



TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009



Introduction

We would like to welcome you to the spring edition of the Team Canada Alumni Association newsletter. We were very pleased with the feedback we received regarding the inaugural edition and have incorporated as much of your input as possible into our second publication. Our goal is to create a communication medium that our alumni can be proud of, by continuously improving our newsletter to best meet the needs of our membership. ■

Dave Draper, Dave Chambers, Greg Hawgood, Rob Domaio,
Mike Murray, Marc Laniel, Hervé Lord Jodi Hull, Todd Nicholson
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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. ■



WWW.HOCKEYCANADA.CA/FOUNDATION



PAT QUINN

SIGN UP NOW AND HELP BUILD A NEW HOCKEY COMMUNITY

During the last year, an energetic group of dedicated alumni have been working behind the scenes with Hockey Canada and the Hockey Canada Foundation to bring Team Canada Alumni Association (TCAA) to life. The launch of the program is now complete and our recruitment drive is well underway. We need your support and participation to help us build momentum and make our new team a winner!

Our first wave of recruitment is focused on engaging a charter membership that embodies our history, reaches across the generations, is geographically diverse, and is representative of all of the teams who have represented Canada on the international stage. By acting now and becoming a charter member, you can take a leadership role and help us establish a solid core membership for this important new hockey community.

Enrolling is easy – it's as simple as contacting our system administrator or an assigned alumni recruiter who will provide you with everything you need to sign up.

Have a question or need assistance? Contact alumni administration at alumniadmin@hockeycanada.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM PAT QUINN

"I am proud to be a charter member of the TCAA. This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us that have had the thrill of representing Canada to connect with not only fellow staff members or teammates but with those that have represented Canada before us." ■

WORKING WITH OUR ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Along with the previously mentioned improvements to our alumni newsletter, we have also spent considerable time and effort over the last two months acting on your feedback regarding the home page of the TCAA website. Initially, we created the site as a database and communications tool, not a conventional web page.

However, based on feedback from alumni who tested our initial design and comments from new members, the alumni advisory group recommended rebuilding the home page to function in a more traditional fashion.

We worked with the communications department at Hockey Canada to create something more user-friendly, which we think will serve you better. The new home page will allow us to add more alumni-specific content and update it on a timely basis. We will be including ongoing articles on our

alumni, events to watch out for, recruitment updates and, of course, our quarterly newsletter.

We have also included a separate section that incorporates key parts of hockeycanada.ca, including a menu that will take you wherever you want to go on the Hockey Canada site.

Thank you for your feedback and keep it coming!

alumni.hockeycanada.ca

Note from the Team Canada Alumni Association advisory group: As you know, websites are living creatures, and this is just the first phase of our development for the Team Canada Alumni Association site. The content and depth will continue to evolve over time. Thank you. ■



Sean Burke & Dave King

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? SEAN BURKE ANSWERING THE CALL

If anyone was to be the poster boy for Team Canada, it just might be Sean Burke. He joined the national team straight out of Junior and has answered the call numerous times since.

When former New Jersey Devils general manager Max McNabb decided a young Burke wasn't ready for NHL action, he felt he would better develop under national team head coach Dave King, instead of back in Junior with the Toronto Marlboros.

"Under Dave and his staff, we trained at an intensely high level," says Burke. "For a young athlete, I became aware of how to push myself and compete against some of the best players in the world."

A lot of Burke's work ethic was shaped by Team Canada. He began to understand that if you wanted to be successful, there was a lot more to it than talent. He learned the value of competing hard every day in practice and taking care of yourself off the ice by being in the best possible shape. His philosophy became an extension of the whole Team Canada philosophy.

Burke played his first full season with the national team in 1986-87, and had his coming-out party at the prestigious Izvestia tournament in the Soviet Union that year, leading Canada to a 3-2 win over the powerful Soviets and helping the Canadians to their only win ever at the tournament.

"It was a surreal, almost an out of body experience, without trying to sound too dramatic," Burke says of the historic win. "Nobody expected us to beat the mighty Russians on their home ice. The coaches had us prepared and conditioned to give ourselves the chance. Once the game started, our con-

fidence grew with every shift. Our guys blocked shots, won puck battles and did everything they could to win that game. The focus was intense and finally the clock just ran out, and we had the victory. I still remind myself from time to time that we beat one of the best teams in the world in their own country, and to this day, I remember the faces on the guys in the dressing room more than anything."

