

USA HOCKEY, INC.
2007 ANNUAL CONGRESS
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
2006 – 2007 Season
MINUTES (of Record)

ATTENDANCE

Present: Tony Rossi (Chairman), Bob Fleming, George Gund, Bill Hall, Larry Johnson, Mark Johnson, Duke Kumpel, Lou Nanne, Gavin Regan, Jeff Sauer, Neal Sheehy, Tim Taylor

Staff: Jim Johannson (Staff Liaison), Michele Amidon, Art Berglund, Kim Folsom, Keith Gizzi, Ken Martel, Scott Monaghan, Ron Rolston, Ben Smith

Guests: Walter Bush, Dave Crandell, Ron DeGregorio, Jon Elvy, Kelley Fisher, Sam Greenblatt, Bruce McLeod, George Nagobads, Willie O'Ree, Kelly Skinner

Absent: Tom Anastos, Tom Chorske, Bill Daly, Katie King, Ted Saskin, Don Waddell

WELCOME

Tony Rossi welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized the guests from the USOC, Kelly Skinner and Kelley Fisher. The minutes from the January Winter Meeting were approved.

Bill Hall, representative on the International Council and Chairman of the Playing Rules Committee, gave a brief presentation to the council regarding the upcoming playing rule changes that will be discussed and voted on during the Board Meeting. Hall thanked Ron Rolston and Tim Taylor for being members of the panel for the open forum discussion. The three main proposals reviewed were icing, delay of game and off-sides. Bill provided a recap of the proposals to the council and opened it up for discussion.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS – PROGRAM REPORTS

The council was updated on the team results from the IIHF Women's World Championships, U18 Championships and Men's Championships. Results and rosters of all events were included in the year end report.

Women's World Championships

Michele Amidon reported on the IIHF Women's World Championships which took place in Selkirk and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Twenty-three athletes gathered in Grand Forks, North Dakota for a pre-camp along with Head Coach Mark Johnson and Assistant Coaches Erin Whitten and Hilary Witt along with Strength Coach Teena Murray. The team had two exhibition games against Sweden, winning both games. The team finished with the silver medal after a shoot-out game against Canada in the preliminary round and a 5-1 loss in the gold medal game. The program is moving forward with new staff and the addition of new players in the pool. The average athlete age in the women's program is 24. The event in Canada was outstanding, facilities were good and attendance of the USA-CAN game was sold out with 15,000+ in attendance.

Mark Johnson reported the event overall went well and we still need to concentrate on the quality of referees for the event. Rossi indicated that the IIHF insists on using the female referees for this event. The council discussed options on how to educate the other countries to improve the officiating program. USA Hockey has invited female referees to its officiating camps in the past with members from Great Britain, Slovakia and Finland attending. The IIHF

four-person system should be in place at the next IIHF U20 World Championships and then implemented in other future IIHF events.

Johnson indicated that the team did improve from the 4 Nations in November to the Worlds in April with many upcoming younger players involved. The women's program is continuing to grow and we need to look at more ways to train the post NCAA athletes as options now are very limited. USA Hockey is doing a better job identifying the younger athletes but we need the opportunity to get this group together to train with the top athletes so they can improve the game and begin to develop a strong U18 team. Michele is currently working on program options for the post NCAA athletes to train and will be discussing this with the U.S. Olympic Committee to assist in the funding of such program.

Men's U18 World Championships

Scott Monaghan reported on the Men's U18 World Championships that took place in Finland. The organizers did a great job with logistics and the only challenge was the distance between the two venues. The team went to the championship game with Russia and finished with the silver medal with a 6-5 ending. There were five athletes that were added to the U18 team outside of the NTDP and the team was mostly 1989 birth year and Russia was primarily 1990 birth year. This was a good team and had a lot of good character.

Men's World Championships

The Men's World Championships were held in Moscow, Russia. Jim Johansson mentioned the player pool is becoming deeper each year. USA had nine players that came from the NDTP and you could sense these players shared a closer bond. Insurance again was a unique situation and we continue to meet with the IIHF on this issue and the cost to play in the tournament. The coaching staff was pleased with the roster and we continued to pick up players as the event went on. The addition of Brian Burke, Ray Shero, Don Waddell and David Poile as National Team Management staff assisted as we continued to select players to the team and this group will be good to have on board as we head onto 2010. Operationally the event went well, the traffic was awful in Moscow and attendance for the games was average. The council discussed future venues for this event and mentioned that we need to have a location that is easier to get players into.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

The National Junior Camp invitees were announced during the Annual Congress. The camp will consist of 45 USA players to be held in Lake Placid August 3-12 along with Finland and Sweden. The coaching staff will be John Hynes and Keith Allain as well as Video Coach Ken Martel.

Scott Monaghan and Ron Rolston provided an update on the NTDP as they are wrapping up the end of the 06-07 season and started selection and scheduling for next season. Currently there will be 23 college games on the U18 schedule and the junior schedules are still being finalized. USA Hockey and the NTDP will be hosting an alumni weekend event and golf tournament August 23-25 for those past NTDP players to touch base and continue to keep them involved with future events. USA Hockey is working with the team captains to get player information and the feedback of those attending the event has been good.

Rolston will be coaching the incoming class next season. The group will consist of players from many areas of the United States and we're even starting to get past NHL players' sons who will

be part of the program. The coaching staff is happy with the quality of players and it is a good start to next season.

