

Team Canada Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2010-11



2011 National Junior Team

Message from Gord Sherven

CHAIR OF THE TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To Our Team Canada Alumni

A Canadian Christmas tradition is upon us once again, with the 2011 IIHF World Junior Championship kicking off on Boxing Day in Buffalo, NY with Canada taking on Russia. Canada will be looking to winning the Gold Medal after losing the final last year to the American's.

The Program of Excellence has truly been one of the most successful stories in sport since its inception in 1981. Not to be forgotten, the players that represented Canada at the World Juniors between 1974 and 1981 laid the foundation for the program's successful run.

Players playing in this year's tournament grew up watching this event. They are so proud to finally live one of their dreams, to go after a gold medal.

On behalf of Hockey Canada and the Team Canada Alumni Association, we would like to acknowledge all of the Alumni that are the foundation of this program. I know you will watch this year's IIHF World Junior Championship on TSN or RDS, or listen on the Fan Radio Network, and I am sure that it will bring back many many memorable moments for you.

Please find enclosed a copy of this year's media guide on a CD that also includes information and background on the Team Canada Alumni Association. (CD emailed only to those we have mailing addresses for.)

Team Canada Alumni Association

The Team Canada Alumni Association was founded to help connect alumni with former teammates and offer alumni opportunities to help Hockey Canada grow the game and make the best sport in the World accessible to all Canadians. *If you have not already registered (no cost) please contact Norm Dueck at ndueck@hockeycanada.ca who oversees the alumni association's activities. We want to be sure that we have updated email addresses, mailing addresses, and phone numbers of all of our Alumni, so invites can be sent for future Alumni events across the country!*

To you and all of your family, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Go Canada Go!!

Gord Sherven, Chair, Team Canada Alumni Association ■

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 within a spirit of teamwork, inclusion, integrity, and service. ■

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Karpan Recounts Olympic Memories



Vaughn Karpan is probably the only amateur player in Canada who played for three future national team coaches and NHL coaches – he was fortunate enough to learn the game from Wayne Fleming, Dave King and Andy Murray.

The 48-year-old native of The Pas, Man., who played for Team Canada in the 1984 and 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo and Calgary, Alta., still has countless good memories of his playing days and, of course, the white cowboy hat he wore at the 1988 opening ceremonies in Calgary.

In comparing the two Olympic Games, Calgary was particularly special to Karpan. “The opening ceremonies of the Olympics are pretty special, particularly when you’re the host country,” he said.

“For me, the Olympics were about the journey there, not the two weeks,” he added. “It was surviving day-to-day, week-to-week over a period of three years and never having a guarantee.

“I just wasn’t one of those guys who could get comfortable. The Olympic movement was typically a four- or eight-year process to get to your moment in the Olympic Games.”

But times have changed, Karpan said. “There were a lot less teams in the NHL, there were no Eastern European players in the NHL and the commitment to being in the Olympics wasn’t there from the NHL, so it was a real opportunity for fringe NHL players to continue to develop at a high level.”

Chris Felix, Trent Yawney and Karpan himself were the only players to commit three years (1985-1988) to the national program before the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. The core of the team started training together for a full two years before representing their country on home ice Calgary.

“We had a special bond that you don’t see often within any organization,” Karpan said. “As hard as the training and travelling was, we always had fun, both on and off the ice.”

During the 1986 - 87 season, “we played 24 games in 40 nights in 20 different places,” he said. “It was tough. There were no guarantees that you’d be on the team from one day to the next and it made you stronger.”

Karpan claims he was, “without a doubt, the least talented player on both

(Olympic) teams.

“But I ran into a guy, (head coach) Dave King, who saw the strengths in my game and I guess I was smart enough to figure out what he wanted and it was important enough for me to be part of that team that I did it,” he explains.

“I was a penalty-killer and a checker, usually against one of the other team’s top two lines. That was my role and I did it to the best of my ability,” Karpan said. “I wasn’t so impressed with myself to think that I was anything different than what the coach thought, and that (playing a role) is part of being on a team.”

Karpan was often called upon to play against the famous KLM Line (Krutov, Larionov and Makarov) of the Russian national team. During the 1987- 88 season, he played a key role in the Izvestia gold medal win by shutting down that line, resulting in a 3-2 win in Moscow.

