



Team Canada Alumni Association

Newsletter - Fall 2013



Alberta's world champions (from L to R) Josh Morrissey (men's U18), Steve Arsenault (sledge), Kieran Block (sledge), Morgan Klimchuk (men's U18), Dillon Heatherington (men's U18), Eden Murray (women's U18) and Taryn Baumgardt (women's U18) show off the rings they received at the 2013 HCF Celebrity Classic in Calgary.

Message from Gord Sherven

Chair of the Team Canada Alumni Association Advisory Committee

Welcome to your Team Canada Alumni Association Fall 2013 newsletter.

With the 2014 Olympic Winter Games right around the corner, we have a great interview with Ralph Krueger, a member of the men's coaching staff, on the team's preparation. The Road to Sochi also includes an update with National Women's Team veteran Gillian Apps, and you'll enjoy great stories from former national team coach Mike Pelino, who is currently coaching in the KHL, and former NHLer and Team Canada alumnus Pat Hickey.

Our condolences go out to the Brodeur family on the passing of Denis Brodeur, who backstopped Canada at the 1956 Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Included in this newsletter are alumni, Hockey Canada Foundation and Hockey Canada updates. Of special note is the donation of \$250,000 that the Hockey Canada Foundation made to Hockey Alberta, which will use the funds to assist families affected by the floods in the Calgary area. The foundation continues to raise significant funds across the country each year to benefit the game!

Team Canada Alumni Association - We currently have contact with 2,200 alumni, of which over 800 have officially registered with the 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 (at 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 for all of our alumni, so invitations can be sent for future TCAA events across the country!

Thank you,
Gord Sherven
Chair, TCAA Advisory Committee ■

Where We Want To Be – Team Canada Alumni
– Coming Together, Reaching Out.

Why We Want To Go There – 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 – 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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From Russia, With Love

Former national team coach Mike Pelino checks in from Magnitogorsk

by Mike Pelino



Mike Keenan (L) and Mike Pelino (R)

Greetings from Magnitogorsk, Russia, and from the Kontinental Hockey League, where we are well into the 2013-14 season.

Right now, there is a lot of excitement in Russia with the Olympics just around the corner, and it sounds like everyone seems to be hoping for a Canada-Russia final (I guess the fans here must be willing to settle for silver!).

As for our team, Mike Keenan and I have been here since training camp opened July 11, and it has been a tremendous journey so far. Training camp was great. It seemed to be a throwback to those halcyon days of the Original Six when NHL camps lasted six or eight weeks.

We found it easy to embrace the Russian mentality of how they really thrive on working so hard (practising on-ice twice daily, and lots of strength and conditioning off-ice) and at the same time, give them that good old Canadian influence of competing, passion and playing with 'speed and science.' We played 10 pre-season games and went 8-1-1, capturing the Romazon Cup in one of our preseason tournaments.

We opened the regular season against Moscow Dynamo in Luzhniki Arena, the same rink where Paul Henderson scored in the last minute in '72. Despite losing to Dynamo, the defending champion, we are still very confident in our quest for the Gagarin Cup, Russia's equivalent of the Stanley Cup. It is named after Yuri Gagarin, who was a Russian cosmonaut and the first human to travel into outer space.

It promises to be a most interesting season. Some of the challenges we will face include contending with a language barrier, as the vast majority of our players do not speak English. We are fortunate, though, that one of our coaches, Ilya Vorobiev, who played for Dave King in 2006, is fluent in English and Russian.

Other challenges include the season shutting down for almost a month for the Olympic break, and the fact that we have to adjust to a 54-game schedule.

Also, unlike the NHL, there are zero back-to-back games in the KHL. We initially figured our top goalie might play all 54 games, although we all know Iron Mike. Sure enough, in game two we fell behind 3-1 and needed to make a change. Needless to say, we came back to win 5-4.

We've got one regulation loss in our last 13 games, going 9-1-3 to improve our overall record to 10-4-3. We recently returned from a four-game road trip, which included four stops in four countries - Prague, Bratislava, Moscow and Riga. We have a couple of home games coming up against Severstal Cherepovets and Lokomotiv Yaroslavl, before departing on another four-game road swing, travelling to Astana, Omsk, Yuzhny, and Ekaterinburg.

Being in Russia sure brings back fond memories of my year with Canada's National Men's Team in 1999-2000. That season saw us travel to Russia for a five-game tour in November, the Baltica Cup in December and then the 2000 IIHF World Championship in St. Petersburg.

