



TEAM CANADA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009



National Men's Team, National Women's Team and National Sledge Team, August 2009 in Calgary

INTRODUCTION

Welcome back – we hope you will enjoy reading the fall edition of the Team Canada Alumni Association newsletter. We appreciate the valuable feedback you have given us and will continually strive to incorporate more of your ideas into future issues. As we prepare for the Olympic Winter Games

in Vancouver in 2010, we look forward to having strong representation from the men's, women's, and sledge teams as we work hard to add more alumni to our membership. We hope you will help us and share this newsletter with some of your teammates to encourage them to join. ■

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THE TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Where We Want To Be – Our Vision:

Team Canada Alumni – Coming Together, Reaching Out.

Why We Want To Go There – Our Mission:

To engage, encourage, and enable Team Canada alumni to maintain a lifelong relationship with Hockey Canada and our game.

Who We Will Be Along the Way – Our Values:

We are committed to honouring Canada's international hockey heritage, assisting with the growth of Canadian hockey and the pursuit of international hockey excellence for Canada, while providing an opportunity for our alumni to reconnect and celebrate the game and their experiences. These objectives will be achieved within a spirit of teamwork, inclusion, integrity, and service. ■





Game action from the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary



FROM THE TCAA CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our Team Canada Alumni Association (TCAA) fall newsletter. Thanks to those that have signed up with the TCAA. We are certainly thrilled so far with the response from past alumni and what we have created. We currently have 165 Team Canada alumni registered. Please see the accompanying article on our recruitment initiative and encourage alumni who you are in contact with to register and reach out and bring in more members. Together we can continue to grow and make this a great organization that we can all be proud of.

If you haven't had a chance, please go to the website to read previous newsletters that offer great stories and pictures of alumni. The website is consistently updated under the news section with ongoing articles on our alumni and events to watch out for. Here you will find a great article that alumni Terry O'Malley wrote reflecting on the legacy of Father David Bauer and the national team program in the 1960s. We have also included a separate section that incorporates key parts of Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Foundation.

Your feedback is very important to us as we grow, so please pass along any suggestions you may have for content on our website and newsletters. It still is a work in progress and your input is very important to us. Over the next few issues we will update you on the progress and changes that we will be making to content on the website and association.

We hope you enjoy your Team Canada Alumni Association fall newsletter! Thank you!

Gord Sherven

Chair, TCAA Advisory Committee ■

ALUMNI RECRUITMENT AND UPDATE

The TCAA advisory group along with a representative group of invited alumni recently met to discuss where the alumni association is at right now with respect to its current membership. Up to this point, we are very pleased with the progress and will stay committed to growing our membership from the inside out.

To date there has been a small core group, working hard and asking specific individuals to recruit their own team members and other alumni. Closing in on our first anniversary the group has determined that the time has come to significantly expand this effort and we need your help.

Make a play today and be a part of building a winning organization....Register now, get connected – stay connected.

Contact Norm Dueck, our alumni administrator, at alumniadmin@hockeycanada.ca for assis-

tance. Norm will provide easy directions to get you signed up immediately or he can also take your information and assist you with the registration on our web page.

Already connected?

Take a leadership role, extend the invitation to your alumni contacts.

Follow up on your invites – together we can support and grow Canada's game.

Note from the TCAA Advisory Group

As our website evolves and our membership grows, our ability to have a positive impact on our game and many other initiatives will grow exponentially. In addition, steps to develop and promote other unique benefits to you – our alumni – are now taking place. Thank you. ■



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? DOUG LIDSTER COMING FULL CIRCLE

Doug Lidster was in college when he was approached by Team Canada to represent his country at the 1984 Olympic Winter Games. The decision was simple.

He says it was the best thing that ever happened to him with regards to his development process. He owes his professional career, at least his adjustment into the NHL, to that year he spent with the Olympic team.

The training was grueling: every day, sometimes twice a day. They played about 50 games leading up to the 1984 Games in Sarajevo, from Sweden, Germany and Moscow, to the Izvestia tournament at Christmas. They also toured across Canada playing the Soviet Union.

There were only four players off that 1984 Olympic roster that did not play for some time in the NHL, while 16 did. Lidster also played on four IIHF World Championship teams and has two Stanley Cups to his name, 1994 with the New York Rangers and 1999 with Dallas.