The Windsor, Ont. native says that travelling around the world playing hockey and representing Canada was a great way to grow up. In his new role as director of prospect development for the Phoenix Coyotes, he hopes to pass on a lot of his experience to the young players.

"For me, it has always been about the process," Burke says. "Are you willing to come to the rink everyday and give your best effort? Are you able to put the team ahead of yourself and sometimes go outside of your comfort zone to fill a role the team needs? Do you make the sacrifices in the off-season and off the ice to be prepared and give yourself the chance to be successful? These all sound like pretty simple things to do, but surprisingly, there are so many athletes that aren't willing to fully commit, and this is where talent doesn't always win out."

Burke still sees a number of his ex-teammates from his national team years. A number of them never had NHL careers, but their time spent in hockey helped prepare them for life in the real world.

"The habits that are needed and the pressure situations that an athlete finds themselves involved in will help in anything you do," he says. "This is the stuff I learned under Dave King and is a part of all Team Canada teams." ■



1982 IIHF World Junior Gold Medal

TODD STRUEBY MAKING THE MOVE FROM RED TO BLUE

Todd Strueby first donned the Team Canada jersey at the 1982 IIHF World Junior Championship, the first year of the Program of Excellence. His teammates will likely never forget him, due to one moment.

Canada was facing Czechoslovakia in Rochester, Minnesota, with the gold medal on the line – a win by Canada or a tie would give it gold, while the Czechs could claim the top prize with a victory. The game was originally scheduled for the big rink in Minneapolis, but a scheduling miscue sent the two teams to a 1,500-seat rink in Rochester instead.

“We were very nervous,” Strueby says. “Being Canadian, there was a lot of pressure to win. Of course, everybody is very serious and anxious – it was tense, and it was cold. Somebody brought a black balaclava, I guess to stay warm.”

Ahead of his team’s most important game, Canadian head coach Dave King, known for his intensity, entered the small dressing room.

“We had a lot of respect for him, but were somewhat in awe of him. I was scared of him – with admiration. He’d say something and we’d jump. He’s stressed out; we’re stressed out. So this black balaclava is going around the room, and I grabbed it. We were getting ready to do our pre-game skate and I put this balaclava on and sat in the stall.”

Strueby’s most prominent feature, according to his friends, is his nose.

“King walks in. He sees me, I see him. I’m thinking ‘oh, no,’ but we were kind of laughing about it. He probably thinks we’re screwing around before the

biggest game of our lives. He yells my name, ‘Get that mask off!’ I don’t know why, fear maybe, but I said, ‘Kinger, how did you know it was me?’ It was the first time someone had actually talked back to him. Everybody broke out laughing, of course. It lightened the mood somewhat.”

The Canadians ended up skating to a 3-3 tie that day, enough to wrap up Canada’s first-ever Junior gold.

Not only did that begin the golden tradition that lives on to this day, it began the tradition of Canadian teams singing O Canada on the blue line after winning gold.

“Because it was this tiny little rink in Rochester, they didn’t have a copy of the national anthem,” Strueby says. “So when we were lined up on the blue line, arm-in-arm, we just started singing.”

Hockey was Strueby’s life from when he was six until retired at age 29, a second-round draft pick of the Edmonton Oilers in 1981 with five NHL games under his belt. He currently works for the Regina City Police.

“You don’t see yourself as anything but a hockey player,” he says of life after the game. “It’s a scary step to walk away from hockey. Today, I can’t believe I was a hockey player, now that I’m a policeman. The comparison to policing and being on a hockey team is so close. You’re doing things together – you’re living together, traveling together, you’re relying on each other. Of course, as a policeman, there’s more on the line. You’re dealing with other people’s lives and you’re responsible for that.” ■



Mike Murray, Chris Joseph, Rob Dimaio, Rob Brown, Greg Hawgood, Marc Laniel, Theo Fleury

ALUMNI EVENTS

TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED IN OTTAWA

Members of Canada's 1988 gold medal-winning National Junior Team were on hand at the 2009 IIHF World Junior Championship in Ottawa, where the formation of the Team Canada Alumni Association (TCAA) was officially announced. Ten members of the team, along with assistant coach Dave Chambers and four team officials from the memorable win in the Soviet Union were in attendance. In addition, Hall of Famer Denis Potvin, who represented Canada on three occasions, and three members of Canada's National Sledge Team were on hand.

