

Team Canada Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER – FALL 2012



From L-R: Gordon Renwick, Wayne Gretzky, Cassie Campbell-Pascall, Bob Nicholson, Gordie Howe, Frank Mahovlich (representing Jean Béliveau)

Message from Gord Sherven

CHAIR OF THE TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Welcome to your Team Canada Alumni Association (TCAA) fall 2012 newsletter.

It's been 40 years since the Summit Series concluded with a Canadian victory. Who can forget the historic Paul Henderson goal at the Luzhniki Sports Arena in Moscow to secure the win? In this newsletter, you'll read interviews with Team Canada 1972 alumnus Don Awrey on his memories of '72, and the opportunity he had to be around Team Canada for this summer's Canada-Russia Challenge.

I had the opportunity to be part of Team Canada 15 years later, and beat the Russian national team at the prestigious Izvestia Cup in the same Luzhniki

Sports Arena. You'll also read interviews with players, coach Dave King and Globe and Mail journalist Eric Duhatschek on this tremendous win!

Your fall newsletter also features all the latest updates from Hockey Canada and Hockey Canada Foundation events, in addition to great alumni stories featuring Todd Strueby, who is making a difference in the lives of police officers and locals in Afghanistan, and Hayley Wickenheiser, who is one of the first female characters in a professional sports league video game. She hopes her character in EA Sports' NHL 13 helps inspire young female hockey players, and we hope you enjoy this edition of your TCAA newsletter!

Thank you,
Gord Sherven
Chair, TCAA Advisory Committee ■

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 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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Team Canada Alumni Association – We are currently in contact with over 1,300 alumni!

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, who oversees the alumni association's activities, at ndueck@hockeycanada.ca. We want to be sure that we have updated email addresses, mailing addresses and phone numbers from all of our alumni, so we can send you invitations to future alumni events across the country!

TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION / HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION

Recent Events Summary

by Keegan Goodrich & Kristen Lipscombe

CANADA'S NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAM SEPTEMBER CAMP/FALL FESTIVAL September 24-29, 2012 – Calgary, Alta.

Canada's top 40 female players converged on Calgary for a week of on-ice and off-ice training at the end of September in preparation for the upcoming season, including the 2012 4 Nations Cup in Finland in November and the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Ottawa next April.

The annual September Camp/Fall Festival featured two intrasquad games, with Red edging White 2-1 and 3-2 in a shootout, and four exhibition games against teams from the Alberta Midget Hockey League, which has always been willing to help Canada's National Women's Team prepare for international competition, including in the months leading up to its gold medal wins at the 2006 and 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Red topped the UFA Bisons from Strathmore 3-1 in the first game, while White won 3-2 in a shootout over the Red Deer Optimist Chiefs, last season's TELUS Cup champions, in the second game Sept. 26. The candidates for Canada's National Women's Team hit the ice again just 24 hours later, with Red beating the Calgary Northstars 4-3 in overtime and White falling 4-2 to the Calgary Flames.

The camp roster included four goaltenders, 13 defencemen and 23 forwards, including all 23 players who won a gold medal with Canada's National Women's Team at the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Burlington, Vt., 13 members of Canada's gold medal-winning team from the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C., and three players who won a gold medal with Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team at the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship in Prerov and Zlin, Czech Republic. ■

TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION THIRD ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT September 18, 2012 – Calgary, Alta.

Twenty-seven Team Canada alumni, and 108 other participants, gathered at the Lakeside Greens Golf Course and Country Club in Chestermere, Alta., for a day of golf and goodwill Sept. 18, all in support of the grassroots and high performance hockey initiatives across the country. In total, 135 golfers hit the greens to help raise more than \$25,000 at what was the third annual Team Canada Alumni Association Charity Golf Tournament, an event that continues to grow at all levels every year. All proceeds go towards the Hockey Canada Foundation, which funds hockey programs at all levels from Tyke to Team Canada, while the tournament itself gives alumni the chance to stay connected while continuing to support the sport they love. Please read page 12 to learn more. ■



CANADA'S NATIONAL WOMEN'S UNDER-18 TEAM THREE-GAME SERIES VS. UNITED STATES

August 16-19, 2012 – Blaine, Minn.

After a successful nine-day selection camp at Hockey Canada's home rink in Calgary, a list of the country's top 40 female under-18 players was whittled down to the 22-player National Women's Under-18 Team roster that faced off against the United States for three games in Blaine, Minn., this past August.

Canada claimed the series 2-1, staging a late-game comeback in Game 1 to win 3-2 on goals from Nicole Martindale (Brooklin, Ont./Whitby, PWHL), Sydney McKibbin (Oakville, Ont./Stoney Creek, PWHL) and game-winner Hannah Miller (North Vancouver, B.C./Okanagan Hockey School, Midget AAA). Netminder Kimberly Newell (Burnaby, B.C./Kootenay, BCMML) stopped 41 shots. The second game saw Canada fall 3-1 to its North American rivals, with Hanna Buntin (Belleville, Ont./Whitby, PWHL) scoring the red and white's lone goal on a power-play in the first period and goaltender Cassidy Sauvé (Whitby, Ont./Whitby, EOMMAAHL) making 40 saves.

