artyom Levsha and Eduard Grin late in the second period turned the game around and handed Neman the big prize.



**CZECH REPUBLIC** – Kometa Brno has repeated as Czech Extraliga champions, defeating Ocelari Trinec in five games in the finals.

As was the case last season, Kometa looked at times during the regular season like they were capable of winning it all and struggled mightily at other times. They finished fifth in the regular season, but then breezed through the quarter-finals and finals, sweeping fourth-placed Vitkovice Ostrava and then toppling first-placed Skoda Plzen in five games.



Mikko Pylik

In the final series, Trinec won the first game on home ice before Kometa won four straight, culminating in a 4-1 victory in Trinec in Game 5 to take the series by the same score.




**FINLAND** – For the third time in the last five years, it was Tampere Tappara and Karpat Oulu that met in the Finnish Liiga final.

In the semi-final, Tappara swept Turku while Karpat went the distance with IFK Helsinki, in a seven-game series that included three games that went into overtime.


Maybe it was the wait that had made Tappara lose their edge, or maybe Karpat had just got the ball rolling in a way that couldn't be stopped, but the Oulu team jumped to a 3-0 lead in the series and eventually won it all in Game 5.






**FRANCE** – For the sixth time in the last ten years, the Rouen Dragons celebrate winning the French Ligue Magnus championship when they beat Grenoble Bruleurs de Loups in four straight games. Nicolas Deschamps scored the championship-winning goal in overtime.

This year's victory means Rouen has now hoisted the French league title 15 times. Only for the second time since the league installed a best-of-seven final series has there been a four-game sweep. In 2016 Rouen was also beneficiary of the statistical fact, sweeping Angers Les Ducs.


**GERMANY** – Few teams have done it, but when the horn sounded to signal the end of Game 7, the DEL's EHC Red Bull Munich had wrapped up their third title in a row!




Only the Adler Mannheim from 1996-99 and this year's finals opponent the Berlin Polar Bears, affectionately known in German as the "Eisbaren", from 2010-13, have been able to win the DEL title three years in a row.


**GREAT BRITAIN** – After waiting 20 years to win a championship the Cardiff Devils are now celebrating after winning back-to-back British Elite Ice Hockey League titles.

The Devils travelled to play Belfast Giants on March, knowing that victory would wrap up the regular season championship, which determines the national champion in the United Kingdom. They delivered in dramatic fashion when Andrew Hotham popped up with the game-winner 20 seconds left in the game.





**HUNGARY** – For the third consecutive time MAC Budapest made it to the final of the Erste Liga (previously known as MOL Liga), but this time they were not left empty-handed.

For the third straight year the match-up in the finals was MAC Budapest against DVTJ Jegesmedvek from Miskolc.

DVTJ was going for their fourth championship in a row as they beat Nove Zamky and MAC twice the past three seasons.

MAC defeated DVTJ in five games in the best-of-seven series. This was the first championship that was won by a team from Budapest since 2010 when the Budapest Stars claimed the title.




**ITALY (EBEL)** – The Bolzano Foxes from the South Tyrol region in Italy for the second time won the Austrian-based cross-border league EBEL.

Bolzano slid into the playoffs with a victory on the very last day of the qualification round. Ultimately, the Foxes ended the 44-game regular season 9th in the 12-team standings. But that would not matter, as the Foxes went onto an incredible playoff run that saw them defeat not just the top-seeded Vienna Capitals in just five games, but also heavily-favoured Red Bull Salzburg in the final.

The wild finish marks a high point for the EBEL, a growing league that saw the addition of the Croatian club Medvescak Zagreb boosted the league to an even 12 teams. Not only was the club the league's fifth best team, it also featured





Werner Kraibucher



Frederik Olafsen



Michal Giel



Grigori Sysoyev / RIA Novosti

the league's best attendance at just under 4'950 attendants per game. Even after the playoffs, the team from Croatia's capital was the overall top-drawing team in the league.

EBEL attendance in general was positive, with six teams drawing more than 3'000 spectators, three of which actually managing to bring in over 4'600 per home date. In Bolzano, by playoff end, the team was drawing over 6'000 in attendance for every home date.



**NORWAY** – Storhamar won the Norwegian championship this season in a dominant performance, culminating in a defeat of Lillehammer in five games.

The team won the regular-season title with a 15-point margin to Sarpsborg, the runner-up.

In the playoffs, Storhamar lost only two games, and, as they marched to the title, their goal difference in the 14 games was 67-22. I

It was Storhamar's first Norwegian championship in ten years, and ended Stavanger Oilers' hockey supremacy in the country.



**POLAND** – For the third time in history, GKS Tychy have been crowned Polish champions. A nearly perfect regular and post season was completed with a 2-1 overtime win over GKS Katowice.

