



TEAM CANADA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010



2002 Men's Olympic Team, 2006 Women's Olympic Team, and the 2006 National Sledge Team

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this special Olympic edition of the Team Canada Alumni Association newsletter. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games are upon us, and we are delighted to support our men's, women's, and sledge teams as they head to Vancouver on their quest to win gold by focusing this edition on some of our Olympic history.

All alumni, especially past Olympians, will be collectively joining together with all Canadians to cheer our teams on to win it all on Canadian soil.

We hope you enjoy reading our winter edition; please take a moment to pass it on to your teammates and encourage them to join and help grow our membership. ■

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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 ■



HockeyCanada.ca/FOUNDATION



2009 Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic in Montreal

2010 ALUMNI COMMUNICATION UPDATES

The TCAA advisory group is looking for ways to expand communications to registered alumni as well as identifying new ways to reach out to other alumni to encourage them to join our team.

We continue to build our communication program, having just published our fourth quarterly newsletter and continuing to provide regular news updates on the TCAA web site. We have also provided new offerings, like Hockey Canada's National Junior Team media guide, which was distributed to alumni just prior to the start of this year's World Juniors.

The advisory group has drafted a preliminary communication plan for the remainder of 2010 and will continue to work on developing a longer term strategy for TCAA communications. In keeping with our objective of engaging our membership as we continue to build our suite of alumni services please take the opportunity to review our draft list and provide us with your feedback.

January – mail out Olympic media guide CD

February – Winter 2010 newsletter

March – email Olympic results update

April – email update on upcoming IIHF World Championship events

May – Spring 2010 newsletter

June – email update on upcoming alumni events

July – email update on Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic in Edmonton

August – Summer 2010 newsletter

September – email overview of 2010-11 Hockey Canada events/tournaments

October – email update from alumni summer events held in Calgary and Ottawa

November – Fall 2010 newsletter

December – mail out National Junior Team media guide CD

Please contact Norm Dueck, our alumni administrator @ ndueck@hockeycanada.ca if you would like to comment or if you have any suggestions that could potentially improve the above list. ■



FROM THE TCAA CHAIRMAN

Welcome to your Team Canada Alumni Association (TCAA) 2010 Winter newsletter. As the Olympic Torch passed through Calgary on the way to Vancouver it certainly brought back many great memories for me from playing in the 1988 Winter Olympics.

In this issue we have a great story of two-time Olympian Dr. Randy Gregg, who was a teammate of mine in 1988. Vancouver will be of special interest to Randy as two of his children are competing in their first Olympics as speed skaters. Another alumni feature focuses on 2002 and 2006 women's Olympic gold medalist Cheryl Pounder.

If you haven't had a chance, please visit the website to read previous newsletters that offer great stories and pictures of alumni. Your feedback is very important to us as we grow, so please pass along any suggestions you may have for content on our website, newsletters, or other types of communication you would like to see. It still is a work in progress and your input is very important to us!

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of your TCAA newsletter.

Thank you!

Gord Sherven

Chair, TCAA Advisory Committee ■

FROM NORM DUECK, ALUMNI ADMINISTRATION

Our list of registered alumni is growing and will continue to do so with your help. Please keep sending us your fellow alumni contact information and we will get in touch, or pass on my e-mail (ndueck@hockeycanada.ca) and have them contact me directly for registration information.

We look forward to providing more information and services to our alumni as we grow. If you have any stories, photos, or video that you would like to send us we will have it posted on the alumni website. ■



Father David Bauer and Randy Gregg

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

GREGG FAMILY CONTINUES OLYMPIC TRADITION

At the beginning, his goal was to play varsity hockey. Then Randy Gregg's career became more like a made for TV movie, playing at two Winter Olympics and winning five Stanley Cups. But it was a sixth-place finish at the Lake Placid Games that became the best experience of his life.

It was his last year of medical school. His team, the University of Alberta Golden Bears, was at the CIAU national championship in Moncton, N.B. Not long after, he was identified as a candidate for the Olympic team with three of his teammates and ultimately became the team's captain. He actually rejected a contract with the New York Rangers to join the national team.