But Canada came through in the third and final game, with Ashleigh Brykaliuk (Brandon, Man./Balmoral Hall, JWHL) and Karly Heffernan (St. Albert, Alta./Edge School, JWHL) scoring in an exciting shootout to lead our under-18 women to a 5-4 win. Brykaliuk, Miller, Halli Krzyzaniak (Neepawa, Man./Pursuit of Excellence, Midget AAA) and Cassidy Carels (Bruxelles, Man./Pembina Valley, MFMHL) each scored in regulation for Canada, while Newell made 32 saves in net for the series victory.

The selection camp itself featured Red-White intrasquad games, as well as match-ups against the senior women's teams from Kazakhstan and Norway, who travelled to Calgary to train and improve their games on the ice. Red beat Norway 7-1 and Kazakhstan 4-0, while White beat Norway 1-0 and Kazakhstan 3-1. Red and White split their games when they faced off against each other, with White taking the first intrasquad game 3-1 and Red closing out camp with a 2-0 victory. ■



CANADA'S NATIONAL WOMEN'S UNDER-22/DEVELOPMENT TEAM THREE-GAME SERIES VS. UNITED STATES

August 16-19, 2012 – Calgary, Alta.

Canada's National Women's Under-22/Development Team also held a selection camp Aug. 3-11 in Calgary, Alta., but stayed at the Markin MacPhail Centre at Canada Olympic Park to host the United States for its three-game series. Unfortunately, Canada lost three straight to its rivals, but with each passing game the Canadians kept stepping it up and wore the red and white with pride.

Game 1 saw Canada fall behind by two by the game's midway point, with Nicole Kosta (Mississauga, Ont./Quinnipiac University, ECAC) scoring to narrow the gap late in the second, but that would be the only goal of the game for the Canuck ladies, as the U.S. went on to claim the 4-1 win.

Canada's Kelly Terry (Whitby, Ont./University of Minnesota, WCHA) opened the scoring in Game 2 at 15:35 in the first, but a penalty cost her team its lead before the period was done. Mélodie Daoust (Valleyfield, Que./McGill University, CIS) put Canada up by one again with a power-play goal in the second, but the Americans took the game from there, scoring three unanswered for a 4-2 win.

The final game was action-packed and fast-paced, with Canada again cracking the scoreboard first, on a power-play goal from Daoust in the last 90 seconds of the opening period. Another power-play goal, this one from Sarah Davis (Paradise, N.L./University of Minnesota, WCHA), made it 2-0 at 6:56 of the second, but the U.S. stole a 3-2 lead by the end of the middle frame. Despite a strong final effort from Canada, including a short-handed goal from captain Marie-Philip Poulin (Beauceville, Que./Boston University, HE) to tie it up in the third, the Americans skated away with a 4-3 win to clinch a sweep in this year's cross-border series.

Canada's National Women's Under-22/Development Team selection camp featured three intrasquad games, with Gold sweeping Blue, winning 4-2, 1-0 in a shootout and 3-1 over five days. ■





2012 MEMORIAL OF IVAN HLINKA

August 11-18, 2012 – Breclav, Czech Republic & Piestany, Slovakia

Canada's National Men's Summer Under-18 Team was victorious once again at the Memorial of Ivan Hlinka tournament in the Czech Republic and Slovakia this August, winning its fifth straight gold medal at the annual summer event.

Canada defeated Finland 4-0 in the gold medal game in Piestany, Slovakia, en route to its ninth victory in the last 10 years at the event, which features the best under-18 players from Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

After Canada dropped its lone exhibition contest to the Czech Republic, head coach Todd Gill (Cardinal, Ont./Kingston, OHL) and his staff helped the national team re-group and prepare for the tournament itself, which resulted in a perfect 3-0 preliminary round record, with wins over Switzerland (4-1), Sweden (7-5) and Slovakia (3-2).

In front of a pro-Czech crowd in Breclav for the semifinal, Canada defeated the Czech Republic, before Nathan MacKinnon (Cole Harbour, N.S./Halifax, QMJHL) scored a hat trick to lead Canada to a 4-0 win over the Finns in the gold medal game. MacKinnon's Halifax teammate, Zachary Fucale (Rosemère, Que./Halifax, QMJHL), back-stopped Canada to the shutout win with a 23-save performance.

Canada's offense was deadly, as six players averaged at least a point per game including MacKinnon, who had a team best 11 points in five games, the most by any Canadian player since Nigel Dawes had 11 points in the 2002 event. ■

2012 CANADA-RUSSIA CHALLENGE

August 9-14, 2012 – Halifax, N.S. & Yaroslavl, Russia

Canada and Russia's national junior teams competed in a four-game series to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Summit Series, once again pitting the world's top hockey nations against each other in the Canada-Russia Challenge.