GKS Tychy been ever present in the restructured Polska Hokej Liga since it was formed in 2013 but won just one time the gold medal during this period.

The 2017/18 season erased anyone still

questioning whether Tychy is able to withstand the pressure. Coming out of the regular season as winners with a 31-7 record, the team marched on with a 12-2 post season to cement its status as current top team in the Polish hockey echelons.



**RUSSIA (KHL)** – In a tight final series, one moment decided the outcome of the 10th season of KHL action. Early in the third period, with Ak Bars Kazan on a power play, Rob Klinkhammer got to the CSKA net in front of his Canadian Olympic teammate Mat Robinson and jammed his stick down in front of Anton Lander's feed from the right. It was enough to deflect the puck past Lars Johansson and give Ak Bars a 1-0 victory on the night and a 4-1 success in the series.

The Gagarin Cup was back in Tatarstan for a

record third time and it was the fourth Russian championship for Ak Bars since its first in 2006.

A 4-1 series score might sound one-sided, but this was a hard battle. CSKA, hot favourite coming into the final, ran Ak Bars close in every game. However, the Eastern Conference champion was rock-solid on defence, and goalie Emil Garipov – 33 saves for that shutout in Sunday's decisive game – was in fine form.



**SWITZERLAND** – After a bad regular season in seventh place, few expected the ZSC Lions Zurich to win the Swiss championship despite being one of the biggest and most powerful hockey clubs in Switzerland.

But in a revived final clash with HC Lugano the team from Zurich won the championship like it did in the early 2000s in this north-south clash.





Vedri Galijas / hockeyfans.ch



Vaxjö Lakers



Chris Tanouye / CWHL



Matthew Raney

And like back then it did so in Game 7 on the road.

Back in 2001 Swedish import Morgan Samuelsson hit the back of the net in overtime. This time it was a bit less dramatic. Captain Patrick Geering scored the game winner with a slightly deflected shot already after seven minutes of play after having lost the previous two games. Lugano tried to equalize without success and the Lions' Latvian national team forward Ronalds Kenins scored into the empty net with 19 seconds left for the final score of 2-0.



**SLOVAKIA** – HC '05 Banská Bystrica did it again. After the year they won the second Slovak title in the row for the first time in club's history. But it was a very tough way to make it. They had to fight through the seven-game final series against Dukla Trenčín.

Tomas Surovy captained Banská Bystrica to its second straight Slovak Extraliga title, while Vladimir Orszagh coached the title winners before moving on to his job assisting the national team.



**SWEDEN** – The Vaxjö Lakers won the SHL regular season title with a 21-point margin to Djurgården Stockholm, the runner-up. That they'd beat the fifth-seeded team in the final wasn't a shock, but nobody could predict that they'd sweep Skellefteå AIK and only allow one goal in the process.

But that's exactly what they did.

The goal difference in the four games was an astounding 20-1, the largest margin in Swedish hockey league history. The final series turned into an Elias Pettersson Show as the Vaxjö

centre scored six goals and ten points in the four games. He was also the unanimous choice for the Stefan Liv Memorial Award as the playoffs MVP.



**CANADA (CWHL)** – Laura Stacey scored in overtime to give the Markham Thunder a 2-1 win over Kunlun Red Star to win the 2018 Clarkson Cup.

This marked the first championship for the Thunder franchise, which had to overcome a stunning run by the Chinese Red Star team for the win.

The Red Stars, one of two Chinese teams new to the CWHL this year, beat the Calgary Inferno in the semi-finals by winning 1-0 in triple overtime to advance to the Clarkson Cup.



**USA (NWHL)** – The Metropolitan Riveters beat the Buffalo Beauts to win the third edition of the NWHL's Isobel Cup. The Beauts were making their third straight finals appearance, losing to Boston two years ago and winning it all last year.

The four-team NWHL consists of the Boston Pride, Connecticut Whale, Beauts, and Metropolitan, and all four played a 16-game regular-season schedule prior to the playoffs.

The Riveters finished first with a 13-3 record and the Beauts were right behind at 12-4. The champs were originally founded as New York Riveters before moving to New Jersey where they became the first NWHL team to partner with an NHL team, the New Jersey Devils.



## Gallery



The opening faceoff of the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship gold medal game between Sweden and Switzerland at the Royal Arena.



Mika Zibanejad celebrates in a sea of confetti after Sweden won its second straight gold.



Swedish captain Mikael Backlund raising the Championship trophy in Copenhagen.





Sweden's Rickard Rakell celebrates with the championship trophy following the 3-2 gold medal game shootout win.



Filip Forsberg scoring the gold medal-winning shootout goal against Switzerland goalie Leonardo Genoni.