While the 1980 Lake Placid Games were most remembered for the U.S. team's gold medal and the Miracle on Ice, working with Father David Bauer was what Gregg fondly recalls the most.

The U of A group still had girlfriends in Edmonton. In a room at the ATCO trailer, where they were housed in Calgary, the four planned to sneak up to Edmonton after practice, party with the girls, and drive back in time for the morning skate.

"Sure enough, we drove up, had a bit of a party, but there was a bad storm. We got back in time for practice, got on with things and enjoyed the Olympic experience."

A year later, when Gregg was playing in Tokyo, he and Father Bauer went to lunch.

"About halfway through, he asked me how the party in Edmonton was," Gregg remembers. When

I asked him how he knew, he said he had been in the next room when we had planned the trip, and had overheard everything."

When Gregg asked Father Bauer why he had not stopped his players from leaving, the national team founder replied that if he made all the decisions for his players, they would never be able to grow into the great leaders and men that he hoped to make in his Olympic program.

"That's why a sixth-place finish in the Olympic Games was more important than any other experience in my sporting life," Gregg says. "He wanted to win just like everyone else, but he realized there were much more important aspects to the sport than simply winning games."

In 1987, Gregg was mulling retirement from his NHL career and applied to go into orthopedic residency.

"On Monday, the orthopedic residency chairman phoned and told me I was one of three picked out of a group of 300. That Wednesday, when IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch made the decision that former professional players could go back and play in the Olympic Games, beginning in '88 in Calgary, I thought I'd try to give it one more chance."

Gregg didn't think any situation could be as fantastic as Lake Placid, but Calgary was still a great experience, because it was the Olympics, and it was at home.

We were training in Grindelwald, Switzerland, a few months before the Games," Gregg recalls.

"We all thought it would be a nice, relaxing time, but we ended up with two two-hour practices a day. The fortunate thing, we used to joke, was in the first practice, I was hit by Ken Berry behind the net. I kind of twisted my knee on the way down, and pulled the cartilage. I got to miss the two-a-day practices."

After the Games, Gregg went back to the NHL, retiring after the 1991-92 season. As much as he would have loved orthopedics, because surgeons are often on call through the night, he wanted to set himself up in a practice that allowed him to spend more time with his family. Today, he is a general practitioner with an interest in muscular medicine. Gregg has also written seven books on hockey practice techniques and drills.

But his story doesn't end there. His wife Cathy was an Olympic speed skater, and two of his children, Jamie and Jessica, have followed their mother's path and qualified for the 2010 Vancouver Games.

Jamie made an unprecedented move after winning his first medal in the World Cup circuit. He gave up his spot in a World Cup 500-metre race to allow veteran speed skater Jeremy Wotherspoon, who was on the bubble, the chance to compete, thus risking his own qualifying in the process.

"The head of the Dutch Speedskating Federation was asked what they thought of Jamie giving up his spot," Gregg says. "He said, 'I can't say because it's never happened before.'"

The gesture made Gregg and his wife extremely proud. ■



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? DOUBLE GOLD MEDALIST WILL BE IN VANCOUVER SUPPORTING HER FORMER TEAM

Being in the moment takes preparation and belief in what you do. That is a life lesson that playing on Canada's National Women's Team has taught Cheryl Pounder, which she instills into everything she does outside of hockey.

The game's roots run deep in her family. Her grandfather was the general manager of the Montreal Junior Canadiens and her siblings played hockey.

Pounder was young when she first made the national team, three months shy of her 17th birthday, the second youngest player to ever wear the maple leaf. She had been playing at the 1993 National Women's Under-18 Championship in Montreal and had just shifted from forward to defense.

"I had a pretty strong tournament. It just so happened the national team coach, Les Lawton, was in the stands," Pounder recalls. "It was about a week after the tournament that I received a phone call to attend my first national selection camp. There had been an injury and he had just seen me play. I had a good camp and made the team."

