



# U.S. NATIONAL SLED HOCKEY TEAM GAME NOTES

2016 World Sled Hockey Challenge  
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

USA (0-0-0-0) vs. Korea (0-0-0-0)  
Preliminary Round Game #1

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016 • 12 p.m. Local/11 a.m. ET • Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre

USA Hockey Communications Contact: Jon Gomez  
Email: JonG@usahockey.org • Cell: 973.723.5744

## TODAY'S GAME

The United States faces Korea at Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (capacity: 1,200) to open preliminary round play at the 2016 World Sled Hockey Challenge. The game will be streamed live on FASTHockey.com.

## USA VS. KOREA

Team USA holds a 9-0-0-0 (W-OTW-OTL-L) record all-time against Korea. The two teams met twice in last year's World Sled Hockey Challenge, with the U.S. earning an 8-1 victory in preliminary round play as well as an 8-0 shutout win in the semifinals.

## TEAM USA YEAR-BY-YEAR RESULTS AT WORLD SLED HOCKEY CHALLENGE

Year	Finish	Location
2015	First	Leduc, Alta.
2013	Second	Toronto, Ont.
2012	First	Calgary, Alta.
2011 Nov.	Second	Calgary, Alta.
2011 Apr.	Third	London, Ont.
2009	First	Charlottetown, P.E.I.
2008	Third	Charlottetown, P.E.I.
2007	Third	Kelowna, B.C.

## 2015 WORLD SLED HOCKEY CHALLENGE

The U.S. National Sled Hockey Team opened the 2015 campaign by claiming the 2015 World Sled Hockey Challenge in Leduc, Alberta. In preliminary round play, the U.S. defeated Russia (3-2) and Korea (8-1) before shutting out Canada (2-0). In the semifinal round, Team USA defeated Korea 8-1, and went on to face Russia in the championship game where **Josh Pauls** scored 19 seconds into overtime to give the U.S. a 2-1 victory and its third-ever World Sled Hockey Challenge title. The U.S., who won all five games for the first time, led the tournament in goals (23), fewest goals against (4), goals-per-game (4.6), goals-against-per-game (0.8), and power-play percentage (40%). Forward **Declan Farmer** had nine points (3-6) in five games to pace all players, marking the first time an American led the event in points. He also set Team USA records for assists (6) and points (9) in a World Sled Hockey Challenge. **Nikko Landeros** led all defensemen in points (4-4-8) and goaltender **Steve Cash** finished with a tournament-best 0.66 goals-against-average that ranks third all-time in tournament history.

## Team USA Schedule

Sunday, Jan. 17	Preliminary Round
vs. Korea	11:00 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 18	Preliminary Round
vs. Russia	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 20	Preliminary Round
vs. Canada	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 21	Semifinals
TBD	1:00 p.m./6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 23	Third Place/Championship
TBD	12:00 p.m./4:00 p.m.

All times Eastern. All games except the championship game will be streamed on FASTHockey.com.

## RECAPPING LAST SEASON

Team USA went undefeated (12-1-0-0/W-OTW-OTL-L) and ended the season as world champions on home ice. After defeating Russia, 2-1, in overtime to win the 2015 World Sled Hockey Challenge in Leduc, Alberta, the U.S. outscored its opponents 29-1 while going a perfect 5-0 to claim the gold medal at the 2015 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship. The U.S. finished both tournaments as leaders in goals per game, goals against per game, power play percentage and shutouts. In 13 games, Team USA scored 59 goals, allowed just six goals and set 12 team records to finish the season undefeated for the second time in team history. **Declan Farmer** paced all skaters in goals (10) and points (21) and goaltender **Steve Cash** finished with a career-best 0.45 goals against average and .950 save percentage.

## CAPTAIN AMERICA

**Josh Sweeney** is serving as captain for Team USA for the second consecutive season. Also returning are alternate captains **Nikko Landeros** and **Josh Pauls**. A year ago, the trio led Team USA to an undefeated season and a gold medal on home ice at the 2015 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship in Buffalo, New York.