Jim Johansson advised that Team USA will be participating in the TUI (Deutschland Cup) in Germany next November. This team is primarily selected from AHL players and players that are in Europe. It provides a good opportunity to scout potential players for the National Team. USA has agreed to participate in this event every other year switching out with Canada.

Upcoming events for the women's program will include:

Player Performance Camp, Colorado Springs, CO

June 11-14, 2007 Players: 22

Coaches/Staff: Michele Amidon, Teena Murray and USOC Performance Services Team

National Festival, Lake Placid, NY

August 14-21, 2007 Players: 66 – U18, U22 and O22

Coaches: Katey Stone (Harvard), Erin Whitten (UNH), Bob Deraney (Providence), Mark Johnson (Wisconsin), Laura Halldorson (UMinn), Shannon Bryant (Williams), Jackie Barto (Ohio State), Paul Flanagan (SLU), Kevin Houle (Plattsburgh), Goalie Consultant Dave Flint (St. Anslem)

Under 18 USA vs. Canada (3 game series) Ottawa, ON

August 21-26, 2007 Players: 22, birth years '92, '91 & '90

Coaches: Head Coach Katey Stone, Assistant Coaches Erin Whitten and Bob Deraney

Under 22 USA vs. Canada (3 game series) Lake Placid, NY

August 21-26, 2007 Players: 22, birth years '86, '87, '88 & '89

Coaches: Head Coach Mark Johnson, Assistant Coaches Laura Halldorson and Shannon Bryant

Pre 4 Nations Camp, Ann Arbor, MI

October 28-November 3, 2007 Players: TBA, all Non-NCAA players

4 Nations Cup, Leksand, Sweden

November 4-12, 2007 Players: 22

Coaches: Jackie Barto, Paul Flanagan, Kevin Houle

Holiday Camp, Lake Placid, NY

December 26, 2007-January 1, 2008 Players: 45

Coaches: Katey Stone, Mark Johnson, Jackie Barto, Paul Flanagan, Kevin Houle, Dave Flint

Under 18 World Championships, Canada

January 5-13, 2008 Players: 22

Coaches: Head Coach Katey Stone, Assistant Coaches Erin Whitten and Bob Deraney

Pre-World Camp, Colorado Springs, CO

March 24-31, 2008 Players: 20-26

Coaches: Jackie Barto, Paul Flanagan, Kevin Houle

Women's World Championships, Harbin, China
April 1-13, 2008 Players: 20
Coaches: Jackie Barto, Paul Flanagan, Kevin Houle

The U18 Women's World Championships will be a new event for 2007-08 and it was not known prior to submitting and approving the budgets for the season. Tony Rossi will ask the Executive Committee to amend the budget during the Board of Directors meeting to allow USA to participate in this important international event.

INTERNATIONAL & CANADIAN TRANSFERS

International and Canadian transfer reports were distributed to the Junior Council and a recap was presented to the International Council. All procedures to process transfers are working well. The council briefly discussed the movement of players into Canada and the increase in numbers. USA programs need to educate the players about the options in U.S. junior programs and NCAA versus going into the Major Junior programs in Canada.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dave Crandell indicated that the U.S. Olympic Committee and Mass Hockey are working together within a tight timeline to host the Sled Hockey World Championships March 29-April 6, 2008. The hope is to have an amputee hockey event to coincide with this championship.

The USA Hockey Sled Team has been running camps and events through the national office under the direction of Dan Brennan. U.S. Paralympics and USA Hockey have an agreement in place to administer the Sled program.

This was an off year for the World University Games. Ashley Bevan, Adult department, works with the U.S. Olympic Committee on the involvement of USA participating in this event and it is a big part of the AHCA/USA Hockey relationship.

USA Hockey was granted the approval to host the IIHF events 2009 U18, 2011 U20 and 2012 Women's Worlds. The process for bid selection will begin in a couple of months after information is received from the IIHF on bid hosting requirements.

The Inline National Team attended the IIHF World Championship finishing sixth in the event. Jon Elvy attended the championship as the Referee-in-Chief and overall it was a fantastic event. The IIHF runs 27 to 29 events each season and the inline championship is the fourth growing event. Due to the growth of the event, the IIHF now owns two surface courts. With the reorganization of the USA Hockey Inline program, the Inline World Championship event falls under the International Council and the International Department.

The World Junior Challenge in Trail, BC Canada November 4-11, 2007 will replace the Viking Cup. This program is an extension of the U20. The birth year will be limited to only five players '88 year and all other players need to be younger. USA will be looking for the cooperation of the CHL to take players from these teams to participate in the World Junior Challenge. The Head Coach will be PK O'Handley and Assistant Coach Regg Simon. The participating nations include Germany, USA, Russia, Belarus and two Canadian teams.

Jeff Sauer reported the U.S. Deaflympic Ice Hockey Team won the gold medal in Salt Lake City at the 16th Winter Deaflympics held February 1-10, 2007. The next Olympics will be in Czech

Republic in 2009. It is a challenge to continue to compete in such events due to the financial impact as this program is not under the USA Hockey budget.

Additional discussion was held regarding players going into the major junior programs and using the camps/festivals to show the various options available for USA players. At the USA Hockey summer camps, there is a simple presentation done on options within NCAA programs and this needs to be improved. Currently there are nine CHL teams in the U.S. and there is continued concern of additional growth in the U.S. of more CHL programs. Tony Rossi suggested that the council look into having an additional meeting to discuss the major junior topics further. In addition we should look at the possibility of bringing in current athletes to speak at camps on this subject and discuss the options they had and what path they selected.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Tony Rossi, Chairperson

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