Pounder made her debut at the 1994 IIHF World Women's Championship, helping Canada to its third-consecutive gold medal.

But four years later, with the first women's Olympic hockey tournament on the horizon, Pounder was left on the outside looking in, and returned to the university game at Wilfrid Laurier University.

"It was devastating," she says of being cut. "I think for the first little bit you wallow in your own sorrows. Then at some point, you have to make a choice on how to put yourself out there and get over the fear of having it happen again, and really ask yourself some questions about what you need to do as a player."

Compounding that season was the fact her mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

But in Pounder's mind, complacency doesn't get it done. Regardless of who you are or what you're doing, you always have to try to take your game to the next level. And on the national team, there is always someone ready to take your place.

Pounder worked with her coach to identify weaknesses in her game and build her strengths. In hindsight, she considered being cut a great learning experience. It made her a better hockey player.

The demands of the national team program today are much greater than when she first made the team. A lot of athletes need to have part-time jobs and live with their parents, and she was no exception.

"I came home from university for my first Olympics and thank God my parents still had my room in order for me," Pounder says of the lead up to the 2002 Games. "That's just the way it was. You had to rely on that support. I was lucky I had a fabulous employer that let me work as I needed to. As the year went on and the Games got closer, the commitment to the training, the commitment to the travel is great and doesn't really allow for a lot of other things."

The Salt Lake City gold medal game in 2002 is one she will never forget, although she doesn't actually remember any of the shifts she played. It was more about the entire experience.

"To me, that game was one of the highlights of my career – being able to overcome the adversity in that game, in that year, stick together as a team and come out on top," she says of Canada's first Olympic gold in women's hockey. "There is no greater feeling than standing on the blue line with my teammates crying after overcoming all of

that. Sure we all know about losing and doubting, then you end up overcoming all the obstacles. It kind of showed the passion and love we all have for the game."

Outside of the 2002 gold, the IIHF World Women's Championships in Mississauga, Ont. in 2000 and Halifax, N.S. in 2004 were two of Pounder's favourite moments in the red and white.

"I remember in Halifax having to control my emotions because my hair was actually standing on end because of the energy you could feel in the building," she says.

Pounder does part-time work in addition to being a motivational speaker, where her presentations focus on leadership and the process of the journey rather than the end result. Pounder and former teammate Becky Kellar also have a hockey school in the summer.

"For us, we never had an all-girls hockey school to go to, so this is a great opportunity for us to give back."

She will be in Vancouver for the 2010 Olympics supporting her former teammates. She's seven months pregnant with her second child.

"I'm hoping I don't deliver during the final game. That would be a great story, wouldn't it?" Pounder delivers baby on the 25th of February when her teammates and friends win an Olympic gold medal."

Her career has taken her to gold medal performances in two Olympic Games and four world championships. Overall, Pounder says being on the national team is a lot of hard work, but there is nowhere you'd rather be when you're there.

"I'm a firm believer you have to love the pressure," she says. "That's why we play." ■



Top row: Dick Todd, Trevor Kidd, Steven Rice, Mike Needham, Mike Sillinger, Jeff Thomas, Karl Dykhuis
Front row: Stew Malgunas, Jason Herter, Mike Murray, Dave Chyzowski, Chris Snell, Pat Falloon, Scott Thornton

ALUMNI EVENTS

REUNION IN SASKATOON FOR CANADA'S 1990 AND 1991 NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAMS

The first Canadian teams to win back-to-back gold medals at the IIHF World Junior Championship, Canada's 1990 and 1991 National Junior Teams were recently honoured in Saskatoon at the 2010 World Juniors.

A welcoming reception kicked off the festivities for the alumni on hand, which included 1990 assistant coach and 1991 head coach Dick Todd, 1990 public relations manager Mike Murray, 1991 trainer Jeff Thomas, 1990 players Mike Needham, Dave Chyzowski, Stewart Malgunas, and Jason Herter, as well as 1991 players Scott Thornton, Mike Sillinger, Pat Falloon, Karl Dykhuis, and Chris Snell. Trevor Kidd and Steven Rice, who played on both the 1990 and 1991 teams, were also in attendance.