We've already been to some of the same cities we toured back then, although I will point out that we didn't have to load our own plane like back in 1999, when the workers refused to put our equipment on the plane and our players had to take matters into their own hands! Thank you Savy, Rhett, Joaquin, Peter, Magic, and the rest of the boys!

In closing, just a little bit about our home. Magnitogorsk is where Dave King broke the barrier for Canadians coaching in Russia when he came here in 2006. It's a blue-collar city situated on the Ural River and just a stone's throw from the Ural Mountains.

One side of the river is where we live and where the rink is, while just on the other side is Asia and our city's famous steel factory. The Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Works is one of the biggest in the world and the owner of our team also owns the factory. The factory is quite incredible; it stretches over six miles, employs over 60,000 people and runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's probably easiest to describe it like Hamilton on steroids!

Anyway, please know that although we are proud to be sharing our hockey knowledge here in Russia, we do miss Canada and seeing our fellow Canadians.

If you ever find yourself on this side of the pond, look up our schedule at www.khl.ru, drop us a line and make sure to try and get to a game to cheer us on. ■



The Secret Weapon

Ralph Krueger brings decades of international experience to Team Canada

by Debbie Elicksen



Krueger coached the Edmonton Oilers during the lockout-shortened 2012-13 season.

If you Google the term “inside man,” you’ll mostly find references to crime dramas and whistleblowers. You’ll have to scroll through several pages before you find the name Ralph Krueger.

After having coached 12 world championships and three Olympic Games – all against Team Canada – Krueger brings his international knowledge to the Canadian staff leading in to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.

“It’s interesting how quickly this developed,” remarked Krueger. “It really happened on the same day I was released from the Edmonton Oilers. It was completely crazy how this new door just flew open.”

Head coach Mike Babcock and executive director Steve Yzerman surprised many with the decision to add Krueger, since the staff was already set in the spring. It is a brand-new position, in which Krueger will be given the green light to create the job responsibilities along the way to Sochi.

A quick glance at his three years’ experience as a head coach and associate coach with the Edmonton Oilers, coupled with his knowledge of the international game, shows the job was tailor-made for him.

He has spent so much of his hockey career overseas that most people don’t even know he’s Canadian.

“The people in Edmonton, right to the end of my third year there, still believed I was Swiss,” Krueger said. “I don’t think it mattered how many times I spoke English like someone from Winnipeg, I still had everybody telling me, ‘My, do you ever speak good English!’”

It is not very often in team sports that you will find somebody who was with the opposition for so long and then became a part of another national team. What Krueger will be doing is extremely unique for any sport.

He has no expectations and is okay to take a step back after 24 years of coaching. This position will be like his sabbatical.

His role is pretty simple: scout out what the team needs to expect both on and off the ice and find tactical adjustments.

“The coaches of Finland, Norway, Austria, and all the other potential opposition, except for the United States, will be playing games in November and December,” Krueger said. “They might not have all their players, but these coaches will be revealing their systems and tendencies. The only thing that will change for the Olympics is putting the National Hockey League players into the system. These coaches won’t change the way they want to play when those players arrive.”

Krueger will communicate his findings with Babcock in January, which may involve the forecheck, defensive zone and specialty teams, coupled with the international ice surface challenges.

He had a head start sharing some of his experience and getting acclimatized at the orientation camp in Calgary in late August, where there were no on-ice drills. Moving through the system in ball hockey, with the video, combined with executing the patterns, everything was a little bit slower in running shoes – but Krueger believes the players seemed better able to process what they needed to learn.

“The Olympic Games is so much bigger than just our game, so much bigger than just the team and the sport,” he said. “As an Olympic hockey team, we are only part of the Canadian Olympic Team. When we go to a world tournament or play in the NHL and the Western Hockey League, we are always part of the team.”

Krueger knows exactly what it takes to be successful overseas. He has also lived the challenges and the adversity that an Olympic Games presents.

Sochi will be nothing like playing in Vancouver. On-ice, the team can add a lot of the good things from Vancouver. Off-ice, the experience in Torino will help them more.

“The one thing we need to NOT do as Canadians is lose what makes us strong. It’s not about playing like the Russians, the Swedes, or somebody else. It’s playing like Canadians in this environment.”

