



Operation King for a Week

November 7 – 16, 2005

**Presented by:
Hockey Canada
And Metallurg Magnitogorsk**



Magnitogorsk Hockey System

The following is a basic outline of the Magnitogorsk (pop. 450,000) hockey system. There are 600 minor hockey players in Magnitogorsk ranging in ages from 5 to 17. Players are divided by age (single year system for all players 7 and older)

Player age	Number of Players	Training sessions per wk	Number of games per week	Other Notes
4-6 year old	55	4-5 All on-ice	No games - 6 year olds play some after Christmas	
7 year olds	35	5 on-ice 1 off ice		
8 year olds	35	5 on-ice 1 off ice		
9 year olds	35	5 on-ice 1 off ice		
10 year olds	35	5 on-ice 1 off-ice		
11 year olds	35	5 on-ice 1 off ice	2	No parents allowed to view training after this age.
12 year olds	30	4-5 on-ice 2 off-ice	2	
13 year olds	30	5 on-ice 2 off-ice	2	
14 year olds	30	5 on-ice 3 off-ice	2	
15 year olds	25	5 on-ice 3 off-ice	2	
16 year olds	25	5 on-ice 5 off-ice	2	



Russian Hockey System

The entire country of Russia is divided into 6 regions for hockey:

1. Moscow
2. Centre Country - within 300 km radius of Moscow
3. Ural and West Siberia
4. North- West including St. Petersburg
5. Volga
6. Far East

Within the Ural and West Siberia Region Magnitogorsk plays in a league that includes:

1. Chelyabinsk
2. Ekaterinaburg
3. Ufa
4. Omsk
5. Nyzhny Tapil
6. Tumen
7. Surgut
8. Perm
9. Orsk

The top 2 teams from this area compete nationally for the Russian championship on an annual basis.

Goals for the Magnitogorsk Program:

1. Develop players for the pro team
2. Be the best in Russia - #1 in the region and #1 in the country
3. Prepare players to win at all levels of competition from 12 to the pros

Within the Magnitogorsk program the basic structure includes 3 levels:

Director (1)

- Oversees the entire program from entry to exit
- Works with the coaches to ensure that their plans meet the expectations of program
- Works with pro team on all levels of development and fit between the program and the pro team
- Financial operations of organization
- Relationship with other cities and Russian federation on scheduling, travel, championships etc



Deputy Directors (2)

- Responsible for athlete education, behaviour, graduation
- Works with the coaches to ensure that their plans meet the expectations of the program
- Develops on-ice schedules for all ages on a weekly basis
- Manages the arena schedule and all required ice time

Coaches (17)

- Two tiers of coaches - senior coaches and junior coaches
- Every senior coach must submit a plan for the year, month, week and day
- Plans are reviewed with program director and potentially modified - although their appears to be little follow-up on the execution of the plan
- Expectation is that all coaches will have an understanding of all parts of the game - technical, tactical, team play, physiological, mental, goaltending
- Success of coaches measured on team achievement and player development over time
- In the old system a coach started with the 5-6 year olds and moved up the entire system with the players until they moved on to farm team or pro team
- In the new system the program is reviewing this system and potentially looking to place coaches where they fit the best
- 50% of the current coaches have been through at least one cycle of players (5-16 years old) and the average experience of the coaches would be between 12-15 years.

Coach Education

- Coach education is done through the university system
- All senior coaches have 1-3 years of coach education and continue their education through the Russian federation - this includes 1-2 weeks a couple of times per year in a centralized location
- All former players

Referee Education

- There is a city federation of referees
- Most referees range from 20-26 years of age and are former players
- Linesmen may start at 18
- There are 3 referees in the Super League from Magnitogorsk
- All testing of referees is done locally in a camp environment - testing is both off-ice and on-ice.

Player Profile

- Players pay \$50 per year to play - this includes all ice, off-ice, equipment



- Players range in age from 4 to Super League players - all are considered to be part of the club.
- No girls in the system - no attempt to recruit girls into the system
- Players in the hockey school go to school together and take all of their courses together - the school is a co-ed school but only boys in the class.