Canada travelled to Russia for the first two games of the series, which were held in Yaroslavl to honour the victims of the tragic plane crash that claimed the lives of the Lokomotiv Yaroslavl KHL team, coached by Canadian Brad McCrimmon, in September 2011. Brad's father, Byron, accompanied Team Canada for the event, providing an emotional lift for the team.

Canada and Russia split the first two games in Russia, with the Canadians winning the opener 3-2 and the Russians replying with a 6-3 victory in Game 2.

The series then switched back to Canada as Halifax, N.S., hosted the final two games. Russia took Game 3 6-5, making the final game a must-win for Canada. The Canadians pulled out a 4-2 victory in Game 4, which forced a sudden-death overtime to settle the series. Three minutes into the four-on-four extra frame, Ryan Strome (Mississauga, Ont./Niagara, OHL) scored the series-winning goal to give Canada the victory. ■

NINTH ANNUAL HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION CELEBRITY CLASSIC AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 25-26, 2012 – Toronto, Ont.

Hockey Canada's ninth annual Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic celebrated Team Canada success during the 2011-12 season, recognized the inaugural class of Order of Hockey in Canada Distinguished Honourees and raised money for Hockey Canada Foundation projects, such as the refurbishment of the rink at Regent Park in Toronto.

Canada's two gold medal-winning teams from the 2011-12 season, Canada's National Women's Team and Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team, walked the stage on the evening of June 25 at the Air Canada Centre, home of the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs, to receive their championship rings. Both beat the United States in the gold medal game to win their respective world championships last season.

The first-ever inductees into the Order of Hockey in Canada were Jean Béliveau, Cassie Campbell-Pascall, Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe and Gordon Renwick. All except Béliveau were on-hand at the Celebrity Classic to greet event attendees and gracefully accept what has quickly become one of the highest honours in the hockey world.

The following day featured a golf tournament at The Club at Bond Head Golf Course, during which Hockey Canada alumni, board members, staff, sponsors and other supporters mixed, mingled and made it a fun-filled day of 18 holes under sunny skies. For more information, please read page 12. ■



Pre-game ceremony prior to Game 3 of the 2012 Canada-Russia Challenge in Halifax, N.S.



REINHART READY FOR FOLLOW-UP TO BREAKOUT 2011-12 SEASON

by Francis Dupont & Jason La Rose

There are still three months remaining in 2012, but it has already been a banner year for Sam Reinhart.

The West Vancouver, B.C., native kicked off the calendar year by helping Team Canada Pacific to a fifth-place finish at the 2012 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Windsor, Ont., racking up 10 points (four goals, six assists) to finish fourth in tournament scoring.

Reinhart then returned to the WHL's Kootenay Ice and put the finishing touches on a 62-point season, scoring 28 goals and adding 34 assists in 67 games to take home the WHL Rookie of the Year award.

His strong season with the Ice, along with his under-17 exploits, earned Reinhart a spot as an underager on Canada's National Men's Under-18 Team at April's IIHF Ice Hockey U18 World Championship.

Despite being the youngest player on the Canadian roster, Reinhart chipped in six points in seven games to help Canada win bronze, just the fourth medal ever for Canada at the U18 world championship.

Four months later, he pulled on the red and white of Team Canada for the third time in eight months, wearing the 'C' as captain and leading Canada's National Men's Summer Under-18 Team to its fifth consecutive gold medal at the Memorial of Ivan Hlinka tournament.

"It was really an honour for me," Reinhart said of captaining the national team. "You always dream as a player to put on the Hockey Canada jersey, and to be named captain, and to win gold ... you can't ask for more."

Reinhart's success shouldn't come as a huge surprise considering his hockey bloodlines; his father, Paul, played 11 NHL seasons with Atlanta, Calgary and Vancouver and both of his older brothers are recent NHL draft picks – Max was selected 64th overall by the Calgary Flames in 2010 and Griffin went to the New York Islanders with the fourth pick in 2012.

The youngest Reinhart said his hockey-playing family has played a huge role in getting him to where he is today.

"I think it helps me a lot, coming from a hockey background," he said. "My father played a long time, so he knows what it is like to play professional, and my brothers had to deal with all the attention of being drafted in the National Hockey League in the last few years. They really act like older brothers when I sit with them and ask them questions to help me become a better person, and a better player."

While Sam gives a lot of credit to both of his brothers, it was Max who played the bigger part – not only of big brother, but of linemate as well. The Reinharts finished one-two in scoring for the defending WHL champion Ice last year, with Max's 78 points 16 ahead of Sam.

"I had a slow start in my first 20 games," Reinhart said of the 2011-12 season. "The level of play was faster and guys were stronger than in Midget, but I knew I could be competitive in this league. Once I got switched to Max's line, things just felt more comfortable."

Thanks to his Nov. 6 birthday, Reinhart won't be NHL draft eligible until 2014, which gives him two more seasons in the WHL spotlight, with media and scouts alike scrutinizing his every move as a potential top-five selection.

But Reinhart insists the attention won't change the way he approaches the game.