Team Canada will have three good practices in Sochi, something it never had in the last two Olympics.

“The reality is you’re going to play the first three games adjusting to the time,” Krueger said. “You need to be 100 per cent adjusted when the playoffs come. The medical council tells us it takes a day for an hour. The players from the west coast will have a 12-hour time change. If you went by that number, it would take 12 days to be 100 per cent adjusted. We’re trying to speed up that process so that after six or seven days, everybody is pretty comfortable with the time zone. It is truly a challenge to peak athletically while you are making that adjustment.”

Preparation is one thing, but the in-tournament adjustment that teams make is critical for the long-term success in the tournament. This is where Krueger’s experience will excel from knowing the European game.

After the Olympics, he believes he will come out of it a much better coach.

“What a journey I’ve been able to have in the beautiful game of hockey. I love it through and through. As long as you remain positive and continue to look for growth, this game will give you that opportunity.”

That is an inside fact. ■



Team Canada Alumni Association / Hockey Canada Foundation

Recent Events Summary



Team Canada alumnus Charlie Simmer (second from left) and his Cameron Canada group.

Fore ... a good cause

Team Canada alumni hit the links for charity golf tournament

by Jason La Rose

As the calendar crept towards October, the leaves changed and the weather cooled, the thoughts of Canadians turned, as they do every year in late summer, towards the upcoming hockey season.

But Team Canada alumni had one more date with the golf course, teeing it up Sept. 17 at Lakeside Greens Golf and Country Club in Chestermere, Alta., for the fourth annual Team Canada Alumni Association charity golf tournament.

In all, 30 alumni joined 108 other golfers to raise more than \$30,000 for Hockey Canada Foundation programs, supporting grassroots and high performance programs across the country.

When the dust settled and the last putt fell, it was 1993 world junior gold medallist Jeff Shantz and his Weatherford International team finishing as the low-grossing team, while former Calgary Flames general manager Al Coates and the Baccalieu Energy foursome were the "most honest."

But the scores didn't matter; the day was about making new friends, reconnecting with old ones and continuing to grow the game.

In total, the alumni association's annual tournament has raised more than \$100,000 in its four years.

"That's really what it's all about," said Coates, who served as general manager of Canada's National Men's Team at the 2005 Spengler Cup, and as executive director of the 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship. "Hockey Canada has given so much to all of us (alumni), and it's exciting for us to be able to help give back."

The gathered alumni combined to represent Canada at every major international event, from the Olympics to men's and women's world championships and the world juniors, and even a few minor ones - Darren Van Impe patrolled the blue-line at the Deutschland Cup, Skoda Cup and Hungarian Cup.

They also ran the gamut in age, from Kelly Bechard, who wore the red and white as recently as the 2008 IIHF World Women's Championship, to Coates and former Olympian Gerry Pinder, who won bronze at the 1968 Games in Grenoble, France.

"It's always terrific to see the alumni come out, share stories and a few laughs, and interact with our guests," said Chris Bright, executive director of the Hockey Canada Foundation. "All of them have had such amazing experiences as part of Team Canada, and they want to see that tradition continue, and see the next generation have the same experiences." ■



Team Canada Alumni Association / Hockey Canada Foundation

Upcoming and past events



Making dreams come true in Yellowknife

Hockey Canada Foundation outfits more than three dozen young players with new equipment

by Jason La Rose

This season, in rinks from British Columbia to Newfoundland and Labrador, hundreds of thousands of minor hockey players will lace up their skates and have a chance to experience Canada's game.

But with the cost of hockey – namely registration fees and equipment costs – rising, there are many more that won't get the chance, from families who just can't afford to put their children on the ice.

Thanks to the generosity of the Hockey Canada Foundation, with the support of Bauer and the Canadian Tire JumpStart program, 38 young players from Yellowknife and Hay River, N.W.T., won't be missing out.

The players, between the ages of five and 12, were fitted with brand new equipment – helmets, pads, sticks and more – through the Hockey Canada Foundation's Dreams Come True program when it visited on Sept. 13-14.

"It's like an early Christmas," said Chris Bright, executive director of the Hockey Canada Foundation. "The kids are expertly fitted and are able to fill their bag, it really is rewarding to be a part of."

Hockey NWT accepted referrals through the KidSport program, Yellowknife Health and Social Services and the JumpStart program. Once the kids were chosen, they were invited to the Canadian Tire store in Yellowknife for the fitting.