Hockey Canada president Bob Nicholson, chief financial officer Paul Delparte, executive vice-chair Ken Corbett and Canadian Hockey Foundation

U.S. board member Dave Andrews were also in attendance. Hockey Canada has been instrumental in supporting the formation of the TCAA and sees it as an integral part for embracing and celebrating Canada's great hockey heritage.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Hockey Canada Foundation has worked with Hockey Canada to bring together past gold medal-winning teams at international events hosted in Canada. Plans are now underway to bring together the 1991 National Junior Team at the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship in Saskatchewan. Canada won gold in 1991, the last time the World Juniors were held in Saskatchewan. ■



Andre Ringuette/HOF-IHF Images

2009 National Junior Team

WHAT'S NEW AT HOCKEY CANADA

SEASON OF CHAMPIONS IN THE BOOKS

One year ago, Canada went six-fox-six in world championship gold medal game appearances, taking home three gold medals (IIHF World Junior Championship, IIHF World Under-18 Championship, IPC Sledge Hockey World Championship) and three silver (IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship, IIHF World Women's Championship, IIHF World Championship).

This year Canada made four appearances in gold medal games, taking home gold from the World Juniors in Ottawa and silver medals at the 2009 IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship, 2009 IIHF World Women's Championship and 2009 IIHF World Championship.

Even the teams that didn't play for gold had deep runs in their respective tournaments – the National Men's Under-18 Team lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to the United States in the semifinal before falling in a shootout against Finland in the bronze medal game at the 2009 IIHF World Under-18 Championship, while Canada's National Sledge Team were shootout victims as well, losing 2-1 to the U.S. in semifinal action before rebounding to win bronze at the 2009 IPC Sledge Hockey World Championship. ■

HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS CAMPS REACH COAST TO COAST

Every season, more than 500,000 young Canadians lace up their skates and hit the ice in minor hockey associations from Port Alberni, B.C. to Lake Melville, N.L. But with so many players, just how does Hockey Canada ensure all of them are learning the game and developing their skills?

That's where the Hockey Canada Skills Development Camps come in. Since 1997 Hockey Canada has put on camps from coast to coast, consisting of not only on-ice skill building, working on a player's fundamental skills – skating, passing, stickhandling, shooting – but also on off-ice skill building, working on fitness, respect and teamwork.

During the 2008-09 season Hockey Canada's four regional centres – West, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic – put on 89 camps, with more than 5,600 players in the Atom and Peewee divisions (9-12 years old) taking part. The

camps reached from the big cities – Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto – to the small towns – Kuujuaapik, Que. (pop. 568) and Bedeque, P.E.I. (pop. 139) – and to every region of Canada.

While the camps can't quite reach all of Canada's young players, they have continued to reach more and more every year. The 5,617 participants in 2008-09 were up close to 200 from 2007-08, and registration numbers have risen some 10 per cent annually in the last five years.

If you would like to get involved or if you want more information contact your Hockey Canada branch or check out the Hockey Canada Skills Development Camps section at hockeycanada.ca, under the Minor Hockey heading, and find out the full schedule of camps and download sample drills used at the camps. ■



NEWS FROM THE HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION

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

Accessibility & Diversity is one of five principle funding areas of the Hockey Canada Foundation. Specific focus is placed on supporting continued growth of female and sledge hockey, recruiting new groups to the game and providing underprivileged youth with the chance to play.

Dream Come True, our flagship program at the grassroots level, reaches out to underprivileged youth in communities where an opportunity to play organized hockey with their peers is a dream not a reality. The program also places emphasis on ensuring female players are included and promoting diversity by giving youth who normally might not play an opportunity to be introduced to Canada's game.

The program is unique because it covers all the associated costs related to playing one full year of organized hockey within a recognized minor

hockey program. Participants attend a camp under the direction of Hockey Canada development staff, have their equipment needs provided and registration fees paid in full. Local community partners work with Hockey Canada staff to run the camp, distribute the equipment and find roster spots on local teams for the upcoming season.