"I was with the national team and doing some scouting for the world championship as an assistant coach – my first coaching job," Lidster says. "They (Dallas) needed an extra player. I talked to Mike Johnson, who said, 'You really have to go for this.' So I went to Dallas, and it was capped with a Stanley Cup. A lot of good things have come out just from the process of playing with the national team."

After he retired from the NHL, Lidster coached a year in Medicine Hat with Willie Desjardins, coached some minor hockey, and then in Saginaw, Michigan with the OHL's Spirit. He had kept in

contact with Hockey Canada, including Melody Davidson, which soon led to a spot as an assistant coach with Canada's National Women's Team.

"When this opportunity came up, it seemed like a terrific chance," he says. "How fortunate for me to be lucky enough to get that job."

Lidster says he really loves the collaboration, especially with the extra coaches who aren't on the official roster at game time, but come in and have exchanges of ideas.

"Coaching is about development and processes. Whether you're developing a practice plan or working with different types of aspects, like team building, goal setting, skill development, it's a whole bunch of little steps that add up to the finished product that you see on the ice," he says. "It doesn't matter to me if it's male or female or whether it's Peewee-aged kids or adults, the building of a team and having people come together and having some success – as a group you can accomplish a lot more than you can as an individual. That's what it's all about for me."

He gets a different perspective from the women because they don't have the financial compensation that the men have in the NHL. He wishes they did have more opportunities to play hockey as a career. But not only does he see how the women's game has developed, he is a witness to what the national team means to young girls in this country.

At a recent event, young girls came up to the members of the national team and asked for autographs.

"You see it in the faces – one day I can be her. I

was actually sitting beside Hayley Wickenheiser and asked, 'Who were your role models?' They (team) didn't really have any role models. They were the pioneers," Lidster says. "It's really rewarding when you see young girls come up and look in the eyes of these people who are their role models. That's really what it's a lot about – that special bond that people have when they're looked upon as role models."

Nailing down one story to culminate his experiences is asking the impossible. He says people might look at the Stanley Cups, the world championships, or winning a medal as highlights. They are highlights, he says, but sometimes it's just coming to the rink and sharing that special moment. Lidster calls them sunshine moments, when at the end of the day, you go home and say, 'That was a good day.' And it might have been something as simple as a conversation with someone or seeing someone achieve a task they weren't able to do before. They're all highlights, but it's the ongoing process that he really enjoys.

But he does sum up one aspect of the hockey experience as something many of us can relate to.

"I remember my first junior game and my dad taking me to the arena," Lidster says. "The smells, the popcorn, the atmosphere in the building, the crisp passing – I remember it vividly as if it happened yesterday. To me, that was a special moment. Those things live with you. You remember it as a good memory and you want to repeat it day after day."

Lidster will admit that playing is still the best thing, but being involved with a team is also very rewarding. It still keeps him hands-on in the game. ■



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? JAN ALSTON A CANADIAN HOCKEY AMBASSADOR

He is the epitome of an alumnus playing in Europe. A true Canadian ambassador, he has answered the call to play for Team Canada each and every time and captained many Spengler Cups in the process.

When Jan Alston finished junior hockey in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, he had a choice to go to the Quebec Nordiques training camp or play in Italy.

"I wanted to go for a year or two just to see Europe and get that exposure. My European experience has been just unbelievable," Alston says. "I have a much more global perspective on things because of the opportunity to travel around, and I got to learn several different languages."

Alston played four years in Italy, four in Germany, and is heading into his 12th season in Switzerland as one of four import players on ZSC Zurich. One of the great aspects of playing for a European team is that the organization gives an import player a good start by arranging housing and a vehicle – all they have to do is work at integrating themselves into the community.

Each country's culture is completely different.

"In Italy, the Italian lifestyle is very easy going, really warm people, and obviously, I don't have to tell you about the food," Alston says. "The Germans are attached to details. You talk about the German cars and so forth, and you can see that in the culture. They're very precise and nice people. Switzerland is just a beautiful country. It's very small and very slow paced – slower than anywhere else I've been. They're known for their chocolate and watches – everything is on time. I got the chance to meet my wife here."

Hockey Canada's executive vice-president of hockey operations, Johnny Misley, cited an example of what kind of teammate Alston was when he captained the 2003 Spengler Cup.

"Just before the final game, Dixon Ward announced he was going to retire after this game. It was Dixon's last game, not just for the national team, but as a player," Misley says, looking back. "We went on to win that game against Davos. Jan went up to get the trophy and passed it right away to Dixon. It was a real class act."

