



TEAM USA GAME NOTES

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



Russia (1-1-0-0) vs. Team USA (2-0-0-0)

April 17, 2011 • 7:30 p.m. • Preliminary Game 3

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TONIGHT'S CONTEST -- It's the battle of the unbeatens as the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team takes on Russia in its third preliminary round game of the 2011 International Ice Hockey Federation World Men's Under-18 Championship. Russia comes into tonight's game after rolling Slovakia 8-2 in its opener on Thursday (April 14) and surviving a scare Saturday (April 16) against Germany, winning 5-4 in a shoot out.

MATCH-UP HISTORY -- Team USA will meet Russia for the 12th time in tournament history tonight. Russia is the only team that can boast a winning record against the U.S. in this event, posting eight wins to just three losses. Team USA struck last, however, when the two clubs battled for the gold in Fargo, N.D. on April 20, 2009. The U.S. avenged a preliminary loss to the Russians to win convincingly, 5-0, to claim its first of back-to-back titles. The U.S. has been outscored by a 33-39 margin in the all-time series. Five of the 11 matches have been with medals on the line, including four tournament title games.

| | | | |
|------|-----|---|-------------------|
| 2009 | 5-0 | W | Gold Medal Game |
| | 5-6 | L | Preliminary Round |
| 2008 | 1-3 | L | Preliminary Round |
| 2007 | 5-6 | L | Gold Medal Game |
| | 3-5 | L | Preliminary Round |
| 2006 | 4-2 | W | Preliminary Round |
| 2004 | 2-3 | L | Gold Medal Game |
| 2003 | 3-6 | L | Bronze Medal Game |
| 2002 | 3-1 | W | Gold Medal Game |
| 2000 | 1-5 | L | Preliminary Round |
| 1999 | 1-2 | L | Preliminary Round |

LAST TIME OUT: USA vs. SVK (April 15) -- Eight different players scored for Team USA and **Robbie Russo** (Westmont, Ill.) notched three points (1-2), as the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team topped Slovakia, 8-1, in its second preliminary game of the 2011 IIHF World Men's U18 Championship. Fifteen U.S. players recorded at least one point in the win, which improved Team USA's overall record to 2-0-0-0 (W-OTW-OTL-L). **Rocco Grimaldi** (Rossmore, Calif.) also recorded a three-point night, scoring once and adding two assists. Team USA outshot the opposition 46-20. Seven of the eight U.S. goals were scored on special teams, including one short-handed tally. Russo was recognized as Team USA's Player of the Game.

THE NTDP -- All 22 players on the U.S. roster come from USA Hockey's National Team Development Program. The NTDP 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).

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

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 | W, 8-1 |
| <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. |

World Under-18 Championship Tournament Standings

Group A

| Team | GP | W | OTW | OTL | L | PTS |
|-------------|----|---|-----|-----|---|-----|
| USA | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Russia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Germany | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Switzerland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Slovakia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

Group B

| Team | GP | W | OTW | OTL | L | PTS |
|-----------|----|---|-----|-----|---|-----|
| Canada | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Sweden | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Finland | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Czech Rep | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Norway | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |



2011
WORLD U18
CHAMPIONSHIP
GERMANY
Crimmitschau
Dresden

FRIDAY'S TOURNAMENT RESULTS --

Sweden 10 - Norway 2
 Germany 4 - Switzerland 1
 Canada 5 - Czech Republic 0

SATURDAY'S TOURNAMENT RESULTS --

Germany 4 - Russia 5 (SO)
 Canada 5 - Finland 4

TODAY'S MATCH-UPS (times are local) --

Slovakia vs. Switzerland @ 3:30 p.m.
 Norway vs. Czech Republic @ 3:30 p.m.
 Sweden vs. Finland @ 7:30 p.m.
 Russia vs. USA @ 7:30 p.m.

FINAL CENTRAL SCOUTING RANKINGS --

Thirteen draft-eligible players from the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team have been listed on the National Hockey League 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. The goalie tandem of **John Gibson** (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and **Matt McNeely** (Burnsville, Minn.) rank first and fourth among North American netminders. 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 - N. American Skaters

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)

U.S. Men's National U18 Team Members
Final CSS Ranking - N. American Goalies

John Gibson (No. 1)
 Matt McNeely (No. 4)

START OF A STREAK -- Ryan Haggerty (Stamford, Conn.) and **Reid Boucher** (Grand Ledge, Mich.) each have one goal in the first two tournament games played ... **J.T. Miller** has earned at least one assist in each of the first two games and has three total ... **Dan Carlson** (Corcoran, Minn.) had a highlight reel goal for Team USA on Friday (April 15) against Slovakia and has one point in each game (1-1) ... **Robbie Russo** has four points (1-3) in two games.

STAT LEADERS -- Team USA faces a high-scoring Russian attack with forward **Nikita Kucherov** leading the way with eight points (3-5) in two games played. That places him first in tournament points to date. His teammate, **Mikhail Grigorenko**, also a forward, is just behind at third with six points (2-4) ... The U.S.'s top point-getter is defenseman **Robbie Russo**, who has one goal and three assists in two games played, placing him eighth in the tournament and second amongst blueliners ... **Blake Pietila** (Brighton, Mich.) is fourth in faceoff win percentage with a 71.4 success rate ... **John Gibson** is the top goaltender thus far in the tournament, leading all other netminders in save percentage (.980) and goals-against-average (0.55).

CHASING U18 RECORD BOOKS -- Rocco Grimaldi's three points (1-2) in Friday's game vaulted him from tied-for-17th to tied-for-fifth in all-time leading scorers for Team USA in the IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship. Grimaldi has posted three goals and collected 10 assists in nine games. Grimaldi played seven games for the 2010 U.S. National Under-18 Team that won gold last year in Belarus.

TEAM STATISTICS -- The U.S. penalty kill unit currently leads all teams in the tournament having not allowed a power play goal thus far ... Team USA is fifth overall with the man advantage, clicking at a 31.6% clip.



Travis Boyd (Hopkins, Minn.) skates through the neutral zone against Slovakia. Boyd had a short handed goal and assist in the game. (Photo by: Matthew Murnaghan/HOF-IIHF Images)

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 |

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.