"I just want to play hockey and have fun. I'll focus on things I can control." ■



Sam Reinhart



JOIN THE CLUB

Get into the game with Club Hockey Canada

by Kristen Lipscombe



The likes of Crosby, Westlake and Wickenheiser aren't the only ones with VIP access to Hockey Canada.

Club Hockey Canada, introduced just in time for the 2012-13 season, is giving players, parents, coaches, officials and registered alumni across the country access to discounts, contests, prizes, rewards and behind the scenes insight into Team Canada – all completely exclusive to its members.

"As an organization, Hockey Canada wanted to figure out how we can connect better and offer more value to our members," Dean McIntosh, director of marketing services for Hockey Canada, said of what sparked the idea for a club card. "So really, it was a board-driven directive to ensure that kids feel that they're a part of the same team as Hayley Wickenheiser and Sidney Crosby and Greg Westlake."

Participants of all ages registered through Hockey Canada will soon be receiving their snazzy looking cards in mailboxes, including 450,000 households from coast to coast. But while Club Hockey Canada, developed in partnership with Exchange Solutions, may look a lot like other loyalty programs, it's less about generating revenue, and more about recruiting and retaining players in the sport we all love.

"This is a free service that Hockey Canada is providing to our membership," McIntosh said, emphasizing the main motivation behind Club Hockey Canada is to "reduce the cost of the game for kids."

That includes working with Hockey Canada sponsors to offer gift cards to members for everything from gas to golf clubs, which if purchased online through the club, will offer a credit back in the form of Puck Bucks that go toward hockey registration costs for the following season. Members will also be able to download coupons and buy cool Hockey Canada merchandise, only accessible by logging into their unique account on the club website.

"If I register my children for \$600 or \$700 dollars apiece per year, if I can reduce that \$600 dollars to \$300 or \$400, does it make my decision easier to register them the next year? I think it does," McIntosh said of how Club Hockey Canada can help savings add up for families. "Any ways that we can find to reduce the costs for those involved will keep them in the game longer."

The club website also includes a section called The Hockey Zone, which features interactive games for children, exclusive videos from Team Canada, the latest news from Hockey Canada and awesome contest opportunities that will keep players and parents coming back for more.

But first this season's Club Hockey Canada members have to activate their cards online, and in order to encourage them to do exactly that, McIntosh said there will be daily contests from November 1 through the 2013 IIHF World Junior Championship. Prizes range from Team Canada jerseys to the Ultimate Team Canada experience – a trip to the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in Finland and Sweden.

"The real call to action is get your card, go online and activate," McIntosh said, adding Hockey Canada's branches and various minor hockey associations are on board to help promote the brand new club.

Working through Hockey Canada Foundation initiatives such as Dreams Come True, and with outside groups such as RBC Play Hockey and other corporate partners, will also help get the word out about Club Hockey Canada – and the benefits of getting into the great Canadian game.

"One of the challenges hockey has is that it has relied for a lot of years on traditional ways of recruiting – it's a sign in the community, or it's a notice in the local newspaper," McIntosh explained. "We need to change the way we're thinking."

Not only will Club Hockey Canada make getting into the game more affordable for families, he said, but it will also make it more accessible for new Canadians and others who may not know how to get involved. "This is a great step certainly on the retention side of it, but it will also play to the recruitment strategy."

Ultimately, Club Hockey Canada is about Hockey Canada helping out the players, coaches, officials, volunteers and fans who support the sport, and making all of them feel like a Team Canada member. "We get an opportunity to speak to our members, we get an opportunity to provide them with value, we get an opportunity to keep kids in the game longer and we get opportunity to tell more people about who we are."

For more information, please visit www.clubhockeycanada.ca, www.facebook.com/clubhockeycanada, and www.twitter.com/clubhc_en. ■

If you have not already registered (no cost), please contact Norm Dueck, who oversees the alumni association's activities, at ndueck@hockeycanada.ca. We want to be sure that we have updated email addresses, mailing addresses and phone numbers from all of our alumni, so we can send you invitations to future alumni events across the country!

SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER

Awrey looks back at '72 series and 40th anniversary celebrations

by Jason La Rose



Team Canada and the Soviet Union shake hands following a 4-4 tie in Game 3 of the 1972 Summit Series in Winnipeg.

Forty years after he had a front row seat to one of the greatest moments in Canadian hockey history, Don Awrey still doesn't get tired of talking about the 1972 Summit Series.

"After 40 years, if we're talking about it, it must be something special," Awrey said recently from Florida, back home following a whirlwind two months celebrating the 40th anniversary of the eight games that changed hockey.

The former defenceman joined fellow 1972 alumni Pat Stapleton and Ken Dryden in Halifax, N.S., in mid-August for the final two games of the 2012 Canada-Russia Challenge, a four-game series between the top juniors from the two countries.

Awrey spent time with the Team Canada players and staff, sharing a few 1972 stories and getting a first-hand reminder of the passion Canadians have for their game.

"It was exhilarating," he said of the atmosphere at the Halifax Metro Centre. "One thing about Canada, it's not a small country but it's a small population, and they love their hockey. In the United States you've got pockets of people who love their hockey, but not like Canada. No matter where you go, you can feel their love for the game and their country."