## OTHER TIDBITS

Forward **Josh Misiewicz**, who skated for Team USA last season, is missing the tournament due to injury ... The U.S. National Sled Hockey Team returns 15 players from last year's undefeated team ... Last November, USA Hockey unveiled the 10 sled hockey programs that will equally share \$250,000 in grants provided by Labatt USA through its Pass it Forward initiative. For more information, see page 3.

## LEADING THE WAY

**Jeff Sauer**, former men's ice hockey head coach at the University of Wisconsin and 2014 U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame inductee, is in his fifth season as head coach of the U.S. National Sled Hockey Team. Last season, Sauer led Team USA to an undefeated 12-1-0-0 (W-OTW-OTL-L) record that culminated with a gold medal at the 2015 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship in Buffalo, New York. Since taking the helm in 2011, Sauer has guided Team USA to a 41-3-1-11 (W-OTW-OTL-L) record that includes reaching the championship game of every major international competition and titles in five major international events, including the 2012 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship in Hamar, Norway; the 2012 World Sled Hockey Challenge in Calgary, Alberta; the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia; the 2015 World Sled Hockey Challenge in Leduc, Alberta; and the 2015 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship in Buffalo, New York.

## INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

The United States has won four of the last five major international events, including the 2015 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship in Buffalo, New York; 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia; 2012 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship in Hamar, Norway; and the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia.

## TEAM FIRST

Members of Team USA are already teammates on club teams with Buffalo Sabres (**Adam Page**, **Paul Schaus**), Colorado Avalanche (**Tyler Carron**, **Niko Landeros**, **Bo Reichenbach**), Disabled Athlete Sports Association St. Louis Blues (**Steve Cash**, **Billy Hanning**, **Josh Pauls**), Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago Blackhawks (**Kevin McKee**, **Brody Roybal**) and San Antonio Rampage (**Luke McDermott**, **Rico Roman**).

## VISIT FROM THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

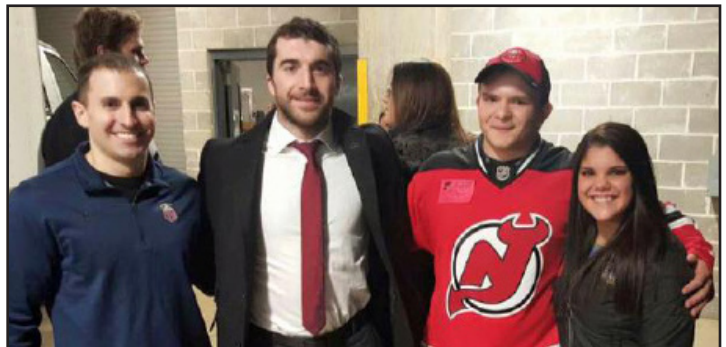
At the conclusion of practice yesterday, Honorary Colonel **Dan Hennessey** and several other members of the Royal Canadian Air Force visited the Team USA locker room where they shared their passion for hockey and expressed their gratitude at the players' dedication to the sport.

## SIX PURPLE HEARTS

Six members of Team USA are Purple Heart recipients. Last year, former Marines **Luke McDermott**, **Josh Misiewicz**, **Paul Schaus** and **Josh Sweeney** helped Team USA to an undefeated season and the 2015 IPC Sled Hockey World Championship while retired Army staff sergeant **Rico Roman** is back with the national team after helping Team USA claim gold at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Additionally, former Navy Seal **Bo Reichenbach**, spent last season as an alternate captain for the U.S. Developmental Sled Hockey Team before being named to his first U.S. National Sled Hockey Team.

## SPUDS THE DEVIL

Prior to the tournament, Team USA alternate captain and New Jersey native **Josh Pauls** was fortunate to meet several members of the New Jersey Devils during the team's visit to St. Louis. The meeting, arranged by Devils broadcaster, Sherry Ross, included Pauls and national team teammate, **Luke McDermott**, receiving tickets to the game, being a second intermission interview guest and having the opportunity to meet several Devils players after the game. Among the players Pauls met was **Kyle Palmieri**, who helped the U.S. National Junior Team to a pair of medals at the IIHF World Junior Championship, including gold in 2010 and bronze in 2011, and **Cory Schneider**, who helped Team USA to a silver medal at the 2004 IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship and was later named the David Peterson Goalie of the Year by USA Hockey.