It was a chance for alumni to catch up with their teammates, many of whom hadn't seen each other since winning gold two decades ago. Besides participating in a press conference, mixer with the 2010 WJC and a brunch attended by 500 people, the group also watched Canada face the United States in a New Year's Eve thriller.

Todd was reminded how great a feeling it was, appreciating the time and commitment of the players, and what had evolved for their efforts.

"In regards to the 1990 and 1991 gold medals that those teams won, I look back and feel a great sense of pride that we were able to scrape through with victories," he said. "Watching this year's New Year's Eve game brought back memo-

ries of how close the competition was and how all things have to go right in order to win."

Needham was impressed by the event.

"The experience was more than expected, and I certainly left Saskatchewan with a more profound sense of pride in our 1990 team's accomplishment," he said. "It was an honour to have played for my country and to be a Hockey Canada alumnus."

This year's reunion continues the TCAA's tradition of honoring Canada's hockey heritage by bringing back past gold medal-winning teams from major international championships and adding to the growing list of Team Canada Alumni Association members. ■



Luc Robitaille and Bob Nicholson

ALUMNI EVENTS

CONNECTING WITH LUC & FRIENDS IN THE LOS ANGELES HOCKEY COMMUNITY

When in Los Angeles, there is no greater ambassador for Canadian hockey than NHL Hall of Famer, Luc Robitaille. President of business operations for the Kings, Robitaille was the guest of honour when Hockey Canada recognized his illustrious career on December 3 during a nationally-broadcast game between the Kings and the Ottawa Senators.

This event was all about the Canadian connection and an invitation to special guests to enjoy a night of hockey and hospitality. Hockey Canada president/CEO Bob Nicholson, Canadian Hockey Foundation U.S. board mem-

ber Bill Comrie and Chris Bright of the Team Canada Alumni Association were joined by special guests including David Fransen, the Consul General of Canada in Los Angeles, and Canadian members of the Hollywood scene. Other attendees included Creative Artist Agency's Pat Brisson and current Kings, and Hockey Canada alumni, Ryan Smyth, Sean O'Donnell, Jarret Stoll, Justin Williams, Wayne Simmonds and Drew Doughty.

Nicholson presented Robitaille with a gift - a collage of highlighted moments from his career, including the 1991 Canada Cup, 1994 IIHF World

Championship, 2002 Stanley Cup Final and his November induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

"He's doing amazing things for hockey; people love him," said Nicholson.

"Connecting in Los Angeles with Luc, the Kings and the Canadian community is a valuable initiative of the Hockey Canada Foundation," said Bright. "The large Canadian population in Southern California has a genuine connection to our great game and we want people to stay connected. The friendship that we've developed with the Consulate is one that will help us grow this great game in another market." ■



The captains of Team Canada; Hayley Wickenheiser (Women's Olympic Team) Jean Labonté (National Sledge Team), and Scott Niedermayer (Men's Olympic Team)

WHAT'S NEW AT HOCKEY CANADA THE COUNTDOWN IS ON CANADA'S NATIONAL TEAMS GET READY FOR VANCOUVER

by Kristen Odland

There are lofty, yet similar, goals set for the national men's, women's, and sledge hockey teams at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. And one of the biggest tests for all three will be fulfilling the nation's expectations on Canadian soil.

But embracing the challenge is something all three teams also have in common.

"There's two ways of looking at it," reasons Mike Babcock, head coach of the Men's Olympic Team. "There's going to be pressure, without any question. But I think the pressure is going to be a great thing and obviously, give us impetuous to play as well as we possibly can. The other thing, that I'm a big believer in, is knowledge defeats fear."

Jeff Snyder, head coach of the National Sledge Team, is preparing his team to face its share of distractions. With the Paralympic Games also being held in Vancouver, the team will draw larger crowds and more media attention than usual as Canada begins defence of its 2006 gold medal.

