



TEAM USA GAME NOTES

2011 IIHF World Under-18 Championship • Crimmitschau & Dresden, Germany



Team USA (1-0-0-0) vs. Slovakia (0-0-0-1)

April 15, 2011 • 3:30 p.m. • Preliminary Game 2

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TONIGHT'S CONTEST -- The U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team will take on Slovakia in its second preliminary round game of the 2011 International Ice Hockey Federation World Men's Under-18 Championship. Slovakia comes into today's game having been trounced by Russia Thursday (April 14), 8-2.

MATCH-UP HISTORY -- Team USA will meet Slovakia for the eighth time in tournament history today. The U.S. holds a 5-2-0 advantage over Slovakia in the all-time series, not dropping a game since 2000. The two clubs last met on April 13, 2009 in Fargo, N.D., when Team USA downed Slovakia 12-0 in its third preliminary round game at the 2009 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship. The U.S. has outscored Slovakia by a 37-17 margin in the all-time series.

2009	12-0	W
2007	7-2	W
2005	3-1	W
2003	3-2	W
2001	6-2	W
2000	1-4	L
1999	5-6	L

LAST TIME OUT -- **Reid Boucher** (Grand Ledge, Mich.) netted the game-winning goal and **John Gibson** (Pittsburgh, Pa.) stopped 29 shots, as the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team edged Switzerland, 2-1, in its opening game at the 2011 International Ice Hockey Federation World Men's Under-18 Championship yesterday (April 14). **Ryan Haggerty** (Stamford, Conn.) scored the first goal for the U.S. as it outshot the opposition 46-30 in the contest. Gibson was recognized as Team USA's Player of the Game.

COACHING SUCCESS -- The U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team is led by **Ron Rolston**, who is serving as head coach at his fourth IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship. He previously guided the U.S. to two gold medals (2005, 2009) and one silver medal (2007). Rolston is currently in his seventh season as head coach at USA Hockey's National Team Development Program in Ann Arbor, Mich. ... **Chadd Cassidy**, **Tim Taylor**, **Joe Exter** and **Matt Curley**, all coaches with USA Hockey's NTDP, will serve as assistant coaches for Team USA.

CAPTAINS -- **Robbie Russo** (Westmont, Ill.) is the captain of the 2011 U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team ... Team USA's two alternate captains are **Cole Bardreau** (Fairport, N.Y.) and **Tyler Biggs** (Cincinnati, Ohio).

THE NTDP -- USA Hockey's National Team Development Program was founded in 1996 in order to better prepare American players for their future hockey careers. Based in Ann Arbor, Mich., the NTDP consists of two squads, the U.S. National Under-18 Team, which plays against U.S. college opponents, domestic junior teams and in three international competitions, and U.S. National Under-17 Team, which plays against domestic junior competition and participates in three international tournaments. In the last 14 years, 181 players have been selected in the National Hockey League Entry Draft, including 38 in the first round and three with the first overall selection (Rick DiPietro, 2000; Erik Johnson, 2006; Patrick Kane, 2007). All 22 players on the U.S. roster come from USA Hockey's NTDP.

Team USA Schedule

<u>Saturday, April 9 -- Dresden, Germany</u>	
USA vs. Canada (exhibition)	L, 1-2
<u>Monday, April 10 -- Dresden, Germany</u>	
Finland vs. USA (exhibition)	W, 4-2
<u>Thursday, April 14 -- Crimmitschau, Germany</u>	
Switzerland vs. USA	W, 2-1
<u>Friday, April 15 -- Crimmitschau, Germany</u>	
Slovakia vs. USA	3:30 p.m.
<u>Sunday, April 17 -- Crimmitschau, Germany</u>	
USA vs. Russia	7:30 p.m.
<u>Tuesday, April 19 -- Crimmitschau, Germany</u>	
USA vs. Germany	7:30 p.m.
<u>Thursday, April 21 -- Crimmitschau, Germany</u>	
Quarterfinal Round	TBD
<u>Saturday, April 23 -- Crimmitschau, Germany</u>	
Semifinal Round	TBD
<u>Sunday, April 24 -- Crimmitschau</u>	
Bronze-Medal Game	2:30 p.m.
Gold-Medal Game	6:30 p.m.

Team USA Medals at the World Under-18 Championship

Year	Medal	Head Coach
2010	Gold	Kurt Kleinendorst
2009	Gold	Ron Rolston
2008	Bronze	John Hynes
2007	Silver	Ron Rolston
2006	Gold	John Hynes
2005	Gold	Ron Rolston
2004	Silver	John Hynes
2002	Gold	Mike Eaves

TOURNAMENT TIDBITS -- The media guide for the 2011 U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team can be downloaded on USAHockey.com ... USAHockey.com will also post game recaps, feature stories, notes and photos from the tournament ... For live scoring updates each game, follow @USAHockeyScores and #U18MWC on Twitter ... All Team USA games will be streamed live online at FASTHockey.com ... For additional coverage, visit USA Hockey's National Team Development Program Facebook page. There you will find photos from the tournament, polls, scoring updates and pre and post game video interviews.

THURSDAY'S TOURNAMENT RESULTS --

Czech Republic 2 - Sweden 1: It took a few periods for them to get going but the Czechs came back from a one goal deficit to take their opening game against Sweden 2-1 ...

Russia 8 - Slovakia 2: It could have been a closer match between Russia and Slovakia, but early mistakes and costly penalties proved to be too much for the Slovaks, who fell 8-2 to the Russians in their opening game ...

Finland 5 - Norway 2: The Finns let a two-goal lead slip away, but regained their composure and overcame an outstanding effort by Norwegian goaltender Steffen Sodberg to win 5-2 in their first match of the preliminary round.