The Halifax trip was just the first leg of the journey for Awrey, who joined 13 of his 1972 teammates for a week-long return to Russia in early September, which included stops in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Yaroslavl, where they took part in a memorial recognizing the one-year anniversary of the Lokomotiv air disaster.

The group returned to Canada to be inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame on Sept. 22, and was honoured at a gala dinner in Toronto six days later. It was 40

years to the day that Paul Henderson scored The Goal, the game-winner with 34 seconds left in Game 8 in Moscow, giving Canada the series win.

For Awrey, though, Henderson's famous goal wasn't the highlight of his Summit Series. In fact, his No. 1 moment didn't even come on the ice – it was getting the chance to wear the Maple Leaf.

"For me, the biggest thing was just getting the call and getting the invite to come to training camp and be a part of the team," the Kitchener, Ont., native said. "Every day, stepping on the ice with those players was like an all-star game, and it was just such a thrill."

Awrey saw action in two games during the Summit Series, dressing for Game 1 in Montreal, Que., and Game 4 in Vancouver, B.C. He made the trip with the team to Moscow for the final four contests, but never saw the ice.

A three-time Stanley Cup champion – 1970 and 1972 with Boston and 1976 with Montréal – Awrey said that while his 1972 experience has to rank as one of his personal highlights, he was lucky enough to enjoy a lot of success during his long career.

"It would certainly be near the very top," he said of the Summit Series.

"Nothing can be better than the best at the particular time. When I played Pee wee hockey, we played in a tournament in Goderich, Ont., and that was like the one they have in Quebec City now, and we won our division. Then I played Junior B, and we won the all-Ontario championship, and you can't get any bigger than that. Then you go on to the National Hockey League and you win your first Cup, and you win your second Cup and it can't get any better than that, then you win your third Cup. It just always finds a way to keep getting better." ■

DOING HIS PART

Notre Dame philosophies lead Strueby to Afghanistan

by Jason La Rose



Todd Strueby

Growing up attending the Athol Murray College of Notre Dame in Wilcox, Sask., and playing for the fabled Hounds hockey program, there were few people that inspired Todd Strueby more than Pere Athol Murray, the school's founder.

Now, more than 30 years after he left Wilcox to chase his National Hockey League dreams, Strueby's life is still being shaped by Murray and his philosophies.

"Every human life is insignificant unless you yourself make it great."

It is a singular thought that has led Strueby almost 11,000 kilometres from his Regina, Sask., home to Kabul, where the 49-year-old is serving as part of the European Union Police (EUPOL) mission in Afghanistan.

Since May, Strueby has been stationed in Afghanistan with the mission, which helps contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective civil policing arrangements in the war-torn country.

"I don't expect to change the entire world, but by coming here I am able to learn about a part of the world we would otherwise probably never experience," he said. "I have an opportunity to help this country change from a war-torn customary law to a conventional civil law and order similar to Europe and North America."

After leaving Notre Dame, Strueby starred for the WHL's Regina Pats and Saskatoon Blades, earning a spot on Canada's National Junior Team for the 1982 IIHF World Junior Championship, the first of the Program of Excellence era and the first to win gold.

A second-round pick of the Edmonton Oilers in 1981, the Lanigan, Sask., native made his NHL debut with the Oilers in 1982, playing three games, and would make

single-game appearances in both 1982-83 and 1983-84, but those five games would be his only taste of the big leagues.

Strueby spent the late 1980s bouncing around the minors, playing in Moncton (AHL), Nova Scotia (AHL), Muskegon (IHL) and Fort Wayne (IHL), before catching on with Canada's National Men's Team for the 1988-89 season. In total, Strueby would play 111 games with the national team between 1988 and 1993, with 60 games in Germany with EHC Freiburg and REV Bremerhaven sprinkled in between.

After stepping away from the game in 1993, Strueby joined the Regina Police Service, which led to his current post, as the RPS has been sending its members on international missions for more than a decade.

"When we first sent someone, I thought it would be an amazing experience," Strueby said. "Our first guys went to Kosovo and the next went to East Timor and the latest before me was the first tour in Afghanistan."

The current EUPOL mission, which began in June 2007 and was recently extended to May 2013, features more than 550 international and local staff, including police from European Union nations, as well as Canada, Croatia, New Zealand and Norway.

While it may seem like a massive undertaking to help establish a new rule of law in a country of 30 million citizens, Strueby looks at his role from a fairly straightforward point of view.