"To see the look on their faces was pretty cool," Spider Jones, executive director of Hockey NWT, told Northern News Services. "They kept asking when they could come back and I heard one kid saying we were having something else on Saturday. They asked us after Saturday if we were coming

back the next day and that's when we told them they had to register with Yellowknife Minor Hockey."

Saturday's activities included an on-ice skills clinic with Hockey Canada development coordinator Ross MacLean.

Launched during the 2007-08 season in Toronto, Ont., and Victoria, B.C., the Dreams Come True program was implemented to improve accessibility to the sport. Since then, the program has helped more than 700 kids who wanted to play, but whose families could not afford to pay.

This year's trip to the Northwest Territories was the first northern venture for the program. It was done through Hockey North, the Hockey Canada branch Hockey NWT is a part of.

"(The Hockey Canada Foundation was) keen to see someone step up and Yellowknife Minor Hockey, with significant support through (past president) Doug Rankin, did so and we were fortunate to have several returning players whose families may have not been able to make the decision about buying equipment," Jones told Northern News Services.

By involving the local provincial minor hockey branches and host minor hockey associations, the Dreams Come True program ensures that participation takes place in a safe, supportive environment, subject to same standards of existing Hockey Canada programs.

"Hockey is such a part of Canadian life, and we think every young Canadian should get to experience it," said Bright. "If we can come in here and make a difference for just a few players, and just a few families, it's worth every penny to us." ■

Come Hell or High Water
Flood relief takes centre stage at Celebrity Classic in Calgary
by Jason La Rose



(From L to R) HCF Celebrity Classic honorary co-chair Sheldon Kennedy, Hockey Alberta president Terry Engen, Hockey Canada chairman Jim Hornell, Hockey Canada Foundation chair Grant Fagerheim, Hockey Canada president/CEO Bob Nicholson and HCF Celebrity Classic honorary co-chair Lanny McDonald present a cheque for \$250,000 to Hockey Alberta to help pay registration fees in flood-affected areas.

It may have been a few months later than originally planned, but the Hockey Canada Foundation put Hockey Canada's new home at the Markin MacPhail Centre in Calgary, Alta., on display Aug. 19 at the tenth annual Celebrity Classic gala.

The gala, and the golf tournament the following day at Priddis Greens Golf and Country Club, were originally scheduled for June 24-25, but were postponed following the devastating floods that hit southern Alberta in the early days of the summer.

With flood recovery in mind, the Hockey Canada Foundation made a \$250,000 donation to Hockey Alberta, which will use the funds to assist families affected by the floods. The funds will be allocated to local minor hockey associations to keep players who had planned to play during the 2013-14 season involved in the game.

"Our objective is to have as many kids as possible playing the game," said Grant Fagerheim, chair of the Hockey Canada Foundation. "There were many families affected by the floods in Calgary, and understandably hockey wasn't near the top of the priority list. We thought it was very important for us to come forward and help those players, help those families who were affected, by paying for their registration fees."

In addition, Bauer contributed \$150,000 to flood relief efforts, and another \$250,000 was donated by the foundation to KidSport Calgary, which aims to make sports such as hockey more affordable for underprivileged youth.

While the donations and recognition of flood relief efforts were front and centre, the Celebrity Classic was also a celebration of Canada's success

on the international stage during the 2012-13 season, with three teams - Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team, National Men's Under-18 Team and National Sledge Team - honoured for winning their respective world championships.

The teams were presented with their championship rings during a ceremony ahead of the Celebrity Classic, and were recognized during the gala itself.

"It takes you back to the moment you won," National Men's Under-18 Team captain Sam Reinhart said of seeing his ring for the first time. "It's been a few months, so seeing the little things, the little details on the ring, you slowly start to remember and the whole experience comes to mind."

For the gala, the ice surface on the main rink at the Markin MacPhail Centre was transformed to accommodate the hundreds of alumni, sponsors, gold medallists and other guests who were a part of an evening that included dinner, live and silent auctions and a hot stove session with Hockey Canada president Bob Nicholson and the honorary co-chairs of the event, Sheldon Kennedy and Lanny McDonald.

"When you look at the legacy program, the three teams winning and the celebration, not only of the game, but of being able to help out with the flood relief, and with KidSport," McDonald said of being involved in the event, "why would you not be a part of it?"