Switzerland thanking the fans after defeating Canada in the semi-final 3-2 to advance to the gold medal game.





USA's Scott Darling chatting with to Germany's Timo Pielmeier during the preliminary round of the 2018 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.



Frederik Andersen salutes the crowd after Denmark upset Finland 3-2 in Herning.



Strong support for Denmark's games in Herning helped bolster 2018 IIHF Worlds ticket sales.



## Tre Kronor winning

### Sweden president talks country's success

By Andy Potts

**After clinching back-to-back IIHF World Championships, Swedish ice hockey is indisputably on top of the world.**

With two contrasting rosters at the last two tournaments, plus medals at this year's U20 and U18 events, the Tre Kronor have demonstrated an enviable depth of talent throughout the national program.

We caught up with Anders Larsson, President of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association, to learn more about the country's production line of hockey talent.

**Congratulations! It must be a hugely satisfying feeling for Swedish hockey right now?**

It's a fantastic feeling. It was a great victory for the team, but also a big success for ice hockey in Sweden. It wasn't just a winning team, it was good to watch. We had quite a young team with many players joining from the NHL, we played very fast, very exciting hockey.



*Under Larsson's tenure Sweden has two World Championship golds, a men's U20 and U18 silver, and a women's U18 bronze.*

It was very nice watching them and they were really, really popular back home. The gold-medal game was watched by 2.4 million people – that's one in four of the whole population – even though it was late on a Sunday evening. That shows the popularity of the game, and of the World Championship itself.

**Apart from the TV viewers, there were many Swedish fans who travelled to Copenhagen for the championship.**

Yes, the arena was quite yellow whenever we played! I spoke to many of the players and they all said how they really felt that atmosphere and how the fans drove them on. And, of course,

Copenhagen is a nice city, it's very close to a lot of our fans, so many of them decided to spend some time visiting the city and watching the hockey.

**The roster in Copenhagen was very different from the one in Cologne a year earlier. What does that say about the depth of talent Swedish hockey can call upon?**

We've been very lucky to win it two years in a row. If you compare this year's roster with last year, only three players were on both. That shows we have a pretty broad base of talent. It's the kind of depth that means 10% of the players in the NHL are Swedish.

**How are you able to keep attracting so many players into the sport?**

Well, in many places hockey is almost a part of our culture, it's more than just a sport. In the north, where there's a lot of winter, skiing, skating and playing hockey are really a part of our traditional life. That's why hockey is pretty much on a level with soccer: maybe there are more soccer players, but the two games are more or less equal in terms of popularity and support.

Our clubs are a real part of their communities. There's something that distinguishes Sweden from sports in most other countries – our clubs





Matt Zamborin / IIHF Images

*In 2017, Larsson was reelected for another two-year term as SIHA president shortly after Sweden won gold in Cologne.*

can only be owned by their members. The members have the voting rights and decide how the clubs will run. It's a system that really creates a sense of involvement for the wider community. And so, even though Sweden is a fairly small nation with just 10 million people, we are able to compete on a level with places like Canada and the USA.

**Numbers are only part of the story, though. It takes work to turn enthusiastic kids into good players.**

Working together has been key for us, especially at youth level and player development. We want to attract and recruit as many youngsters as pos-

sible. We're working with different groups, with boys and girls. We really work together, whether it's in the smaller clubs, the elite clubs, the regions or the national federation. We've all agreed on the same program and it's absolutely key that we all work as one family.

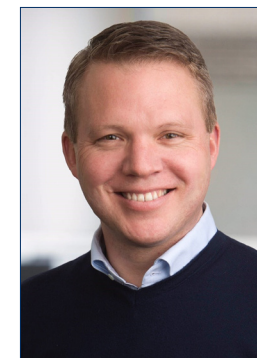
If the league wants to do it one way and the federation does it differently, it doesn't work. We try to have everyone doing their part of the plan. Working together has been the key, and history shows that when we do that, we can get results. We had some big development workshops big in 2002 and 2003 and since then we've really put extra efforts into our program. Now it's fantastic to see what a pretty small nation like ours can do.

### And what about the future?

We have many promising stars, growing stars, in our U18 and U20 programs. What we have seen over the last few years is that many of our players have been successful for our national team or playing in the NHL after going through this program.

Having 10% of the current players in the NHL really tells its own story about Swedish hockey.

## Fact File: Anders Larsson, SWEDEN



- Born: 4 March 1977 in Gävle, Sweden
- Former referee
- Elected President of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association in June 2015
- Member of IIHF Competition & Coordination Committee
- Chairman of the Organising Committee for the 2015 IIHF Women's World Championship





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FINLAND, Vierumäki  
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