Weekly Schedule

RINK #1

	9:15 - 10:30	11:00 - 13:00	13:30 - 15:00	15:15 - 16:45	17:15 - 18:30	19:00 - 20:30
Monday	99/00's	Magnit. Pro	98's	93's	Magnit. Pro	90's
Tuesday	99/00's	Magnit. Pro	98's	93's	Magnit. Pro	90's
Wednesday	99/00's	Magnit. Pro	98's	93's	Magnit. Pro	90's
Thursday	92's	Magnit. Pro	98's	93's	Magnit. Pro	90's
Friday	92's	Magnit. Pro	98's	93's	Magnit. Pro	90's
Saturday	99/00's	Magnit. Pro	Game 93's vs. Visitor	98's	Magnit. Pro	
Sunday	98	Magnit. Pro	Game 93's vs. Visitor		Magnit. Pro	

RINK #2

	9:15 - 10:30	11:00 - 13:00	13:30 - 15:00	15:15 - 16:45	17:15 - 18:30	19:00 - 20:30	20:30 - 21:30
Monday	91's	92's		89's	Magnit. Farm	95's	Goalies 89-92
Tuesday	91's	92's		89's	Magnit. Farm	95's	
Wednesday	91's	92's		89's	Magnit. Farm	95's	
Thursday	91's	92's		89's	Magnit. Farm	95's	
Friday	91's	99/00's		89's	Magnit. Farm	94's	Goalies 89-92
Saturday	Goalies 93-99	Game 89's vs. Visitor	95's	96's	Game 94's vs. Visitor	90's	
Sunday	Goalies 93-99	Game 89's vs. Visitor	95's	96's	Game 94's vs. Visitor	90's	



CANADA

Off-ice Schedule

	9:15 - 10:30	11:00 - 13:00	13:30 - 15:00	15:15 - 16:45	17:15 - 18:30	19:00 - 20:30	20:30 - 21:30
Monday		Magnit. Farm			95's		
Tuesday	92's	Magnit. Farm	89's		91's 90's		
Wednesday	Magnit. Pro	Magnit. Farm	89's	98's 91's	90's 93's		
Thursday	Magnit. Pro	Magnit. Farm	89's	91's 93's	90's		
Friday	Magnit. Pro		89's	90's			
Saturday	89's Magnit. Pro						
Sunday	89's Magnit. Pro						



Facilities

Indoor

There are 2 indoor rinks in Magnitogorsk - the larger of the 2 was built in 1991 and is a 3000 seat arena that hosts the local pro team. The ice at this arena is used from 9 am to 9 pm and is split between the minor system and the pro team.

The smaller indoor arena is attached to the larger arena. It was built in 1997 and only has a few hundred seats on one side of the rink. This facility like the larger one also is operational from 9-9 and is used primarily by the minor hockey program but also but the pro teams junior affiliate.

Each age of players within the organization has their own permanent dressing room which they keep their equipment in permanently during the season.

Given the age of the facilities the upkeep is very poor - it is hard to say whether this is a result of poor construction, poor maintenance or a combination of the two.





Outdoor

The city of Magnitogorsk has 15 outdoor rinks during the winter months. These rinks are started by the city but the maintenance is done strictly by the users - if the kids do not clear and maintain the facility will ultimately just fall into disrepair over the course of the winter.

The youth can use these facilities all winter and many of the players who utilize this are not registered minor hockey players they are simply shinny players. Very few children play on the outdoor rink and join organized hockey at later stages - they simply are not allowed to join if their skills are considered inferior.



Agenda

Monday, November 7, 2005

- Travel from Calgary to Toronto to Frankfurt

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

- Travel from Frankfurt to Moscow and then with Dave and Linda to Magnitogorsk

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

- Arrive in Magnitogorsk at 3:00 am
- Sit down with Dave and plan the week - coaches to interview, key dates and locations for events, set up meetings with key people
- Watched Dave's team practice twice and the 91's, 93's and 98's practice
- Watched the 98's during their 45 minute off-ice session
- Interviewed Stanislav - deputy director of the Magnitogorsk hockey program

Thursday, November 10, 2005

- Watched the 99's and 00's practice at 9 am - interviewed a mother of one of the players and the player after the session
- Watched the 92's and 89's practice and the 89's go through their off-ice session
- Interviewed parents of U6 players and player

Friday, November 11, 2005

- Watched 91's practice in the morning
- Interviewed goalie coach
- Interviewed Boychov - player with the Metallurg pro team
- Toured downtown of Magnitogorsk
- Met again with Stanislav and provided him with copies of skills manuals and new DVD set.
- Watched Pro team afternoon practice

Saturday, November 12, 2005

- Watched the 89's (on tape - this group of players is very talented), 93's and 94's play
- Watched the farm team practice in the morning
- Watched 99/00's practice - see video
- Watched the pro team intra-squad game in the evening
- Interviewed officials from games



Sunday, November 13, 2005

- Watched the 89's, 93's (on tape) and 94's (on tape) play
- Video taped goalie session with 93-99 goalies - some great skills - 4 stations
- Game warm-up for kids in hall - great

Monday, November 14, 2005

- Day off for players with the exception of the 92's
- Watched the pro team practice in the morning - only 1 skate today
- Toured the city - steel plant, larger housing to the south, market
- Toured the entire arena