Karpan now lives near Vancouver, B.C., with his wife Marjorie and sons Nicholas, 20, and William, 12. He was the director of amateur scouting for the Winnipeg Jets and Phoenix Coyotes for 13 years before moving on to amateur scout for the Montreal Canadiens for five years. The 2009 -10 season saw him move into a new role with the Canadiens, as a professional scout.

The game has changed immensely over the years and Karpan is starting to see a reversal from the defensive style at the NHL level over the previous 10-15 years to one where the best teams are moving back to a skill game.

“The best teams today are winning because of their focus on skill (puck movement) and speed,” Karpan said. “Teams are more aggressive without the puck. They want the puck instead of playing a trap.”

Karpan credits all of his success in the game to his start at the University of Manitoba.

“Truthfully, I really wasn’t going to have much of a career in hockey if I hadn’t gone to the U of M. I never would have been a national team player,” said Karpan, who earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. “Wayne Fleming (former Bisons head coach) deserves all the credit in the world. He was a guy that saw the positives in me as a player and was a person who gave me every opportunity to grow.” ■

Béliveau Receives Olympic Ring During Montreal Fundraiser



It was an evening fit for a legend at the Mount Stephen Club in Montreal on December 14 as alumni of Team Canada and the Montreal Canadiens came together for a fundraising dinner to honour one of the game's all-time greats – Hockey Hall of Famer Jean Béliveau.

Béliveau has been a part of the fabric of Canada's game for more than half a century, winning a remarkable 17 Stanley Cup championships with the Canadiens – 10 as a player during an 18-year playing career, and seven more as an executive.

The dinner, which raised money for Hockey Canada Foundation initiatives in support of grassroots hockey, as well as the Jean Béliveau Foundation in its support of the Quebec Society for Disabled Children, was highlighted by the presentation of Béliveau's Olympic ring by Hockey Canada president and CEO Bob Nicholson.

Béliveau was named honorary captain of Canada's 2010 Men's Olympic Team during the Hockey Canada Foundation gala and golf tournament in Montreal in June 2009, but health problems kept him from being in Vancouver to be a part of the excitement.

"I had promised myself that I would spend the entire ten days with the players,"

Béliveau told RDS prior to the dinner. "I would have loved to go, but my condition was too serious."

Instead of being part of the celebration of two Canadian hockey Olympic gold medals, Béliveau settled for having his Olympic moment in front of friends and peers that included Réjean Houle, Vincent Damphousse, Stéphane Richer, Serge Savard, Yvan Cournoyer, Guy Lafleur, Henri Richard, Stan Mikita and Dick Irvin.

Like tens of millions of his countrymen, Béliveau watched on television as Sidney Crosby capped off a successful Olympic Winter Games with his thrilling overtime goal against the United States, giving Canada a 3-2 win and the gold medal.

"When Sidney scored, I was extremely happy for him and for Canada," Béliveau said. "These are historic goals that enable an entire population as well as the players to emerge victorious from the competition."

A 10-time Stanley Cup champion as a player, Béliveau retired in 1971, one year before the historic Summit Series between Canada and the Soviet Union, which marked the first time professionals had the chance to play for their country.

Special thanks to Hockey Canada Foundation board members Barry Lorenzetti and Dan O'Neill, who assisted greatly in the organization of the event. ■

Andrews Joins Who's Who Of Hockey as Patrick Trophy Recipient

by Jason La Rose



Wayne Gretzky. Gordie Howe. Mario Lemieux. Steve Yzerman. Bobby Orr. David Andrews.

While Andrews may, at first glance, seem like the odd person out when mentioned alongside the Hockey Hall of Famers listed in the paragraph above, he joined their exclusive club in late October when he was one of four recipients of the Lester Patrick Trophy.

First awarded in 1966, the award recognizes outstanding contribution to ice hockey in the United States. Andrews joined Hockey Hall of Famer Cam Neely and legendary NCAA coaches Jack Parker and Jerry York as the 2010 recipients.

"My initial reaction was to be tremendously honoured," says Andrews, who was told by NHL commissioner Gary Bettman while on vacation in August that he was one of this year's honourees. "But on further reflection, I felt somewhat embarrassed to be recognized with an award that had been previously bestowed on so many of the legends of hockey."