For Alston and other Canadians playing in Europe, having the Spengler Cup tournament at Christmas is an opportunity for them to get together with their families. It feels like they're back at home. Add in wearing the Canadian jersey, and a sense of pride takes over.

"I think one of the funniest stories is the energy of Glen Hanlon – one of our coaches one year," Alston says. "He'd come barging into the dressing room and try to give us a wake-up call. It's all positive. It's just the energy – 100 miles an hour; he's got a strong pace. It's like he's running in the dressing room. Then after his speech was done, he'd just leave. The first time we saw that, it was not expected. You should have seen the faces on the players – what the heck just happened?"

Alston adds that players answer the call because Hockey Canada really goes out of its way to accommodate players in the best possible way in making every event memorable.

The 2003 IIHF World Championship in Helsinki was one of the highlights of Alston's career. He was one of the team's alternate players, and roomed with Daniel Brière. Alston never played a game in the

tournament, but a decision had to be made before the gold medal game to register him for the official roster so he could qualify to receive a gold medal.

Because of his Swiss wife, Alston was also eligible to play for the Swiss national team and the Swiss Ice Hockey Federation was vying for his services. Misley didn't want to put him in a compromising situation if he wanted to play for the European side.

"I called Jan's room, and he came down to mine," Misley says. "I had his passport on the table, and I had the form he had to sign that would register him officially on the roster. He saw the form, and I started to talk. He stopped me in mid-explanation. He said, 'Don't worry, Johnny. I know what you're trying to say. I'm a Canadian. I'll always be a Canadian. I'll sign this form.' He knew if he signed the form, he would have lost his eligibility to become a Swiss player. With that goes more money and more profile in a country where he's earning his living in. He put that all aside. That was huge for him to do that."

Alston fondly recalls that the rest of his teammates went to bat for him on that world championship team. He did, however, get a bit of grief for signing that paper.

"My wife teased me that was a bad business decision."

ZSC Zurich beat Russia Metallurg Magnitogorsk to cement the Champions Hockey League championship in 2008-09. That put them into the Victoria's Cup and in a game against the Chicago Blackhawks September 29. Alston registered two shots on goal in his team's 2-1 victory in what was described by the club's CEO Peter Zahner as the greatest game in the club's history. ■



Serge Savard, Jean Béliveau, Yvan Cournoyer, and members of Canada's National Junior Team

ALUMNI EVENTS

HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION HOSTS SIXTH ANNUAL GALA FUNDRAISER AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

This past June, Team Canada alumni and Montreal Canadiens legends Yvan Cournoyer and Serge Savard served as honorary chairmen for the 2009 Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Hall of Fame – had been named an honorary Team Canada member and honorary captain of Canada's 2010 Men's Olympic Hockey Team.

This annual event brings together Hockey Canada's gold medal-winning IIHF championship teams and distinguished Team Canada alumni and raises funds for the Hockey Canada Foundation. The theme for this year's gala was a "Salute to the Habs," and honoured many of the great athletes from the Montreal Canadiens who also suited up for Team Canada during their careers.

The Habs legends were joined by members of Canada's National Junior Team, who received their championship rings in recognition of their gold medal-winning performance at the 2009 IIHF World Junior Championship in Ottawa.

The gala dinner was held at the Bell Centre on June 29, followed by a celebrity golf tournament at Summerlea Golf and Country Club the following day. This was the sixth year for this spectacular event, which has so far raised in excess of \$2 million.

The highlight of the evening was Hockey Canada announcement that Jean Béliveau – a 10-time Stanley Cup champion and member of the Hockey Hall of Fame – had been named an honorary Team Canada member and honorary captain of Canada's 2010 Men's Olympic Hockey Team.

Béliveau retired from the NHL following the 1970-71 season and never had the chance to represent Canada in international competition. The first major international event involving NHL superstars was in 1972, when Canada and Russia met in the Summit Series. The IIHF World Championship did not allow professionals to participate until 1977.