2010 CHAMPIONSHIP CONNECTIONS --

In addition to the two players returning from last year's gold-medal team, a pair of coaches also return. Assistant coach **Tim Taylor** and goaltending coach **Joe Exter** both are back. The pair also was part of the staff for the U.S. National Junior Team at the 2011 IIHF World Junior Championship. Taylor served as that team's director of player personnel, while Exter was the goaltending coach.

CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS --

Eleven draft-eligible players from the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team have been listed on the NHL Central Scouting Bureau's Final Rankings. **Tyler Biggs** (Cincinnati, Ohio) is tops among current U.S. players at No. 22 among North American skaters. Additionally, **J.T. Miller** (East Palestine, Ohio) and **Connor Murphy** (Dublin, Ohio) came in just behind their teammate, ranking 23 and 25 respectively. For a complete list of current U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team players ranked by Central Scouting, see below.



U.S. Men's National U18 Team Members
Final CSS Ranking

Tyler Biggs (No. 22)
 J.T. Miller (No. 23)
 Connor Murphy (No. 25)
 Rocco Grimaldi (No. 32)
 Robbie Russo (No. 55)
 Zac Larraza (No. 70)
 Adam Reid (No. 80)
 Michael Paliotta (No. 86)
 Blake Pietila (No. 105)
 Reid Boucher (No. 113)
 Dan Carlson (No. 143)

NHL TIES -- Three players on the U.S. roster have fathers that played in the National Hockey League. **Connor Murphy's** father, Gord, played 14 years in the NHL including stints with the Philadelphia Flyers, Boston Bruins, Florida Panthers and Atlanta Thrashers. He currently serves as an assistant coach with the Florida Panthers.

Tyler Biggs' father, Don, played 16 seasons of professional hockey, which included a brief run in the NHL with the Philadelphia Flyers and Minnesota North Stars. The elder Biggs also skated for teams in the American Hockey League, East Coast Hockey League and International Hockey League from 1984-2002. His number is retired by the Cincinnati Cyclones, now of the ECHL. Don was also the skating double for Patrick Swayze in the 1986 movie, Youngblood, also starring Rob Lowe. **Henrik Samuelsson's** (Scottsdale, Ariz.) father, Ulf, played 16 seasons in the NHL including stints with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Hartford Whalers, Detroit Red Wings, Philadelphia Flyers and the New York Rangers. He is currently an assistant coach with the Phoenix Coyotes.

NBA TIES? --

One player has a unique connection to professional sports. D-man **Seth Jones'** (Plano, Texas) father, Popeye, played 11 seasons in the National Basketball Association with six different teams. He now serves as an assistant coach for the New Jersey Nets.

ROSTER AGE BREAKDOWN --

The roster includes 18 players born in 1993 and four from the 1994 birth year. Defenseman **Seth Jones**, born Oct. 3, 1994, is Team USA's youngest player, while forward **Adam Reid**, (Chino Hills, Calif.) born Jan. 29, 1993, is the oldest.

TOP TRAINING --

The U.S. Men's National Under-17 and Under-18 Teams train with The Hockey IntelliGym, a revolutionary new software program released on October 1, 2010 that trains hockey sense. To learn more, visit USAHockeyIntelliGym.com.

CHASING RECORD BOOKS --

With an assist in last night's victory over Switzerland, **Robbie Russo** (Westmont, Ill.) tied NTDP alum **Cam Fowler** (Farmington Hills, Mich./2007-09) in career points by a defenseman. Russo's 54 points (10-44) is tied for tenth best in team history ... **Rocco Grimaldi** has a chance to move up in a number of categories within the NTDP record books. Grimaldi is currently in the top ten all-time in career goals scored (eighth), assists in a career (fourth) and overall points (sixth). His 37 goals over the course of the 2010-11 season places him ninth in goals scored in a single season.

Home State of Team USA Players

California	3
Michigan	3
Minnesota	3
Ohio	3
Arizona	2
Connecticut	2
Pennsylvania	2
Illinois	1
New York	1
Texas	1
Wisconsin	1

Team USA College Commitments

Miami Univ. (CCHA)	2
Univ. of North Dakota (WCHA)	2
Univ. of Wisconsin (WCHA)	2
Cornell Univ. (ECACH)	1
Michigan State Univ. (CCHA)	1
Michigan Tech Univ. (WCHA)	1
Minnesota State Mankato (WCHA)	1
Northeastern Univ. (HEA)	1
Univ. of Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	1
Rensselaer (ECACH)	1
Univ. of Denver (WCHA)	1
Univ. of Michigan (CCHA)	1
Univ. of Minnesota (WCHA)	1
Univ. of Minnesota Duluth (WCHA)	1
Univ. of Notre Dame (CCHA)	1
Univ. of Vermont (HEA)	1

College Connection By League

WCHA	10
CCHA	5
ECACH	2
HEA	2

Team USA Overall

Average Height	6'0" (184)
Average Weight	189 (86)
Shoots/Catches Left	11
Shoots/Catches Right	11

FUN FACTS -- USA Hockey recently announced the first 16 players that will compete for the 2011 U.S. Men's National Team at the International Ice Hockey Federation World Men's Championship, April 29 - May 15, in Kosice and Bratislava, Slovakia. Five of those players skated in the IIHF World Men's U18 Championships (2000, 2002-03, 2005, 2007), including **Mike Brown** (2001-03), **Mike Komisarek** (1999-2000), **Kevin Shattenkirk** (2005-07), **Jack Skille** (2003-05) and **Mark Stuart** (2000-02).

