

TODAY'S GAME

The U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team opens play today at the 2020 International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 Women's World Championship against Finland at the Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla in Bratislava, Slovakia. Puck drop is slated for 4:30 p.m. local time/10:30 a.m. ET. The matchup will be streamed live on IIHF.com. Live game updates will also be provided on Twitter @USAHockey using the hashtag #U18WWC.

TALKING POINTS

THE SERIES VS. FINLAND

The U.S. holds a 2-0-0-0 (W-OTW-OTL-L) record against Finland all-time in IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship play. The two teams last met on Jan. 12, 2019 in the preliminary round of the 2019 tournament in Obihiro, Japan, where the U.S. earned a 7-1 win. The U.S. outshot the Finnish, 36-18, and nine skaters tallied points in the victory, including **Makenna Webster** (St. Louis, Mo.), who notched a goal and an assist.

SEEKING 13TH STRAIGHT MEDAL

Team USA enters the tournament seeking its 13th consecutive medal at the IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship. Since the tournament's inception in 2008, the U.S. has won seven gold medals, including four-straight from 2015-2018, and five silver medals.

REPEAT PERFORMERS

The roster features 10 players who helped the U.S. earn silver at last year's IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship in Obihiro, Japan, including three-time U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team members **Abbey Murphy** (Evergreen Park, Ill.), **Maggie Nicholson** (Minnetonka, Minn.) and **Makenna Webster** (St. Louis, Mo.), the team's leading scorer at last year's tournament. In addition, **Lacey Eden** (Annapolis, Md.), **Caroline Harvey** (Pelham, N.H.), **Clara Van Wieren** (Okemos, Mich.), **Skylar Vetter** (Lakeville, Minn.), **Audrey Wethington** (Edina, Minn.), **Haley Winn** (Rochester, N.Y.) and **Kiara Zanon** (Fairport, N.Y.) return to the team for the second-straight season. Thirteen players are making their IIHF world-championship play debuts, including forwards **Emma Gentry** (Alpena, Mich.) and **Kirsten Simms** (Plymouth, Mich.) and defenseman **Rachel Golnitz** (Wyoming, Minn.), who are representing the U.S. for the first time in their careers.

BACK FROM LAKE PLACID

Nineteen players participated in the 2019 Under-18 Series vs. Canada last August in Lake Placid, New York, as members of the U.S. Under-18 Women's Select Team. Team USA took one of three games from Canada at the event. Danielle Burgen notched a team-high three goals and four points, while **Abbey Murphy** tallied a pair of goals. Goaltenders **Amanda Thiele** (Milford, Mich.) and **Skylar Vetter** combined for 56 saves in the series.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Maggie Nicholson is serving as team captain alongside alternate captains **Lacey Eden** and **Makenna Webster**. All three captains competed at the 2019 Under-18 Series against Canada in Lake Placid, New York last August.

MAKING A STATEMENT

The roster includes 12 forwards, eight defenders and three goaltenders that represent eight different states. Minnesota leads the pack with nine representatives, followed by Michigan (5) Illinois (3) and New York (2). In addition, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire each have one player.

AGE APPROPRIATE

The average age of Team USA is 16.6 years old. **Kathryn Davis** (1/09/02) is the oldest member of Team USA, while **Kirsten Simms** (8/31/04) is the youngest.

BEHIND THE BENCH

Maura Crowell (Mansfield, Mass.), head coach of the University of Minnesota Duluth women's ice hockey team, is the head coach of the U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team for the second consecutive year after leading Team USA to a silver medal at the 2019 event. **Brianna Decker** (Dousman, Wis.), member of the U.S. Women's National team that won gold at both the 2018 Olympic Games and the 2019 IIHF Women's World Championship, is making her second coaching appearance after serving as an assistant last year. **Josh Sciba** (Wesland, Mich.), head coach for the Union College women's ice hockey team, is also in his second coaching stint on staff for the U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team. **Meredith Roth** (Dubuque, Iowa), associate head women's ice hockey coach at the College of the Holy Cross, will also serve as an assistant coach, and **Alli Altmann** (Eagan, Minn.) will serve as the team's goaltending coach for the third-straight season.

TEAM BUILDING

The 23-player roster for the 2020 U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team was unveiled on November 1. The team held a pre-tournament camp from Dec. 19-Dec. 24 in Pezinok, Slovakia, 30 minutes outside Bratislava.