"My goal is pretty simple," he said. "I want to help one police officer and/or one Afghan to be more understanding to the way we conduct our police role in society, and to make a positive difference." ■

REFLECTIONS ON THE IZVESTIA CUP

Sherven and teammates on their 1987 gold medal memories

by Gord Sherven

Twenty-five years ago, in 1987, our National Men's Team captured the prestigious Izvestia Cup. Our unforgettable victory took place in Moscow over the Christmas holidays. There seems to be nothing quite like an international hockey tournament to stimulate nationalistic emotions within the people of Canada. Emerging with an unexpected victory at the 1987 Izvestia Cup on Russian soil, against a powerhouse team, was truly a great moment in Canadian hockey history. At least, that is how we as players felt then and still do today. Sean Burke put on a performance for the ages in goal, and Ken Berry scored two key goals in the third period to seal the 3-2 win. As it was my third Izvestia tournament, I remember really looking forward to hearing our national anthem at the closing ceremonies, instead of the Russian anthem. Unfortunately, they never had a recording of our national anthem, so we had to listen to the Russian anthem again! I guess they didn't expect us to win!

Here are some more memories of the 1987 Izvestia Cup, from some of my Team Canada teammates, our head coach Dave King and Globe and Mail reporter Eric Duhatschek:

"When I think back on Izvestia in 1987, I think about how it felt at the time as a young player playing in communist Russia against the mighty Red Machine, and how it feels now 25 years later. I can vividly recall the smells and sounds in the arena, and how in between periods we were served hot tea. The crowd sitting in wooden seats all dressed in greys and blacks and whistling their disapproval at their Russian stars, realizing they might actually lose in their homeland to a bunch of unknown Canadians. I can still see Ken Berry scoring from long range and the immediate thought that we were going to have to hold on for dear life to win the game. There were six Canadian goalies in that third period, as every player blocked shots and sacrificed to keep the puck out of our net. I remember thinking that the Green Unit, as their big five were known, never seemed to leave the ice and every time I looked up they had the puck. And then I remember the euphoria of our dressing room and the faces of guys that had worked so hard for this moment. We all knew we still had to beat the Finns to win the tournament, but how could anyone stop us if we just beat the most feared team in the world?"

Today, I mostly remember the guys I got to share the experience with. Dave King was the biggest reason we even had a chance to beat a team like that, and I am lucky to still be working with him. I am thankful for being able to play with Andy Moog, who was a great mentor. I have kept lasting friendships with Sherven, Cote, Habscheid, Charron, Karpan, and often think of teammates like Zalapski, Stiles, Berry and the others that I haven't seen in years but will always have a strong bond with.

Our victory on Russian soil in 1987 may not go down as the greatest Russian/Canadian hockey moment in the eyes of most fans, but to our group of guys we all can look back and say that we beat the mighty Red Machine in their own backyard, when they were at their best. Not many teams can ever say that."

~ Sean Burke, goaltender



"In 1972, my brother Gary and I went to Moscow to watch the final four games of the 1972 Canada-Russia hockey series. I was 16 at the time, and marvelled at the amazing skills that the Russians showed against our Canadian players. To think that I could be playing in Luzhniki Stadium 15 years later wearing the red maple leaf was unfathomable. What an experience to be part of a young team of amateur players who could beat the mighty Russians in their own rink. A memory that we will remember forever!"

~ Randy Gregg, defenceman

"We were the heavy underdogs, and no Canadian team had ever won a single game on Russian soil since the 1972 Summit Series. Many years later, when I was coaching in Russia, I sat down with Viktor Tikhonov in Moscow and asked him what he considered (to be) the best team he had ever coached. He answered the 1987-88 team! Well, we beat that team in its own backyard. Sean Burke played so well, all the pressure rode on his shoulders.

I mean, we had a great bunch of guys, very fit, worked real hard, but Sean Burke was the key. If he had a great game, we had a great game. It was the height of communism, before the Iron Curtain fell, and the atmosphere in the building was electric. As I look back, it was a major accomplishment for the players, a magical moment and one of the most memorable moments in my career."

~ Dave King, head coach

"What I remember most about the win was a player named Gord Sherven, who'd brought a bottle of champagne into the dressing room to celebrate the win – and then fumbled with the foil and the cork, as if he wasn't used to celebrating such unexpected victories. I also remember sitting in the Luzhniki Arena, two scoreboards – one in English, one in Cyrillic – time winding down, Canada ahead, the Russians pressing and the legendary Russian coach Anatoli Tarasov walking out of the building, supporting himself on a cane. He paused in the hallway where the players jointly enter the arena, glanced at the score, glanced at the Russian bench, shook his head – sadness? disgust? I couldn't tell – and then slowly disappeared into the tunnel, just as the game clock wound up to 20:00.

I remember Sean Burke playing dazzlingly well in goal – he was Canada's answer to Tretiak in 1972 – and Zarley Zalapski playing the most inspired defence I ever saw him play, before or after, and Kenny Berry, one of the most modest and self-effacing players I've ever met, scoring the two key goals in the victory. I've long maintained this was Canada's Miracle On Ice – winning, on the road, against a Russian team that played three 6-5 games against the Canadian team of Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux and Dale Hawerchuk three months earlier. A special, if underappreciated moment in Canada's hockey history."

~ Eric Duhatschek, journalist, The Globe and Mail

HAYLEY MAKES MORE HOCKEY HERSTORY

Team Canada's Wickenheiser becomes one of first female characters in NHL video game

by The Canadian Press



HHOF-IIHF Images / Dave Sandford

Hayley Wickenheiser, in action here at the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship, joins veteran American defenceman Angela Ruggiero as one of two playable female characters in NHL 13.