Béliveau was honoured at a press conference in Montreal earlier in the day and then was recognized later that evening at the Hockey Canada Foundation gala among many of friends, former teammates and admirers. Honorary chairmen Serge Savard and Yvan Cournoyer presented Béliveau with a Team Canada jersey with his name and customary No. 4 on the back. ■



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Campbell, Rosen, Subban, Tavares



A HISTORIC TEAM CANADA HAT TRICK

Hockey Canada made history in August, assembling the three Olympic and Paralympic teams in one place at one time for the first time in history. The National Men's Team, National Women's Team and National Sledge Team all convened in Calgary from August 24-28 to give Canadians a preview of Canada's entries in hockey and sledge hockey this winter in Vancouver.

The morning of August 26, the historic moment was captured with a stunning group portrait including all 45 men's players in attendance (a 46th player, Simon Gagné, had already left camp due to an injury), the 26 centralized women's players and the 18 shortlisted sledge players.

All 89 athletes were also front and centre that same evening for a HCF fundraising dinner at the Sheraton Eau Claire, a dinner that also featured TSN personality Pierre McGuire, former Chief of the Defence Staff of the Canadian Forces, General Rick Hillier (retired) and other special guests. It was a very special once-in-a-lifetime evening for all in attendance.

The National Men's Team orientation camp was a huge success, with coaches and players appreciative of the opportunity to get information while creating familiarity within the group. A sold-out scrimmage on August 27 at the Pengrowth Saddledome in Calgary was further proof of Canadian's passion for the game of hockey.

The National Women's Team has been centralized in Calgary since the beginning of August. Twenty-six women are vying for one of the 21 rosters available for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The team skated at the Saddledome on August 26 in its last on-ice session before the 2009 Hockey Canada Cup in Vancouver.

The 18 members of the National Sledge Team had quite a week, going through a stressful selection camp in Milton, Ont., before arriving as a team in Calgary for a camp and to be part of this special week.

After making history in August, Hockey Canada now goes for the ultimate hat trick: three gold medals in Vancouver in February and March 2010. ■

WHAT'S NEW AT HOCKEY CANADA ALUMNI ON TAPE

With **Hockey Canada Foundation** funding in hand, Hockey Canada's communications department undertook a legacy project this past summer to assemble Team Canada alumni video testimonials that will benefit Hockey Canada for years to come.

The alumni testimonials project is aimed at developing content for various Hockey Canada platforms, including its website, editorial use, teams and even for external partners looking to use testimonials from Team Canada alumni. The testimonials will both serve as archival information to recall Canada's international successes and as inspirational messages for our teams and the next generation of Canadian hockey players.

In June, at the 2009 HCF Celebrity Classic, Hockey Canada sat down with various alumni, including Cassie Campbell, Thomas Hickey, Cody Hodgson, Peter Mahovich, Paul Rosen, PK Subban, John Tavares and Ryan Walter. Alumni answered ques-

tions about their Team Canada experiences, their thoughts on skill development and provided advice for the next generation of Team Canada players. The alumni were also happy to work in some 'good luck' video messages for our various programs. Our teams can always take inspiration from the players that have preceded them on the international stage.

The testimonials project continued during the National Men's Team orientation camp, when Hockey Canada sat down with 15 players, all with past international experience, and talked to them about their Team Canada memories as well as skill development.

Getting these testimonials on video will be a lasting legacy for generations to come. Hockey Canada is looking to continue this project with new interviews at the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship in Saskatchewan and at the 2010 HCF gala. ■



HockeyCanada.ca/FOUNDATION



Robyn Regehr accompanied by two veterans of the war in Afghanistan

THE HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION HOSTS A DINNER WITH TEAM CANADA

During the last week of August, Hockey Canada held an orientation camp for 44 National Men's Team hopefuls, competing for berths on Team Canada at the 2010 Olympics and 2009 IIHF World Championship.

Canada's National Sledge Team was also in Calgary for a training camp and our centralized National Women's Team also participated as all three teams continued their preparations for the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

The week marked the first time Canada's three national teams had ever been in the same place at the same time, and it provided the Hockey Canada Foundation with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide Calgarians with a chance to connect with this extraordinary group of athletes.

A sold-out fundraising dinner was held on August 26 at the Sheraton Eau Claire, where more than 300 people had the chance to meet, greet and dine with this elite group of athletes in an informal and private setting. There was an especially large youth contingent in the audience, who were given the opportunity to get up close and personal with their hockey heroes.

The key note speaker for the evening was former Canadian Chief of the Defense General Rick Hillier, who was accompanied by two veterans of the war in Afghanistan. Hillier delivered a specially prepared message for our athletes and assembled patrons as he spoke about sacrifice, leadership and team commitment.