RECAPPING LAST YEAR

The 2019 U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team earned its fifth silver medal of the IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship last January in Obihiro, Japan. The tournament saw the U.S. earn first in Group A during the preliminary round after winning three consecutive games.

The U.S. clinched an automatic spot in the semifinals and defeated Finland 7-1 before meeting Canada in the gold-medal game. There, the U.S. fell behind, 1-0, in the first period before tying the game with 2:50 remaining in the second frame. The U.S. would take the lead 6:07 into the third stanza before Canada scored to tie the game with 8:49 remaining in regulation. After sending the game to overtime, Canada scored the game-winning goal 1:34 into the extra frame as the U.S. finished with a silver medal, its 12th consecutive medal in the tournament's 12-year history. **Makenna Webster** led all U.S. skaters in tournament scoring with three goals and six points.

2020 IIHF U18 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 Women's World Championship is in its 13th year after the inaugural tournament was held in Calgary in 2008. Subsequently, the event was held in Fussen, Germany, in 2009, Chicago in 2010, Stockholm, Sweden, in 2011, Zlin, Czech Republic, in 2012, Heinola, Finland, in 2013, Budapest, Hungary, in 2014, Buffalo, New York, in 2015, St. Catharines, Ontario, in 2016, Zlin & Prerov, Czech Republic, in 2017, Dmitrov, Russia in 2018, and Obihiro, Japan in 2019. The U.S. and Canada have met in the gold-medal game in all 10 previous competitions, with the U.S. having a 6-5 advantage in those contests.

The tournament features eight teams divided into two groups. Group A consists of the United States, Canada, Russia and Finland, while Group B features the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. The teams will play a round-robin within their groups, with top two teams in Group A earning a bye to the semifinals. The third and fourth-place teams in Group A will square off against the top two teams in Group B in the quarterfinals, and the third and fourth-place teams from Group B will face each other in the relegation round.

TEAM USA SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (ET)
THURS., DEC. 26 Bratislava, Slovakia	FINLAND Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla	10:30 A.M.
FRI., DEC. 27 Bratislava, Slovakia	RUSSIA Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla	10:30 A.M.
SUN., DEC. 29 Bratislava, Slovakia	CANADA Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla	6:30 A.M.
MON., DEC. 30 Bratislava, Slovakia	QUARTERFINALS Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla	TBD
WED., JAN. 1 Bratislava, Slovakia	SEMIFINALS Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla	TBD
THURS., JAN. 2 Bratislava, Slovakia	BRONZE MEDAL GAME Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla	6:30 A.M.
THURS., JAN. 2 Bratislava, Slovakia	GOLD MEDAL GAME Ice Rink Vlado Dzurilla	2:30 P.M.

All contests will be streamed live online at IIHF.com

MEDIA INFORMATION

All Team USA players or staff will be available for interviews in designated mixed-zone areas in the rink following games. Members of the media are not allowed in the U.S. dressing room at any time.

MEDIA CONTACT:
608.512.5279

MADDY SCHACHTE
MADDY.SCHACHTE@USAHOCKEY.ORG

All media availability with U.S. team members must be arranged through Maddy Schachte, who will be on-site with Team USA throughout the 2020 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship. In addition, media interested in photos of Team USA throughout the tournament are encouraged to visit ImagesOnIce.com for tournament photos. Any other photography requests surrounding the 2020 U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team players and staff should be directed to Maddy Schachte.

2020 U.S. UNDER-18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM GAME NOTES

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2020 U.S. UNDER-18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

KEY TEAM USA U18WWC STATISTICS

PRELIMINARY ROUND GAMES

FINLAND



RUSSIA



CANADA



Series vs. Finland: 2-0-0-0 (W-OTW-OTL-L)

Of Note: Team USA has outscored Finland 12-1 in the last two games

JAN. 8, 2019: USA 7, FIN 1: Team USA and Finland last met in the semifinals of the 2019 Under-18 World Championship. The U.S. outshot the Finnish, 36-18, and nine skaters tallied points in the victory.

Series vs. Russia: 11-0-0-0 (W-OTW-OTL-L)

Of Note: The two teams face off in the prelims for the ninth straight year.

JAN. 6, 2019: USA 3, RUS 2: The U.S. and Russia last squared off in the 2019 tournament opener. Makenna Webster tallied a goal and Lacey Eden and Maggie Nicholson each earned assists on Sydney Shearen's game-winning goal for the U.S.