She's been a pioneer in the hockey world for years.

Now, Hayley Wickenheiser is making video game history, too.

The National Women's Team veteran is one of the first two female athletes to be featured as a playable character in a professional sports league video game. Players of EA Sports' NHL 13 will have the option of choosing either Wickenheiser or veteran American defenceman Angela Ruggiero as avatars.

"Traditionally, video games have been seen as something for boys, and hockey's been seen as a game for boys," Wickenheiser said in an interview with The Canadian Press in late August. "And now it's not."

EA Sports started including female players in NHL 12, which featured generic female characters. But this is the first time recognizable, real-world female athletes are a part of the made-in-Canada game. EA Sports included the female player in NHL 12 after a 14-year-old girl emailed the company saying she felt underrepresented as a hockey video game fan.

"This year we are very excited to continue our effort of creating a more representative experience for female hockey fans, by adding two of the greatest female athletes to ever play the game, in Wickenheiser and Ruggiero, to NHL 13," EA senior producer David Littman said in a statement.

In addition to Wickenheiser and Ruggiero, former NHL stars Doug Gilmour, Dominik Hasek and Jari Kurri have also been added to the Legends roster for NHL 13.

Wickenheiser said having women represented as professional athletes is about "equality for women and doing the right thing."

"You know, what's great is that females are 50 per cent of the population that play video games nowadays, and 50 per cent of the population, or more than that, so I think it's a natural fit," she added. "I think women's sport has really grown."

Forced to play on boys' teams when she was young, Wickenheiser has certainly done her part to foster that growth. In 2003, she became the first woman to record a point in a men's professional hockey game with Kirkkonummen Salamat of the Finnish second division. She also played for a men's team in the Swedish first division in 2008-09, and has received the Order of Canada for her contributions to growing women's hockey.

But the three-time Olympic gold medallist admits it wasn't easy being a girl playing with boys when she was growing up in Shaunavon, Sask.

"I remember walking into a rink used to be so much stress, because they would know you're a girl," she recalled. "So I would just run to the bathroom and hide as quickly as I could." She would try to stay out of sight until she could put her gear on and get out on the ice.

Wickenheiser, now 34, said she didn't know that other girls played hockey until she was about 12 years old, when she watched the IIHF World Women's Championship on television, and was inspired to go to the Olympics. "Now, I see young girls with a hockey stick and a hockey bag walking into rinks across Canada, and it's not a big deal."

While the star forward may be featured in the NHL video game, Wickenheiser doesn't think it's a realistic goal to integrate female players into the league.

"I think the real goal for women in hockey should be to have a professional league, and there's no reason why they can't in time," said Wickenheiser, who helped lead the University of Calgary Dinos to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship last season. "It could be equally as entertaining as the NHL."

In the meantime, gamers will have the option to choose Wickenheiser or Ruggiero in NHL 13. The game, which was developed in Burnaby, B.C., was released Sept. 11. ■



GOLDEN GALA MOMENTS

Catherine Dubois and Laura Fortino reflect on an unforgettable 2012 Celebrity Classic Gala, marking an even more unforgettable world championship season

by Kristen Lipscombe



Prime Minister Stephen Harper joins members of Canada's National Women's Team and Order of Hockey in Canada recipients at the HCF Celebrity Classic

There are too many unforgettable moments to list. But world champions Catherine Dubois and Laura Fortino, although from different national teams, agree that one special moment from this year's Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic gala stands out above and beyond the rest.

"When I opened the box, that was a big moment," Dubois (Charlesbourg, Que./Ontario Hockey Academy, Midget AAA) said of standing in a circle with her teammates and slowly opening that brown jewelry box to reveal her 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship ring.

"We all opened the box at the same time," she said of seeing the ring revealed at the exact same moment as her fellow Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team players, who won gold this past January in Prerov and Zlin, Czech Republic. "It was amazing to see the ring ... with your name on it and the logo of Team Canada."

Fortino said that seeing her 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship ring on her finger for the first time brought back that golden celebration in Burlington, Vt., this past April, when Canada's National Women's Team edged the United States 5-4 in overtime to reclaim its spot at the top of the women's hockey world.

"I think my jaw dropped, literally," Fortino (Hamilton, Ont./Cornell University, ECAC) said with a chuckle of first cracking open her own jewelry box June 25 at The Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Ont., just prior to a national press conference presenting the season's two world championship-winning teams. "I had a pretty big smile in my face."

Also a rather amazing experience for Dubois and Fortino was walking into that press conference, and stepping into the spotlight alongside the other individuals being celebrated at the 2012 Hockey Canada Foundation Celebrity Classic gala – the first-ever inductees into the Order of Hockey in Canada, who just happen to be five of the top names in hockey.

"They're great inspirations for the game, and they've done so much for Hockey Canada," Fortino said of standing in front of the cameras next to the likes of Cassie Campbell-Pascall and Wayne Gretzky. "To be on the same stage as them was pretty

cool."