## LABATT USA'S PASS IT FORWARD INITIATIVE

On November 5, 2015, USA Hockey unveiled the 10 sled hockey programs that will equally share \$250,000 in grants provided by Labatt USA through its Pass it Forward initiative. The funding will assist five newly created programs this year and five other previously established USA Hockey sled programs. Each of the 10 programs will receive \$25,000 to be used for items such as sleds, stick, ice time and uniforms.

### GRANT WINNING PROGRAMS

Boston Shamrocks Sled Hockey (Boston, Mass.)  
Eagle Mount-Great Falls (Great Falls, Mont.)  
DASA St. Louis Blues (St. Louis, Mo.)  
Hero Sports (Sioux Falls, S.D.)  
Palm Beach Tiger Sharks Sled Hockey (Lake Worth, Fla.)  
Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association (Knoxville, Tenn.)  
Rochester Sled Hockey (Rochester, Minn.)  
Rochester Sled Hockey Organization (Rochester, N.Y.)  
Winterhawks Sled Hockey (Portland, Ore.)  
WASA Lightning Sled Hockey Team (Milwaukee, Wis.)

Of the 10 programs selected by USA Hockey, five are new for this season. U.S. National Sled Hockey Team captain **Josh Sweeney** is leading the creation of the Winterhawks Sled Hockey Program, while U.S. National Sled Hockey team members **Steve Cash**, **Billy Hanning** and **Josh Pauls** are members of the DASA St. Louis Blues organization. Additionally, Team USA doctor, **Mike Uihlein**, is overseeing the newly created program in Milwaukee, Wis.

## 2016 IIHF U18 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2016 U.S. Women's National Under-18 Team defeated Canada, 3-2, in overtime to claim its second consecutive gold medal at the 2016 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship, in St. Catharines, Ontario.

## HOCKEY WEEKEND ACROSS AMERICA

USA Hockey hosts the ninth annual Hockey Weekend Across America, Feb. 19-21, 2016. Hockey Weekend Across America is focused on celebrating the sport and those involved while sharing hockey with new audiences. For more information, visit [HockeyWeekendAcrossAmerica.com](http://HockeyWeekendAcrossAmerica.com).

## 2016 IIHF U18 MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Grand Forks, North Dakota, is set to host the 2016 IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship from April 14-24, 2016. The 10-team event, which features the top players in the world under the age of 18, will be staged at Ralph Engelstad Arena (main venue) and Icon Sports Center (secondary venue). For more information, visit [grandforks2016.com](http://grandforks2016.com).

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position
1	Bo Reichenbach	Goaltender
4	Brody Roybal	Forward
5	Billy Hanning	Defense
6	Luke McDermott	Forward
11	Tyler Carron	Defense
13	Josh Sweeney	Forward
14	Dan McCoy	Forward
15	Nikko Landeros	Defense
16	Declan Farmer	Forward
17	Chris Douglas	Forward
19	Kevin McKee	Forward
20	Adam Page	Forward
23	Rico Roman	Defense
24	Josh Misiewicz*	Forward
27	Josh Pauls	Defense
28	Paul Schaus	Forward
34	Steve Cash	Goaltender

\*missing tournament

## ROSTER BREAKDOWN

HOME STATES		BIRTH YEAR	
Illinois	3	1988	3
New York	3	1989	3
Colorado	2	1987	2
Florida	2	1990	2
Missouri	2	1992	2
Arizona	1	1981	1
Montana	1	1985	1
New Jersey	1	1994	1
Oregon	1	1997	1
Pennsylvania	1	1998	1

Average Age: 25 years, 11 months

Average Height: 5'6"

Average Weight: 154 lbs.

Oldest Player: Rico Roman (2/4/81)

Youngest Player: Brody Roybal (5/25/98)

## TEAM STAFF

General Manager	Dan Brennan
Head Coach	Jeff Sauer
Team Doctor	Mike Uihlein
Athletic Trainer	Mike Cortese
Equipment Manager	Davey Sproule
Communications	Jon Gomez