Series vs. Canada: 7-4-4-2 (W-OTW-OTL-L)

Of Note: The U.S. has won five of the last six matchups vs. Canada.

JAN. 13, 2019: USA 2, CAN 3 (OT): In last year's gold medal game, the U.S. fell, 3-2, in overtime to Canada. Makenna Webster and Abbey Murphy each scored, and Skylar Vetter turned away 24 shots.

PLAYOFF ROUND GAMES

QUARTERFINALS



SEMIFINALS



MEDAL GAMES



U.S. All-Time in U18WWC Quarterfinals: 0-0 (W-L)

Of Note: The U.S. has never played in a quarterfinal contest in IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship history, having earned a BYE to the semifinal round in all 12 of the previous competitions.

U.S. All-Time in U18WWC Semifinals: 12-0 (W-L)

Of Note: Team USA and Finland met in the IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship semifinals for the first time last year. The U.S. has won all 12 semifinal contests it has played at the competition, topping the Czech Republic six times, Sweden twice and Canada, Finland, Germany and Russia each once.

U.S. All-Time in U18WWC Gold Medal Games: 7-5 (W-L)

Of Note: Team USA and Canada have faced off for gold in 11 of the 12 previous U18WWCs, with the U.S. holding a 6-5 advantage in those contests. Five of those 10 contests have gone into overtime (2019, 2016, 2013, 2010, 2008), with the U.S. winning two and Canada winning three.

ALL-TIME MEDALS AT U18WWC

Year	Medal	Coach	Result	Opp.
2019	Silver	Maura Crowell	OTL, 2-3	CAN
2018	Gold	Joel Johnson	W, 9-3	SWE
2017	Gold	Joel Johnson	W, 3-1	CAN
2016	Gold	Joel Johnson	OTW, 3-2	CAN
2015	Gold	Joel Johnson	W, 3-2	CAN
2014	Silver	Jeff Kampersal	L, 1-5	CAN
2013	Silver	Jeff Kampersal	OTL, 1-2	CAN
2012	Silver	Heather Linstad	L, 0-3	CAN
2011	Gold	Jodi McKenna	W, 5-2	CAN
2010	Silver	Katie King	L, 4-5	CAN
2009	Gold	Mark Johnson	W, 3-2	CAN
2008	Gold	Michele Amidon	W, 5-2	CAN

PREVIOUS 10 U18WWCS

Year	Finish	Coach	Record*
2019	Silver	Maura Crowell	4-0-1-0
2018	Gold	Joel Johnson	3-2-0-0
2017	Gold	Joel Johnson	4-0-1-0
2016	Gold	Joel Johnson	4-1-0-0
2015	Gold	Joel Johnson	3-2-0-0
2014	Silver	Jeff Kampersal	4-0-0-1
2013	Silver	Jeff Kampersal	4-0-1-0
2012	Silver	Heather Linstad	4-0-0-1
2011	Gold	Jodi McKenna	5-0-0-0
2010	Silver	Katie King	4-0-1-0

*W-OTW-OTL-L

ALL-TIME RECORD VS. OPPONENT

Opponent	GP	Record*	GF	GA
Canada	17	7-4-4-2	49	38
Czech Republic	12	12-0-0-0	116	3
Finland	2	1-0-0-0	12	1
Germany	2	2-0-0-0	18	1
Hungary	1	1-0-0-0	7	0
Japan	2	2-0-0-0	18	2
Russia	11	9-0-0-0	82	8
Sweden	12	9-0-0-0	73	8
Switzerland	1	1-0-0-0	11	0
TOTAL	60	49-5-4-2	386	61

*W-OTW-OTL-L

ALL-TIME RECORD IN PLAYOFFS

Opponent	SF	GM
Canada	1-0	6-5
Czech Republic	6-0	N/A
Germany	1-0	N/A
Russia	1-0	N/A
Sweden	2-0	1-0
Total	11-0	7-5



2020 U.S. UNDER-18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM GAME NOTES

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2020 U.S. UNDER-18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