Since 1994, Andrews has served as president and CEO of the American Hockey League, helping that league through a period of unprecedented growth – attendance has risen to more than six million annually, an all-time high of 30 teams are on the ice this season, the AHL's 75th, and the league has aided in the development of more than 85 per cent of NHLers.

Always humble, the Nova Scotia native believes it was not his accomplishments, but those of the league, that allowed him to be recognized.

"I think it was really a recognition of the American Hockey League for what we have achieved over the past fifteen years or so in growing the game in the United

States," Andrews says. "The work that our 26 U.S.-based clubs do in developing facilities for hockey and in working with youth hockey in their cities, our significant role in developing players, coaches and officials at the professional level, and growing the fan base for the sport are all factors that I believe the hockey world has come to recognize and respect."

Despite spending the last decade-and-a-half working in the United States, Andrews has remained closely connected with the Canadian game, in particular Hockey Canada – he sits on the board of the Hockey Canada Foundation, and played an integral role in the creation of the Team Canada Alumni Association in 2008.

Early in his career, Andrews worked with Hockey Canada's Hockey Development Council, and served as the first head coach of Canada's National Men's Under-18 Team when the program was created in 1982. It was at that first U18 camp, in Winnipeg, that a pair of future Olympic gold medalists, Lemieux and Yzerman, got their first taste of Team Canada.

But arguably his greatest contribution came in the late 1970s, when as a hockey development coordinator with the British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association (now BC Hockey) he hired a young Bob Nicholson, currently the president and CEO of Hockey Canada, to be his assistant.

Andrews was honoured that Nicholson made the trip to Boston to be a part of the awards ceremony.

"A class move by a great friend," he says. ■

A Holiday Tradition: For Serge Aubin, The Spengler Cup Is A Can't Miss Christmas Event That Brings His Team Canada Family Together

by Kristen Lipscombe



2007 - Serge Aubin

It's not your typical Christmastime tradition.

Yet for Serge Aubin, making the trek to Davos, Switzerland, every December to represent his home country in the Spengler Cup helps make the holiday season complete.

For Aubin and his teammates, most scattered across Europe playing professional hockey far from their Canadian hometowns, coming together every year to play for the National Men's Team at the historical tournament is truly a family reunion.

"It's a great time together with a bunch of Canadians," the 35-year-old Val-d'Or, Que., native said. "We go there, play hockey and enjoy Christmas together."

Aubin, currently playing for HC Fribourg-Gottéron of the Swiss National League A, has developed quite the extended family as a result of returning to the Spengler Cup for the past four seasons, as the Canadian players often bring their loved ones along for the holiday fun.

"The kids are so used to going there," Aubin said of his own children, 10-year-old Justine, nine-year-old Charles and seven-year-old Benoit, who accompany him and wife Nathalie to the event. "We have such a great family time."

The Aubin children always make a special request for Santa Claus "to come by and see us a couple of days early" in Fribourg, Switzerland before the family makes the three-hour drive to Davos to be with the team.

Once the Team Canada families arrive, the celebration continues, with a Christmas dinner and a visit from the bearded man himself (conveniently wearing team colours) on December 25, an outdoor family skating party when players

have a day off and a New Year's Eve party on January 31.

"Obviously, when we win, the party gets a little louder," Aubin said with a laugh. And going for gold on behalf of Canada, of course, is what brings the players together in the first place.

"When we're at the rink, it's all about business," Aubin said. "As soon as we wear that Canadian jersey ... we want to win."

Not only will the talented centre be hitting the ice for a fifth straight year at the oldest invitational tournament in the world, but the 2010 Spengler Cup will also be his fourth time captaining the Canadian contingent.

"I take a lot of pride (in having) the responsibility of wearing the 'C'," Aubin said. "But I feel like I'm just one of the guys and I'm just trying to help."

So what does this leader think Canada's National Men's Team needs to do in order to improve upon last year's fourth-place finish, and snag Canada's 12th gold at the Spengler Cup?

Ideally, Team Canada will win its first two games and earn a bye for "one less game to reach the final" and to avoid "five games in five nights, which is ... really tough physically and mentally," Aubin said.

With some eager new members being welcomed to his hockey family, and some familiar faces from Spengler Cups past, Aubin is confident the Canadians will click on the ice.

Most importantly, he said, "the key, for us, is going to be to go out and do what we do best and just play the game we love." ■



Canada's National Junior Team – Fast Facts



2006 - Jonathan Toews

Did you know that the WHL's Regina Pats have had the most players (20) on Canada's National Junior Team since the inception of the Program of Excellence in 1982?