Steve Yzerman addressed the audience at end of the evening, sharing his thoughts about the challenge and expectations bestowed upon our 2010 Olympic hopefuls and how proudly they have embraced the challenge of winning gold on home soil. ■



NEWS FROM THE HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION

SUPPORTING THE HOCKEY CANADA DREAM BY PROMOTING PASSION, PARTICIPATION, AND EXCELLENCE IN OUR GAME

Accessibility and Diversity is one of five principle funding areas of the Hockey Canada Foundation. Specific focus is being placed on addressing the issue of Canada's aging ice hockey infrastructure and lack of new capacity.

According to a 2005 census done by Hockey Canada and the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council, more than 40 per cent of Canada's arenas are well past their life expectancy, while the demand for available ice increases. A number of initiatives have been implemented to deal with this issue – initiatives that would have not moved forward without Hockey Canada and HCF involvement.

One of these initiatives involves a partnership with the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation to construct a third BLEU BLANC BOUGE outdoor community rink in the Montreal borough of Verdun.

The Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation launched the BLEU BLANC BOUGE outdoor community rink program on January 20, 2009, when the first refrigerated outdoor multipurpose community rink was opened in the François-Perrault Park in the Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension borough. A second outdoor rink was initiated for the borough of Montreal Nord. The Verdun arena is to be part of a development project already underway in the Willibrord Park and will be erected in spring 2010.

This arena initiative was launched to provide a better and healthier future for children of less-privileged Montreal neighborhoods and for them to learn about the game of hockey and discover the advantages of a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

A portion of the funds raised at the 2009 Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic will be used to support the completion of this worthwhile project. ■



OUR HOCKEY HERITAGE

THE 1958 WHITBY DUNLOPS

(Excerpted from Dave Holland's *Canada On Ice* – www.canadaonice.ca)

The 1958 Whitby Dunlops were originally from Oshawa, but after its arena burnt down, the team was forced to relocate just down the road in Whitby, east of Toronto. Once he realized the move would be permanent, team manager Wren Blair renamed the team the Whitby Seniors. The Dunlop Rubber Company had just opened a plant in Whitby, and Wren arranged for the club to wear the Dunlop name in exchange for sponsorship.

Blair was determined to get the Whitby Dunlops to the world championship. He applied to the CAHA and, in 1957, with the Allan Cup championship under his belt, his Dunlops were an easy choice. His acceptance of the overseas challenge was not without conditions. Before applying to the CAHA, he had vowed to take all of his players overseas, knowing full well that there would be additions to the team. The team was good enough to win the Allan Cup, but Blair knew it needed help to win the world championship.

Sid Smith was an all-star with the Toronto Maple Leafs, and Connie Broden had a brief stint with the Montreal Canadiens. Jack McKenzie played for the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen in the 1956 Olympics. Recruit Jean-Paul Lamirande would also join the team for the 1959 Worlds. The CAHA only paid for the first 20 members – 17 players and three off-ice personnel. Wren stayed true to his word though, and convinced the Dunlop Company to pay for the additional seven players to make the trip.

At the 1958 IIHF World Championship in Oslo, Norway, the Dunlops had one advantage that other teams did not. It had already played the same Soviet

team that it would face on the last day of the tournament. In late 1957, the Soviets organized a hockey tour of Canada for the first time, playing the first game against the Whitby Dunlops and falling 7-2, despite holding a two-goal lead after 70 seconds.

The first six games of the round-robin tournament were mere formalities for the Dunlops. They posted six lopsided victories, including a 10-2 win over Sweden and a 6-0 thumping of Czechoslovakia the next day. The Dunlops were anxious to renew acquaintances with the Soviet team, which was still smarting from its silver medal finish at the world championships the previous year on home ice in Moscow. It wanted a piece of the 1957 Allan Cup champions.

In its final game, Blair's team showed its nerves and was quickly down by a goal. Canada evened the match in the second period and went up by one goal in the third, before the Soviets quickly tied the game. With only a few minutes left, the Dunlops scored back-to-back goals to seal the victory and capture the world championship.

After Canada returned home, Broden joined the Montreal Canadiens and won the Stanley Cup, becoming the only player to ever win a world championship and NHL title in the same year. In an ironic twist of fate, Bobby Attersley, who scored two goals in the final game, including the game winner, later owned several tire shops that became successful by selling Goodyear tires. ■