NO.	NAME	HT (CM)	WT (KG)	BIRTHDATE	S/C	HOMETOWN	MOST RECENT TEAM
GOALTENDERS (3)							
1	Skyler Vetter	5-8 (173)	155 (70)	05/14/03	L	Lakeville, Minn.	Lakeville North High School (Minn.)
29	Callie Shanahan	5-10 (178)	135 (61)	05/26/03	L	Commerce, Mich.	HoneyBaked (Mich.)
30	Amanda Thiele	5-11 (180)	155 (70)	07/30/02	L	Milford, Mich.	Belle Tire 19U (Mich.)
DEFENSEMEN (8)							
2	Mia Biotti	5-11 (180)	155 (70)	07/24/02	L	Cambridge, Mass.	Wizards U19 Major 1 (Mass.)
3	Brenna Fuhrman	5-7 (170)	127 (58)	05/28/03	L	Farmington, Minn.	Farmington High School (Minn.)
4	Maggie Nicholson	5-10 (178)	167 (76)	03/21/02	L	Minnetonka, Minn.	Minnetonka High School (Minn.)
5	Caroline Harvey	5-6 (168)	140 (64)	10/14/02	L	Pelham, N.H.	Selects Academy (N.Y.)
6	Haley Winn	5-5 (165)	150 (68)	07/14/03	R	Rochester, N.Y.	Selects Academy (N.Y.)
7	Rachel Golnitz	5-8 (173)	140 (64)	09/06/02	R	Wyoming, Minn.	Forest Lake High School (Minn.)
8	Lyndie Lobdell	5-8 (173)	150 (68)	09/01/02	R	Aurora, Ill.	Chicago Mission
9	Rory Guilday	5-10 (178)	160 (73)	09/07/02	L	Chanhassen, Minn.	Minnetonka High School (Minn.)
FORWARDS (12)							
11	Kiara Zanon	5-5 (165)	147 (67)	08/22/02	L	Fairport, N.Y.	Kingston Jr. Ice Wolves (Ont.)
12	Makenna Webster	5-2 (157)	135 (61)	03/21/02	R	St. Louis, Mo.	Shattuck-St. Mary's Prep (Minn.)
13	Danielle Burgen	5-6 (168)	150 (68)	01/19/04	R	Lindstrom, Minn.	Chisago Lakes Wildcats (Minn.)
14	Emma Gentry	5-10 (178)	160 (73)	10/23/02	L	Alpena, Mich.	HoneyBaked 19U (Mich.)
15	Peyton Hemp	5-5 (165)	151 (68)	05/15/03	R	Andover, Minn.	Andover High School (Minn.)
16	Ella Huber	5-5 (165)	135 (61)	12/18/02	L	Northfield, Ill.	Chicago Mission
17	Kirsten Simms	5-5 (165)	130 (59)	08/31/04	R	Plymouth, Mich.	Selects Academy (N.Y.)
18	Abbey Murphy	5-4 (163)	135 (61)	04/14/02	R	Evergreen Park, Ill.	Chicago Mission
19	Kathryn Davis	5-3 (160)	120 (54)	01/09/02	L	Meridian, Idaho	Edina High School (Minn.)
23	Audrey Wethington	5-6 (168)	135 (61)	04/01/02	R	Edina, Minn.	The Blake School (Minn.)
24	Clara Van Wieren	5-10 (178)	165 (75)	01/25/02	L	Okemos, Mich.	Shattuck-St. Mary's Prep (Minn.)
25	Lacey Eden	5-8 (173)	150 (68)	05/02/02	R	Annapolis, Md.	Shattuck-St. Mary's Prep (Minn.)

2020 U.S. UNDER-18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM STAFF

MAURA CROWELL, HEAD COACH

Maura Crowell, head women's ice hockey coach at the University of Minnesota Duluth, is making her fourth appearance on staff of a U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team after leading Team USA to its 12th consecutive medal finish at last year's tournament in Obihiro, Japan. Crowell, who has coached at various USA Hockey development camps and festivals in recent years, was appointed head coach at Minnesota Duluth in 2015 after spending five years with Harvard University in various coaching capacities. Crowell joined the Crimson after a five-year stint as head coach of the women's ice hockey team at UMass Boston, where she was named the 2009-10 Eastern College Athletic Conference East Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year. Crowell played collegiately at Colgate University.

BRIANNA DECKER, ASSISTANT COACH

Decker, a member of the gold medal-winning 2018 U.S. Olympic Women's Ice Hockey Team, will serve as an assistant coach for the 2019-20 U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team for the second-straight season. Decker made her debut as a member of the coaching staff for the U.S. Under-18 Women's Team at the 2018 Under-18 Series vs. Canada. She served in the same capacity at the 2019 Under-18 Series vs. Canada, and as Team USA claimed its 12th consecutive medal at the 2019 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship in Obihiro, Japan. Decker has previous coaching experience with USA Hockey having served as a coach at various Central District camps since 2012 and during USA Hockey Girls Under-18 Select Player Development Camps. She is a two-time Olympian (2018-gold, 2014-silver), six-time IIHF Women's World Championship gold medalist (2013-19, 2011) and two-time Bob Allen Women's Player of the Year.