- 20 – Regina Pats (WHL)
- 17 – Ottawa (OHL)
- 16 – Medicine Hat (WHL)
- 14 – Kamloops (WHL), Guelph (OHL), London (OHL)
- 13 – Peterborough (OHL)

At the 2011 IIHF World Junior Championship, Ryan Ellis (Freelton, Ont./Windsor, OHL) become only the seventh player in Canada's National Junior Team history to play in three IIHF World Junior Championships, joining:

- Eric Lindros (1990-92)
- Trevor Kidd (1990-92)
- Martin Lapointe (1991-93)
- Jason Botterill (1994-96)
- Jay Bouwmeester (2000-2002)
- Jason Spezza (2000-2002)

Canada has three gold medals in four U.S.-hosted IIHF World Junior Championships (2005, 1996, 1982). Canada finished in fourth place at the 1989 World Juniors, in Anchorage, Alaska.



2009 IIHF World Junior Championship

The IIHF's Triple Gold Club includes players who have won gold medals at the IIHF World Championship, the Olympics and have won a Stanley Cup. Four of the seven Canadians in the Triple Gold Club have also won an IIHF World Junior Championship gold medal, belonging to the unofficial Quadruple Gold Club:

- Scott Niedermayer
- Chris Pronger
- Joe Sakic
- Jonathan Toews

Did you know that Mike Babcock is the only coach who is a member of the IIHF's Triple Gold Club? He is also the only coach in the unofficial Quadruple Gold Club, having also won a World Junior gold medal (1997)

Only three players have won a Program of Excellence 'Triple Gold Performance' in the space of one calendar year, i.e. winning gold at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, summer under-18 tournament and IIHF World Junior Championship in the span of 12 months:

- Chris Gratton
(1992 WU17, 1992 SU18, 1993 WJC)
- Joe Thornton
(1996 WU17, 1996 SU18, 1997 WJC)
- Jonathan Toews
(2005 WU17, 2005 SU18, 2006 WJC)

Since the inception of the Program of Excellence in 1982, there have only been eleven players born outside of Canada who played for Canada's National Junior Team:

- Robyn Regehr
(Recife, Brazil – 1999)
- Chris Nielsen
(Moshi, Tanzania – 2000)
- Eric Chouinard
(Atlanta, Georgia – 2000)
- Dany Heatley
(Freiburg, Germany – 2000, 2001)
- Ryan O'Marra
(Tokyo, Japan – 2006, 2007)
- Tyler Myers
(Houston, Texas – 2009)
- Brandon Kozun
(Los Angeles, California – 2010)
- Sean Couturier
(Phoenix, Arizona – 2011)
- Marcus Foligno
(Buffalo, New York – 2011)
- Curtis Hamilton
(Tacoma, Washington – 2011)
- Dylan Olsen
(Salt Lake City, Utah – 2011) ■

Andre Ringette/IIHF-HHOF Images on Ice

The 4 Nations Cup in review

by Francis Dupont



Rebecca Johnston (Sudbury, Ont.) scored the overtime winner as Canada downed the U.S. 3-2 to win the 4 Nations Cup on Saturday November 13, 2010 at the Mile One Centre in St. John's, N.L.

Johnston tapped in a powerplay goal at 6:25 in the extra period for her second goal of the game. Meaghan Mikkelsen (Edmonton, Alta.) scored a goal and assisted on Johnston's winner. Haley Irwin (Thunder Bay, Ont.) had three assists and Meghan Agosta (Ruthven, Ont.) two, in front of a sellout crowd of 6,200 at Mile One Centre.

The forward line of Johnston, Irwin and Agosta were Canada's top performers on that night. Julie Chu and Kendall Coyne replied for the U.S. and Monique Lamoureux-Kolls had two assists.

For Canada's National Women's team, it is their 12th gold medal in the his-

tory of the 4 Nations Cup. The Women's national team has also won three silver medals at this event. This year's team included three rookies who were part of the team: Christina Kessler (goalie), Tara Watchorn (defenceman) and Vicki Bendus (forward). The team also consisted of 13 gold medalists from the 2010 Winter Olympics.