"We know Canada is a great hockey nation," says Snyder. "We'll have great fan support and it's going to be loud in the arena. We have to deal with that too because we don't always play in front of large crowds so that will be different for us."

Twenty-nine players attended the sledge team's August selection camp, which got the roster down to 18, and the final 15-player roster was named in early January.

For the men's team, August's four-day orientation camp in Calgary set the tone and built a foundation for the team, which was announced Dec. 30.

"I don't think they made it any easier on anyone during (the orientation camp), I can tell you that," says Babcock, whose Canadian team will attempt

to re-establish itself after a seventh-place finish at the 2006 Olympics in Turin. "Obviously, to have success we're going to have to rely on our depth. So it's going to be really important to make those decisions throughout the line-up. That'll be an ongoing process."

The next time the Canadian crew will get together is Feb. 15, for its one practice before the Olympic tournament.

"The real evaluation is based on their body of work," says Babcock. "What they've done in the Stanley Cup playoffs, what they've done at world championships and what they're going to do for the next three months."

"You were always evaluating players anyway. You'll just watch some guys with a little more interest."

The Canadian National Women's Team operates a bit differently.

As part of centralization in Calgary, it embarked on a 50+-game schedule to prepare for the Olympics. The games included the Hockey Canada Cup in Vancouver in early September, where the team took home silver, the 4 Nations Cup in Finland in early November, where Canada was golden, and a number of games against Alberta Midget AAA boys teams.

While there are certain deadlines — for example, Feb. 13, when Canada begins defence of its 2006 gold medal with its first clash against Slovakia in Vancouver — Davidson knows the group is under pressure every day.

"We have to create an environment here where people can play," she adds. "We don't want people that say, 'When I make the team, I'll be able to perform.' We want people that can perform every day, regardless of the situation they're under." ■



Gillian Ferrari, Vicky Sunohara, Dan O'Neill, Gillian Apps, and Jayna Hefford

NEWS FROM THE HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION

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

Athlete and Alumni Support is one of five principle funding areas of the Hockey Canada Foundation. Specific focus is placed on providing ongoing assistance to our amateur players to help them prepare to represent Canada in international competition.

The spirit of generosity continues to benefit Canada's National Women's Team program due to the unwavering support of some of its biggest fans.

The team has never had a more devoted supporter than Dan O'Neill. After leaving his post at Molson, where he played an instrumental role in providing corporate support to the team, he and his family stepped forward with a \$500,000 gift to establish a fund to provide financial support to the women's players who represent Canada at major international events. The special fund has provide support beginning at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games and has continued over the past five years leading up to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

Another group led by Pat McEleney at Molson and Tom Bitove, chair of the Hockey Canada Foundation, has provided like minded corporate support. In 2007 they played influential roles in the launch of the TELUS Going "Fore" Gold Classic in support of the National Women's Team. Held at the spectacular Redtail Golf Course in St. Thomas, Ont., this exclusive corporate event continued through 2008 and 2009. A total of \$260,000 was raised during the three years of the tournament with the current crop of NWT player's receiving the great news at a private barbeque in Calgary this past fall.

It is clear that these two extraordinary gifts have helped level the playing field and made sure our players were not at a disadvantage because they lacked the resources needed to compete with the United States and other countries at the upcoming 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. ■

EDMONTON TO HOST 2010 HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION CELEBRITY CLASSIC

Entering its seventh year, the Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic is scheduled for Edmonton on June 28-29. The 2010 gala fundraiser and golf tournament follows the hugely successful 2009 celebration - A Salute to the Habs - which was held in Montreal last June. The 2010 event is even more highly anticipated because of the potential celebration of three Olympic gold medals won in Vancouver on Canadian ice.

This annual event brings together Hockey Canada's gold medal-winning international teams and distinguished Team Canada alumni to help raise funds to support the work of the Hockey Canada Foundation. Our flagship fundraising effort has raised over \$2.2 million since the inaugural event was held in Toronto in 2004.