JOSH SCIBA, ASSISTANT COACH

Sciba is serving as an assistant coach for the U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team for the 2019-20 season. He made his debut in the same role for the team during the 2018-19 season. He made his debut at the 2018 Under-18 Series vs. Canada and also helped Team USA claim its 12th consecutive medal at the 2019 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship in Obihiro, Japan. He has been a coach annually at USA Hockey Under-18 Girls Player Development Camps for the past 10 years, and recently served as a coach during the 2018 and 2017 USA Hockey Women's National Festivals in Lake Placid, New York. Sciba is currently the head coach of the Union College women's hockey team, a position he has held since 2016. Under his guidance, the Dutchwoman hockey program has shown steady growth.

MEREDITH ROTH, ASSISTANT COACH

Meredith Roth is serving as an assistant coach for the U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team for the upcoming 2020 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship in Bratislava, Slovakia. She most recently served as an assistant coach of the U-18 Team at the 2019 Under-18 Series vs. Canada in Lake Placid, N.Y. Roth currently serves as the associate head women's ice hockey coach at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. She previously served as head coach of St. Norbert College's NCAA Division III women's ice hockey program for the last four years. She guided the Green Knights to an appearance in the NCHA Championship game in 2016. Prior to her time at St. Norbert, Roth had two stints as an assistant coach at Providence College, first from 2006-2010 and then again from 2012-2015. She helped lead the Friars to a Hockey East Regular Season Championship in 2010.

DIRECTOR, WNT PROGRAMS: Katie Million
MANAGER, WOMEN'S HOCKEY: Kristen Wright
HEAD COACH: Maura Crowell
ASSISTANT COACH: Brianna Decker
ASSISTANT COACH: Josh Sciba
ASSISTANT COACH: Meredith Roth
GOALTENDING COACH: Alli Altmann
VIDEO COORDINATOR: Josh Graser
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH: Bill DeLongis
ATHLETIC TRAINER: Kim Moncel
EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Nick Bryant
TEAM PHYSICIAN: Dr. Jamie Schlueter
SPORTS DIETICIAN: Shannon Boguth
COMMUNICATIONS: Maddy Schachte



2020 U.S. UNDER-18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM GAME NOTES

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USA HOCKEY HAPPENINGS

U.S. INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Since 2010, no other nation has claimed more medals in Olympic, Paralympic and International Ice Hockey Federation play than the 49 by the United States. Additionally, Team USA's 28 collective gold medals also leads all nations. In total, the last nine years has seen the U.S. claim 28 gold medals, 14 silver medals and seven bronze medals.

The 28 gold medals span seven events, including the Olympic Winter Games (2018 - Women), Paralympic Winter Games (2010, 2014, 2018), IIHF Women's World Championship (2011, 2013, 2015-17, 2019), IIHF World Junior Championship (2010, 2013, 2017), IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship (2010-15, 2017), IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship (2011, 2015-18) and IPC Para Hockey World Championship (2012, 2015, 2019).

2019 U.S. HOCKEY HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Five American hockey legends including **Gary Bettman**, **Brian Gionta**, **Neal Henderson**, **Tim Thomas** and **Krissy Wendell** were formally enshrined into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame on Dec. 12 during a sold-out induction ceremony at the Marriott Marquis Washington D.C.

In addition to the induction of the Class of 2019, **Jack Blatherwick** was awarded the Lester Patrick Trophy, presented for outstanding service to hockey in the United States. **Alex Ovechkin** was awarded the Wayne Gretzky International Award, which pays tribute to the growth of hockey in the United States.

2019 U.S. JUNIOR SELECT TEAM

The U.S. Junior Select Team finished third in the 2019 World Junior A Challenge in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. The team was comprised of players competing in the United States Hockey League, the lone Tier I junior league in the U.S.

Anthony Noreen (Kearney, Neb.), head coach and general manager of the Tri-City Storm, served as head coach with assistant coaches **Mark Abalan** (Sioux City, Iowa), **Shane Fukushima** (Waterloo, Iowa) and **David Wilkie** (Omaha, Neb.).