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

- Fly from Magnitogorsk to Moscow to Frankfurt
- Overnight in Frankfurt

Thursday, November 17, 2005

- Fly from Frankfurt to Calgary



Interview

Interview with Vitaly - 93-99 goalie coach for Magnitogorsk

Background:

- 15 years played - 2 in the Super League and the balance in the Highest League
- years total coaching - this is his first in Magnitogorsk

Vitaly's Observations:

- Biggest weakness of the young goalies in Russia is conditioning although they are very good skaters
- At the age of 6-7 they start to identify goalies - but in the first couple years the vast majority of the time is spent on skating, balance, coordination
- His playing background serves him well because he feels that he needs to demo a lot because his goalies do not respond as well to verbal cues/explanation
- Some of their goalie training is taped, he watches all home club team games and makes notes on all sessions
- With the older teams 15+ the coach tends to play the better goalie - with the U15's they alternate from game to game

Interview with Director of Officiating and 3 current officials

Recruitment and Training

- Young players - all have experience with farm club
- No formal official education curriculum but officials are taken through on and off-ice training, a test of the rules and a test during simulated games
- Before every season officials go through a re-test on rules and practical application
- Officials are no full time professionals - they all have primary occupations
- Pay for a Minor hockey game is 600 roubles (\$20 CDN.) for the referee and 300 roubles (\$10 CDN.) for the linesmen
- No levels of coach education but the officials strive to move from regional to national to first league to super league to international
- There are approximately 1,000 officials in all of Russia



Training On-ice - Key Concepts (see video)

- Very few drills - 3 - 4 maximum over a 75 minute practice
- Many repetitions on each drill - could run 20-25 minutes - some progressions are added but repetition, repetition, repetition
- Very few coaches by Canadian standard - 1 per 15 players
- Very little feedback from the coaches - when there is feedback it appears to be negative the vast majority of the time.
- Introduction of skills at an early age (11) - powerplay, penalty kill, breakouts, forechecking
- Volume, volume, volume - huge emphasis

Game - Key Concepts (see video)

Generally speaking the players are introduced to skills much earlier and are able to perform much more complex skills at an earlier age.

Skills that are seen in the 93/94 group that would not be seen in the Canadian game:

Skating

- moving to open ice - very good at cutting the ice in half
- D staggering - move well back and laterally

Puck Control

- Fake drop and hold the puck (Leopold move)
- In small space hand skills are very good
- Turnbacks all over the ice, chips behind body off board to self
- Never a dangerous situation with the puck - net front, just inside or outside blueline, last man back - very will to challenge defender 1 on 1

Passing

- Use of re-directs and tips very good, little subtle touch passes
- Saucer passes, passes to space and control of the pace of the pass is unbelievable
- Pass first mentality near the net - very odd they will challenge defender inside the blue line but once they have beat defender to create odd man situation they are thinking pass.
- Attempt and *complete* the long pass very frequently

Play off the puck

- Use of screens introduced at an early age - used very well in the game
- Skate to use the width of the ice



Interview Questions for Dave

Session	Questions
<p>Reflections on the World Junior Championships and Other International Tournaments</p>	<p>How do you measure success at a tournament such as the World Junior Tournament? Is success gold or nothing?</p> <p>Do you believe that Canada's players are as skilled as the other teams at the world junior level? Skating? Puck Control? Shooting?</p> <p>What does it mean to represent Canada and how do you handle the pressure of being the team's head coach?</p> <p>Media has a huge impact on a tournament like this - how do you deal with the media and the resulting distractions?</p> <p>What types of goals (period to period, game to game) do you set for a team at the World Juniors?</p> <p>Who were the leaders on your team? What attributes made these guys great leaders?</p> <p>How did you use your assistant coaches? What roles did they have?</p> <p>What coaches had the greatest influence on your coaching philosophy and style?</p> <p>What is one piece of advice would you give a first time National Junior team Head Coach?</p>
<p>Developing Young Players</p>	<p>What is the Role of the minor hockey coach in a young players development?</p> <p>How, as a coach, do you make practices fun and interesting?</p> <p>What makes a good minor hockey coach?</p> <p>What must kids learn at an early age?</p> <p>If you could give parents one piece of advice on minor hockey what would it be?</p> <p>Year Round Hockey - what do you think of this concept?</p>



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<p>Canadian Hockey System vs Russian Hockey System - Lessons for Canada</p>	<p>If you could identify one key difference between the Canadian Hockey Development System and the Russian what would it be?</p> <p>What one item, developmentally, that occurs in Russia should HC be looking to integrate into the Canadian Model?</p>
<p>Coaching in a different language - challenges of communication</p>	