



February 15-17, 2013

HOCKEY WEEKEND ACROSS AMERICA

presented by

CCM



WATCH IT. PLAY IT. LIVE IT.

HOCKEY IN THE UNITED STATES

*Highlights of how the sport has
evolved over the last 25 years*



EXPLOSION OF PLAYERS

In 1988, approximately 185,000 were part of USA Hockey, while 25 years later that number is more than 510,000. Today, hockey is played in all 50 states.

1988

Adult Players: 31,000

Youth Players: 154,000

Female Players: 2,500

Total Players: 185,000

2012

Adult Players: 155,756

Youth Players: 355,422

Female Players: 66,692

Total Players: 511,175

NOTE: Totals in 1988 are approximate. Numbers in 2012 represent final numbers through the 2011-12 season. Final numbers for current season will be available this summer.



INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Over the 25 years since 1988, the United States' prominence in international competition has continued to escalate and the last 10 years in particular have included many magical moments for U.S. teams.

Consider:

- The U.S. was the only nation to have its men's and women's Olympic ice hockey teams and its Paralympic sled hockey team in the gold-medal game of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.
- The U.S. has medaled in two of the last three Olympic Winter Games in men's ice hockey (silver medals in 2010 and 2002) and will be among the favorites to medal in 2014.
- The U.S. won the first-ever gold medal in the Olympic Winter Games awarded in women's ice hockey in 1998 and has medaled in every Games since.
- The U.S. has medaled in three of the last four IIHF World Junior Championships, including gold in 2013 and 2010 and bronze in 2011. It is the most successful four-year stretch in the country's history.
- The U.S. has won the gold medal seven times, including the last four, in the IIHF Men's U18 World Championships, an event that began in 1999. The U.S. also has two silvers and one bronze to its credit.
- The U.S. has medaled in every IIHF Women's U18 World Championship conducted, including three golds and three silvers. The event began in 2008.
- The U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team has medaled in the last three Paralympic Games, including two golds and one bronze.



COLLEGE HOCKEY

College hockey – including the number of programs, attendance, and television exposure – have all escalated over the past 25 years.

Number of NCAA Programs

1987-88

Men's Division I: 49
Men's Division II: 16
Men's Division III: 63

Total Men's Programs: 128

Women's Division I: 0
Women's Division III: 0

Total Women's Programs: 0

2012-13

Men's Division I: 59
Men's Division II: 6
Men's Division III: 72

Total Men's Programs: 137

Women's Division I: 34
Women's Division III: 49

Total Women's Programs: 83

NOTE: Women's hockey has been played on college campuses since the 1960s, however, it wasn't until 2001 that the NCAA sponsored a Division I women's ice hockey national championship. The Division III women's ice hockey national championship began in 2002.

In addition to NCAA recognized programs, club hockey at the collegiate level has exploded in popularity over the last 25 years. In 1991, the American Collegiate Hockey Association was founded with 15 charter members, all men's club teams. Today, the ACHA features 433 teams in 49 states, including 394 men's teams in three divisions and 39 women's teams in two divisions.

NHL HOCKEY

In 1987-88, a total of 118 Americans played at least one NHL game, while by the 2011-12 season, that number more than doubled to 237.

In addition, over the last 25 years, NHL hockey arrived in several U.S. markets for the very first time, including:

- 1991-92: San Jose Sharks
- 1992-93: Tampa Bay Lightning
- 1993-94: Anaheim Ducks
Florida Panthers
Dallas Stars
- 1996-97: Phoenix Coyotes
- 1998-98: Carolina Hurricanes
- 1998-99: Nashville Predators
- 2001-01: Columbus Blue Jackets

In 1987-88, 14 of 21 NHL teams were based in American cities, while today 23 of 30 NHL teams have American cities as homes.



JUNIOR HOCKEY

Junior hockey is as prominent with as many participants in the United States as the country has ever seen. The United States Hockey League is the nation's only Tier I junior league. And while the landscape of junior hockey today is certainly different than it was in 1988, it is worth noting that in the 1988 NHL Entry Draft, nine players with USHL experience were drafted, with the highest pick coming in the fifth round. In the 2012 NHL Entry Draft, that number rose to 39, including six players taken in the first round.

DISABLED HOCKEY

The growth of disabled hockey has been significant, particularly in the last decade. Disabled hockey includes four disciplines – Sled Hockey, Special Hockey, Hearing Impaired Hockey and Amputee Hockey.

OTHER THINGS OF NOTE

Since 1988...

- USA Hockey, always a leader in safety, has enhanced its programs over the last 25 years both on and off the ice. Most recently, USA Hockey introduced its SafeSport program, which packages many of its previous initiatives and adds a comprehensive education program focused on off-ice safety.
- The Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award was created by the USA Hockey Foundation in 1998 to honor the top women's player in NCAA Division I ice hockey and provide a vehicle for prominent exposure of the game.
- The National Team Development Program was created by USA Hockey in 1996 to provide a "talented and gifted" program for the top 16 and 17-year-old male players in the U.S. The goals of the NTDP are to positively affect success in international competition and also help affect increased numbers of Americans playing in the National Hockey League and other professional leagues.
- The American Development Model was launched in 2009 to provide – for the first-time ever – associations across the country a blueprint for optimal athlete development. The ADM – endorsed by the NHL – is based on age-appropriate training and long-term athlete development principles.



“We can be proud of how far our sport has come, but we’ve got much yet to accomplish!”

**— Ron DeGregorio
President, USA Hockey**