The **Dream Come True** program has been delivered in Victoria, Edmonton, Toronto and Halifax to well-deserving youth that are no longer on the outside of the rink looking in. Next year we will once again target Toronto as well as launching the program in Montreal. We are also adding a fourth component to the program – in selected areas that have been especially hard hit by the current economic downturn, we will be paying registration fees to help keep kids who are already in the system playing the game. ■

HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION TO HOST FUNDRAISING DINNER DURING ORIENTATION CAMP

August 26 marks the date that the 2010 Olympic hopefuls will gather in Calgary to help the Hockey Canada Foundation raise funds for its programs. The top men's hockey players, the National Women's Team and the National Sledge Team will be brought together to participate in the orientation camp from August 24 to 28. The fundraising dinner will also be an opportunity for a mix and mingle with the public.

Details are being finalized but the dinner promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to interact with over one hundred of the country's top hockey players and coaches in a social environment.

"The 2009-10 season includes many great opportunities for Hockey Canada, with numerous international events on the horizon for our men's, women's and sledge programs," says Johnny Misley, executive vice-president of hockey operations with Hockey Canada. "With opportunity comes responsibility. As an organization, we are looking to ensure that all of our programs are ready for the challenge that lies ahead. This orientation camp will be crucial in preparing our players and staff for the upcoming season." ■





OUR HOCKEY HERITAGE

FATHER DAVID BAUER

ONE MAN'S DREAM ABOUT A NATIONAL TEAM FOR CANADA

by Terry O'Malley

Late in the summer of 1962, three men – fresh from Junior hockey in Ontario – set out in a Drive Canada car (the car could be driven across the country for free in order to be sold on the west coast) for a cross-Canada trip to begin classes at the University of British Columbia.

The three men – myself, Ken Broderick and Barry MacKenzie – were to be part of the brand-new national hockey team initiative for the 1964 Winter Olympics, the brainchild of Father David Bauer.

For the next year we lived in an abandoned World War II radio centre on the UBC campus that was donated to the team. It was spartan ... it was fun. None of us knew how Father Bauer pulled it all together at the time; how he convinced the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) to let him turn his dream for a national team into reality.

"Looking back, I'm tempted to say it was a giant act of faith," Father Bauer said years later. "It was crazy, and to my horror – in a way – it was accepted by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. We would begin in the fall of 1962 – but we had no uniforms, no ice, no schedule, no base, no money ... we had nothing!"

But Father Bauer found a way to pull it all together, and even had an arena built on the UBC campus, one that later bore his name.

Two years later, we found ourselves on the ice in Innsbruck, Austria, just one victory away from the Olympic gold medal. We didn't win, and settled for fourth place once all the tiebreakers were worked out, but won that elusive Olympic medal four years later in Grenoble, taking home bronze, and captured world championship bronze in 1967 and 1968, proof that there was something to Father Bauer's initiative.

The team did enjoy one moment of glory – winning gold at a tournament celebrating Canada's centennial in January 1967 in Winnipeg, defeating the Soviets in the final game with Prime Minister Lester Pearson in attendance.

To this day, the players on that team swear they were part of the first Canada Cup!

Father Bauer's national team dream developed from his personal background. A gifted athlete, excelling in hockey, football and baseball, Father Bauer's own father guided him towards personal development by sending him to St. Michael's in Toronto with one piece of advice: You may be a hockey player some day, but you will get your education first. You are responsible to God for all of your talents."

At St. Michael's he teamed with future Hall of Famer Ted Lindsay, winning a Memorial Cup as a player after he and Lindsay were picked up by the Oshawa Generals in 1944. After being ordained as a priest in 1953, he returned to St. Michael's and won another Memorial Cup, this time as a head coach in 1961.

Father Bauer had watched his brother – fellow Hall of Famer Bobby Bauer, best known for his time on Boston's fabled Kraut Line – coach the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen to a pair of Olympic silver medals in 1956 and 1960, and decided that Canadian hockey needed a better approach to the international game.

He felt he could do it with players not quite ready for the bright lights of the NHL, but who would be willing to train while taking their university classes. His vision eventually became a full-time national team program centered in Winnipeg. ■