Dubois and Fortino also had the chance to meet Campbell, Gretzky, along with fellow Order of Hockey Canada honourees Gordie Howe and Gordon Renwick, following the gala dinner later that night at the Air Canada Centre. Jean Béliveau, also a member of the first class of Order of Hockey in Canada inductees, was unable to attend the event.

"I was just telling myself, 'enjoy the moment,'" Fortino remembered. "It was just great to be there, especially with all those high calibre people who have done so much for the program."

Enjoying that unique experience also included taking to the ACC stage, their newly presented rings sparkling under the arena's bright lights, in front of an admiring audience of gala attendees.

"It was a big honour to be there," Dubois said, describing her walk onto the stage and in front of the proud crowd as a truly surreal moment. "We weren't thinking about it when we walked because we were so excited, but it's a nice feeling; you feel like you've accomplished something big."

Even with all the glitz and glamour at the gala, Dubois said she is most proud of simply just having been a part of Team Canada, "because of all the great people."

"It's just a dream come true," she said of the entire experience, from stepping onto the ice in the Czech Republic, to stepping onto the stage at the gala in Toronto.

Fortino, Dubois and their teammates also had the opportunity to interact with – and show off their beautiful new rings to – gala guests during the delicious multi-course meal that suited the formal evening and like the rest of their gala experience was fit for, well, world champions.

"I think it looks awesome, especially the jewels around it; it's pretty shiny," Fortino said of her one-of-a-kind ring that for her will always rekindle those magical memories from Burlington. "I love how it has our name, and the quote that we used, inside ... it's perfect."

"The ring sums up the whole experience." ■



DRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Team Canada Alumni Association tees off to raise \$25,000 for hockey programs across country

by Kristen Lipscombe

When they were on the ice representing their country it was all about scoring goals, but when they get on the greens it's less about winning games, and more about giving back.

That's why 27 former players who wore red and white, including Sheldon Kennedy (Brandon, Man.) and Mike Moller (Red Deer, Alta.), came out to the third annual Team Canada Alumni Association Charity Golf Tournament, held Tuesday, Sept. 18 at Lakeside Greens Golf Course and Country Club in Chestermere, Alta. They joined 108 other golfers on the course for a sunny day full of fun – and fund-raising – to score more than \$25,000 to support grassroots and high performance hockey programs across the country.

"Being alumni, many people came out and supported us for a lot of years, and we're in a position that we're able to give back," Kennedy said. "We're able to generate funds by showing up and having fun at a golf tournament, so I think it's important and crucial that we do that."

Kennedy played with Canada's National Junior Team in 1988 and 1989, and played alongside representatives from accounting firm KPMG on the course this September. He was also an inspiring post-dinner speaker for fellow alumni and other guests in attendance at this year's tournament.

"The greatest part of these days is being able to see where guys are at, and meeting new people," Kennedy said of attending alumni events. "It's a great way to connect."

Kennedy admitted he has more skills with a stick than with a club, stating straightforwardly that "if I was a golfer, I'd go broke." Nevertheless, he and his four KPMG team members kept themselves quite entertained on the Chestermere course.

"Mike O'Neil actually hit a drive off and it bounced off a roof and through a house window, so that made for an interesting last hole of the day," he said with a light-hearted laugh of the KPMG senior advisor. "The guy was waiting outside, and he was really nice about it, he was like, 'Yep, this is the eighth window that's

broken this year.' "

All laughs about golfing fumbles and foibles aside, Kennedy takes his position as a Team Canada alumnus seriously, which is why he's always willing to take part in fantasy hockey games and charity golf tournaments to help raise money for the Hockey Canada Foundation. "I'm just very proud to be a part of it."

Moller agreed that being a TCAA member provides "a sense of pride, without a doubt."

"When you get a chance to put the maple leaf, that crest on your jersey, and pull it over your head and shoulders and wear it and represent your country, it's a great thing," said the former member of Canada's National Junior Team and Canada's National Men's Team.

Moller, who teamed up with Hockey Alberta representatives for this year's tournament, also agreed that that while hockey players are competitive in the rink, getting out on the greens is more about bonding with old teammates – and sometimes even opponents – over the sport they all love.

"It's a great way to kind of reconnect and see some guys, and do it in a social atmosphere," he said. "There's a friend of mine that I kind of knocked heads against playing junior hockey, all the way up, by the name of Ray Cote (Pincher Creek, Alta.). He played with Calgary in the Western Hockey League and I played with Lethbridge, and then we got together with the National Men's Team ... so it's really kind of neat to run into him."

Moller said knowing others are getting to live that same Team Canada dream, and that players of all ages and skill levels are getting to lace up their skates because of the Hockey Canada Foundation, is more than enough motivation to dust the cobwebs off the clubs and get involved with the alumni association.

"That golf day, I got out of it way more than I put into it, and I think that's probably the biggest thing," he said. "Try to participate as much as possible, and by doing so, you can make a difference in a positive way." ■



KPMG foursome with Team Canada alumnus Sheldon Kennedy (second from left).