In total, the 2013 Celebrity Classic raised more than \$700,000 for the Hockey Canada Foundation, including the two \$250,000 donations. The remaining funds will support various foundation programs, ranging from the country's high performance teams to grassroots sport development.

The Hockey Canada Foundation used a portion of those funds as part of its \$50,000 donation to the Association du hockey mineur de Lac-Mégantic in early October, covering registration fees for all 210 minor hockey players in the town devastated by a July 6 train derailment and explosion. ■

Denis Brodeur: 1930-2013

It is with a heavy heart Hockey Canada acknowledges the passing of Denis Brodeur, who died Thursday, Sept. 26 at the age of 82.

Brodeur backstopped Canada at the 1956 Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, sharing time in the Canadian goal with Keith Woodall. He appeared in four games, finishing with a 3-1 record, one shutout and a 2.00 goals-against average, helping the Canadians to a bronze medal.

He helped the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen to the Allan Cup, Canada's National Senior Championship, in 1955, a victory that allowed them to represent Canada at the Olympics in Italy.

Following his playing career, Brodeur became one of the most celebrated photographers in hockey, covering the Montreal Canadiens for decades, first as a newspaper man and then as the team's official photographer.

In 1972, Brodeur was one of two photographers who captured Paul Henderson's iconic game-winning goal in the dying seconds of Game 8 of the Summit Series.

He was the father of goaltender Martin Brodeur, a four-time Olympian and two-time gold medallist with Team Canada, who had the words "Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956" and "Salt Lake City 2002" inscribed on his New Jersey Devils mask in honour of the father-son Olympic medals.

"This is truly a loss for Canadian hockey," said Hockey Canada president and CEO Bob Nicholson. "Not only was Denis a beloved member of the Hockey Canada family, but he was a treasured husband, father, grandfather and friend."

Hockey Canada sends its condolences to Brodeur's wife, Mireille, his sons Denis Jr., Claude and Martin, and daughters Line and Sylvie. ■



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The Road to Sochi with Gillian Apps

"It's one thing to win a medal, and it's even harder to defend."

by Kristen Lipscombe



Gillian Apps (R) lines up against American forward Erika Lawler during a recent Canada-United States game.

Gillian Apps has travelled the road to Olympic gold a couple of times now.

But from the first puck drop to the final buzzer – and every practice, game, training session and road trip in between – each trek to that sparkling summit of athletic accomplishment has been a unique experience for the forward from Unionville, Ont.

"I think each round of centralization is a little bit different," Apps said following a recent practice in Burlington, Vt., while on the road with Canada's National Women's Team for two pre-Olympic games against the United States. "This time it's been good so far; busier I think than it has been in the past."

Apps is one of 27 players from across the country currently centralized with Team Canada for the 2013-14 season, and based out of Hockey Canada's home facility in Calgary. When they're not playing, practising and training at the Markin MacPhail Centre, they're taking the bus across the province to play against teams from the Alberta Midget Hockey League, or flying to major cities on both sides of the border to take on the U.S. in preparation for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, next February.

The Canadian roster will be whittled down to 21 players before that long sought after trip to Sochi.

Canada edged the U.S. 3-2 in Burlington in the first of six Olympic warm-up games between the rivals Oct. 12, and made it two in a row with a 6-3 victory five days later in Boisbriand, Que.

For a high performance athlete like Apps, who has already successfully gone through the trials and tribulations en route to winning Olympic gold, not once but twice, both at the 2006 Olympics in Torino, Italy, and 2010 Games in Vancouver, B.C., it's clear the Road to Sochi 2014 is a rigorous journey for veterans and rookies alike.

It's all worth it for Apps. Not only for the possibility of having a third Olympic gold medal placed around her neck at the Bolshoy Ice Dome, but also to have the chance to spend time with her teammates every day. Apps has been a

member of Canada's National Women's Team since 2001, also winning three world championship gold medals during that time.

"It's fun to be with this group, together full-time," she said of what stands out for her so far this season. "Just feeling like a team that comes to the rink every day."

Having teammates help push you through the rough patches through a tough year is also important for the red and white to stay on top of their game. "That's why it's so great that we have such a close group, because you can use your teammates to help you get through those hard times."

Apps said she and her teammates are excited to see proud Canadian crowds fill the stands, whether it's at a small rink in rural Alberta as part of the ongoing National Women's Team Midget Series, or for one of the four remaining games against the United States, at the Markin MacPhail Centre in Calgary on Dec. 8; the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, N.D., on Dec. 20; the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn., on Dec. 28 or the Air Canada Centre in Toronto on Dec. 30.