The U.S. has finished first in six of the last ten tournaments (2010, 2012-14, 2016, 2018) and has occupied a top-three spot at the World Junior A Challenge every year since joining the tournament in 2007.

RIVALRY SERIES

The women's national teams from the U.S. and Canada are competing in a five-game Rivalry Series in 2019-20. The U.S. is off to a 2-0-0 start after defeating Canada 4-1 in Hartford, Conn., on Dec. 14, and 2-1 in Moncton, N.B., on Dec. 17. **Alex Cavallini** and **Alex Carpenter** were named U.S. Player of the Game, respectively.

The final three games of the Series are set for Feb. 3 in Victoria, British Columbia; Feb. 5 in Vancouver; and Feb. 8 in Anaheim, California. Tickets for the game in Anaheim at Honda Center are currently on sale at hondacenter.com, Ticketmaster.com or the Honda Center box office. To purchase tickets by phone, fans can call 714-704-2500.

USA HOCKEY'S AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT MODEL TURNS TEN

USA Hockey celebrates its 10th year of the American Development Model this season. The ADM is USA Hockey's nationwide player-development program for youth hockey associations. It's based on age-appropriate, age-specific competition and training for boys and girls, beginning with their first steps onto the ice and carrying them through age 18 and beyond. ADM places a heightened emphasis on skill development and long-term athlete development principles, providing a blueprint for the best possible youth hockey experience.

2020 U.S. UNDER-18 WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

On Nov. 1, USA Hockey announced the 23-player roster for its U.S. Under-18 Women's National Team that will compete for its fifth gold medal in six years at the 2020 International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 Women's World Championship Dec. 26-Jan. 2 in Bratislava, Slovakia. The roster features 10 players that helped the U.S. earn silver at last year's IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship in Obihiro, Japan.

Maura Crowell (Mansfield, Mass.), head women's ice hockey coach at the University of Minnesota Duluth, is serving as head coach of Team USA. She is joined by assistant coaches **Brianna Decker** (Dousman, Wis.), member of the gold medal-winning 2018 U.S. Olympic Women's Ice Hockey Team, and **Josh Sciba** (Westland, Mich.), head women's ice hockey coach at Union College.

28 AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN IIHF COMPETITION

A total of 28 American officials have been selected to serve as referees or linesmen for International Ice Hockey Federation events and the Youth Olympic Games in 2019-20.

American officials will take part in 18 IIHF events this season, including the IIHF World Junior Championship, the IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship, the IIHF Women's World Championship, and the IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship. For a full list of American officials and their assignments, visit usahockey.com.

2020 HOCKEY WEEK ACROSS AMERICA

USA Hockey's yearly nationwide initiative Hockey Week Across America, now in its 13th year, will take place from Feb. 16-23, 2020. The festivities begin on Feb. 16 with NBC Sports Hockey Day in America. The daily themes will include salutes to players (Feb. 17), coaches (Feb. 18), officials (Feb. 19) and local rinks (Feb. 20) followed by the traditional themed days of Wear Your Favorite Hockey Jersey Day (Feb. 21), Try Hockey Day (Feb. 22) and Celebrate Local Hockey Heroes (Feb. 23). For more information on the week-long celebration, visit HockeyWeekAcrossAmerica.com.

USA HOCKEY'S NATIONAL TEAM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Founded in 1996, USA Hockey's National Team Development Program began operations in Ann Arbor, Mich., and remained there until the summer of 2015. The full-time program is composed of two squads, the U.S. National Under-18 Team and U.S. National Under-17 Team, who compete in the USHL as well as against international and collegiate competition.

The Under-17 Team competes in the United States Hockey League and also participates in three international events annually. The U.S. National Under-18 Team's schedule includes games against NCAA Division I and III opponents, USHL teams as well as competition in three international tournaments.

USA HOCKEY ARENA

USA Hockey Arena is a two-sheet facility with regulation ice (85x200) in the main arena and Olympic-size ice (100x200) for the secondary sheet. Acquired by the USA Hockey Foundation on April 1, 2015, the facility has added 20,000 square feet to the property that includes a 9,800-square-foot workout facility, additional offices and a conference center. In total, the facility encompasses 170,000 square feet with the main rink providing 3,504 seats for hockey games and 4,500 seats for other performances and events. Accompanying the facility is the USA Hockey Summer Drive-In, which has three large screens that show first-run double-features seven nights a week, as well as CJ's Brewing Company.