Each year this exciting gathering of the Hockey Canada family also provides us with an opportunity to recognize outstanding individual contributions that have been made to Hockey Canada and our great game. Past honorees include Yvan Cournoyer and Serge Savard (Montreal in 2009); Bill Hay and the late Ed Chynoweth (Calgary in 2008) and Harley Hotchkiss and the late Doc Seaman (Calgary in 2007). This tradition will continue in Edmonton with a formal announcement to follow shortly regarding the 2010 honorees.

The event also provides an opportunity to create awareness about the work the HCF is doing on behalf of our game. The HCF works directly with the Hockey Canada team on programs that have an especially meaningful impact upon participants. From time to time we partner with other organizations, most recently with the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation and their BLEU BLANC BOUGE program to help build a new rink in Verdun, Que.

Approximately 800 people are expected to attend the gala celebration, which will be held at Rexall Place on Monday, June 28. The following day our event sponsors and other supporters will join Team Canada players to play a fast-paced, fun round of golf at two of Edmonton's exclusive courses. ■



OUR HOCKEY HERITAGE 1948 RCAF FLYERS

The Trip

While boarding the Queen Elizabeth in New York, LAC Roy Forbes, former bombardier, summed up a nation's joy and sorrow in sailing the Atlantic when he commented, "This is a bit different than the last time I crossed on the Lizzie - I was lugging a kit bag then."

Canada's Games

Because of the late assembly of the final RCAF team, the relatively poor exhibition results, and the huge AAU/AHA controversy, Canada entered these Olympics quietly and not as the runaway favorite expected once again to romp to victory.

The team played all of its games outdoors, and this caused havoc on a couple of occasions when snowstorms almost forced the cancellation of matches already under way. The refereeing was particularly European-partisan, and the penalties against Canada became a running joke for both the Canadians and their opposition.

The final game of the tournament, a 3-0 Canadian victory over the home-town Swiss side, was genuinely farcical, especially considering that it was the game that decided the gold medal. During the last two periods, when it became clear the Swiss were outclassed and on their way to losing, the crowd hurled snowballs at the Canadian skaters. The officiating was so biased it led the Flyers' trainer, Cpl George McFaul, to comment, "We played eight men - the Swiss players and the referees - and still beat 'em!"

When the final bell was rung, the Canadians leapt onto the ice en masse and posed for a team picture at centre ice. They then ascended the podium

where they were given their gold medals by Marcel Heninger, chairman of the Swiss Olympic Committee. Going to the dressing room, the Flyers blew kisses to the crowd. One player found a Union Jack and hooked it onto his stick while he walked, and once in the room the players demanded a speech from Coach Boucher, who gallantly complied: "Fellows," he began, "I am proud of you. I want to thank you all, and that goes for the boys who didn't play. You're a great gang, and I knew you'd do it." Wally Halder was hailed as the best forward in Canada, and special accolades went to goalie Murray Dowey, the last-second replacement, who recorded a remarkable five shutouts in eight games. Early in the tournament, he played a stretch of 226:07 without allowing a goal, and he finished with more than 196 minutes of shutout hockey.

For Whom the Bells Toll

On February 10, two days after the final game, Flying Officer Hubert Brooks of the Canadian team married his sweetheart of four years, Birthe Grontved of Denmark, at a ceremony in a small church in St. Moritz attended by the whole team. The bridesmaid was none other than Canadian Olympic figure-skating champion and gold medalist Barbara Ann Scott. Brooks, who toured with the Flyers but did not play in the Olympics, met his wife-to-be while he was a member of the missing person's research team in Europe during the war. He was one of five men on the Flyers to have received the Military Cross, awarded after his escape from a German prisoner-of-war camp, but the greatest honour of all was to have his teammates at his wedding.

Excerpts from Canada's Olympic Hockey History, 1920-2010 by Andrew Podnieks (Fenn Publishing) ■