"That's the part that everyone's looking forward to," Apps said, adding she's also hoping to experience Sochi 2014, which would be a completely new "dream come true."

"If I had the chance to do it again, it would be a big honour," said Apps, who plays with the Brampton Thunder of the Canadian Women's Hockey League when not training and playing with Team Canada.

Apps, who perhaps comes by her undying hockey determination honestly, as the daughter of Syl Apps Jr. and granddaughter of Hockey Hall of Famer Syl Apps Sr., both of whom played in the NHL, said participating in the Olympics is simply something you train "your whole life for."

Finally, Apps makes an important point as to why she is thrilled to take the road to gold a third straight time. "It's one thing to win a medal, and it's even harder to defend." ■

Where Are They Now?

A long-time Ranger and 1978 worlds bronze medallist, Pat Hickey continues to give back to Big Apple hockey

by Jason La Rose



Pat Hickey (second from L) and Wayne Gretzky with members of the Ice Hockey in Harlem program in Central Park in January 1989.

Pat Hickey hasn't played a National Hockey League game since 1985, last represented his country in 1978, and has a successful career in finance with RBC, but hockey is never far from the mind of the Brantford, Ont., native.

A second-round pick in both the NHL Amateur Draft and WHA Amateur Draft in 1973, Hickey spent two years with the WHA's Toronto Toros before joining the New York Rangers for the 1975-76 season.

He played 152 WHA games with Toronto and 644 more in the NHL with the Rangers, Colorado, Toronto, Quebec and St. Louis, finishing his pro career with 253 goals and 528 points.

His lone international appearance came at the 1978 IIHF World Championship in Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he joined Team Canada after the Rangers were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs.

"When I got over to Prague, Bill Watters, who was the general manager, said I was the only guy who was going to play with Marcel Dionne and Jean Pronovost, two 50-goal scorers," Hickey remembered. "And I'm thinking, 'what a great opportunity.'"

Hickey finished fifth in Canadian scoring with five goals and an assist in 10 games, and scored what was, without a doubt, the biggest goal of the tournament for his country, the game-winner in the dying minutes of a 3-2 win over Sweden, on his 25th birthday, that gave Canada the bronze medal.

The bronze was the first medal for the Canadians at a world championship or Olympics since 1968, as Canada had withdrawn from international competition from 1970-76 to protest the ineligibility of professionals.

"We knew if we tied the game that the Swedes would win the bronze, so we needed to win the game," Hickey said. "Marcel did his thing with play-making, beating a guy or two, and hit me with a pass. I broke in,

dropped the shoulder to shoot high and flung it along the ice on Hardy Åström, who was a stand-up goalie, and we hung on to win the bronze."

When his playing career came to an end in 1985, Hickey stepped into the world of finance, taking a position as an account executive on Wall Street, before returning to hockey in 1988, spending four seasons as general manager of the AHL's New Haven Nighthawks, and two as president and GM of the AHL's Hamilton Canucks.

Now 59, Hickey works as an investment advisor and registered institutional representative with RBC Dominion Securities in Hamilton, Ont.

His pet project, however, is Ice Hockey in Harlem, a non-profit organization he helped found in 1987 that works to improve the social and academic well-being of young New Yorkers through hockey.

"I was already working with a number of charities in New York, and I read an article about Donald Trump taking over two rinks in Central Park, and a light went off, and I said 'I'm going to have a hockey program,'" Hickey said of how Ice Hockey in Harlem got started. "Seagram's had an after-school program of 13 different subjects, from acting to volleyball to computer science, so I asked if they wanted a hockey program.

"I wrote CCM and Sher-Wood, and they donated, so what I had was gloves, helmets, skates and sticks, and we had a program."

The program started with 40 participants ranging in age from nine to 12 years old, who agreed to attend weekly classroom sessions and skate one night a week at Lasker Rink at the north end of Central Park. In class, they were taught math, reading, and geography, using hockey cities and statistics as teaching tools.

Now in its 26th year, Ice Hockey in Harlem has helped thousands of boys and girls, many of whom continue to live, work and raise their own families in Harlem. ■



OT
1952



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Please contact Norm Dueck at ndueck@hockeycanada.ca to sign up!