In the preliminary round, Canada lost their first game of the tournament 3-2 in shootout against the United States. They went on to beat Sweden 8-1 and Finland 15-0.

In the bronze medal game, Finland edged Sweden 2-1. The winning team scored twice in the first period and that was enough to earn the win. Sweden showed some character in the third scoring one goal and dominating 12-5 in shots on goal, but Finland's goaltender Noora Räty closed the door for her country. ■

The Deutschland Cup in review

by Mark Black

Canada's National Men's Team finished in third place at the 2010 Deutschland Cup after a 3-2 shootout win over Slovakia on the final day of competition. Canada suffered one-goal defeats to both Germany and Switzerland earlier in the week.

Adam Mitchell (Port Elgin, Ont./Hannover, DEL) scored the game-winning goal on Sunday afternoon against Slovakia. Lee Goren (Winnipeg, Man./Straubing, DEL) and Craig MacDonald (Antigonish, N.S./Mannheim, DEL) accounted for Canada's two goals in regulation. Jean-Sebastien Aubin (Montreal, Que./Dusseldorf, DEL) made 34 saves for the win.

Canada was coached by Hockey Hall of Famer Mark Messier (Edmonton, Alta./New York Rangers, NHL), with Rich Chernomaz (Port Alberni, B.C./Frankfurt, GER) and Jay Wells (Paris, Ont.) serving as assistant coaches.

All of the Team Canada players that took part in the 2010 Deutschland Cup are Canadians playing professional hockey in European leagues.

Canada finished third at the 2010 Deutschland Cup, with three points. Germany finished first on the strength of a 2-1 overtime win over Switzerland in the final game on the schedule. ■



Hockey Hall Of Famer Angela James On Getting The Jacket, The Ring and The Recognition That Women's Hockey Is Here To Stay

by Kristen Lipscombe



Dave Sandford/IHOF-HHOF Images on Ice

She's got the plaque, the jacket and the ring – all signs that she's an official member of an elite club once exclusively reserved for the boys.

Angela James says she's certainly honoured to have received those special rewards recognizing her incredible contributions to her sport, but the Class of 2010 Hockey Hall of Fame member adds all of that is "just stuff."

What the Team Canada alumna has truly been left with since becoming one of the first two women to join this male-dominated club is the understanding that she really has made a difference in the lives of others, whether it's inside or outside of hockey.

"I didn't really realize how much of an impact it was going to have on so many people," James said of the latest gender barrier she has smashed through, and the barrage of supportive messages she's received and stories she's heard since from people of varying communities and all walks of life.

"I never dreamed that because I thanked my partner (Angela McDonald) on live TV, I would be inundated with solidarity emails," James pointed out as an example. Yet from friends and old teammates to strangers who can relate to her struggles as a woman of colour who grew up in Toronto, Ont., playing with the boys, the emails and requests for advice keep on coming.

As for the plaque, the jacket and the ring, "it's nice stuff; I'm not going to give it back," James said with a chuckle. "But that's not what it's about."

For James, having her name grace the walls of the Hall is more about "the opportunity" to be honoured alongside the likes of American women's hockey

legend Cammi Granato, former Minnesota North Star Dino Ciccarelli, as well as builders Jimmy Devellano and Daryl "Doc" Seaman, and the memories she now has of that long weekend in Toronto leading up to and including the induction ceremony Monday, November 8.

There were countless media interviews and autograph signings. There was a celebration at the Hall hosted by Hockey Canada and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association. There was the Canada vs. United States legends game at the Air Canada Centre. There was a hotel room party with family and friends, and VIP treatment that included box seats at a Maple Leafs game.

But perhaps what stands out the most to James is seeing her children, 10-year-old Christian and 4-year-old twins Michael and Toni Rae, also soak up those special moments. At the Leafs game, "they were double-fisting ice cream bars," James recalled, adding that during her acceptance speech Christian "pumped his arm" in excitement when mom mentioned his name. Seeing just how proud her family is of her latest accomplishment, "that's when it kind of hit home."

And while that other "stuff" can be stolen or go missing, being one of the first women inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame is "something that ... nobody can take away from you," or from the female game itself, she said.

James pointed out that even IIHF president René Fasel attended the induction ceremony, reaffirming his confidence in the future growth of the female game by stating to those who watched as she and Granato graciously accepted their places in the Hall that, "women's hockey isn't going anywhere." ■