



TEAM USA Game Notes

2009 IIHF World Championship • Bern & Zurich-Kloten Switzerland

USA (0-0-0-0) vs. Latvia (0-0-0-0)

April 25, 2009 • 4:15 p.m. • Preliminary Round, Game 1

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• **TODAY'S GAME** -- The United States and Latvia meet today in the first preliminary-round game for both teams. Team USA will face Austria (April 27, 4:15 p.m.) and Sweden (April 29, 8:15 p.m.) in its two other preliminary-round games.

• **RECORD vs. LATVIA** -- The U.S. owns a 6-2-1 all-time record against Latvia in the World Championship. The last time the two teams met came last year in a 4-0 USA victory on May 2 in the opening game of the tournament for both teams (see boxscore below). Below is a look at the all-time series.

5/2/08	4-0	W		
5/13/06	4-2	W		
5/3/05	3-1	W		
4/29/02	3-2	W		
4/30/01	0-2		L	
5/7/00	1-1			T
5/11/98	1-3		L	
4/27/97	5-4	W		
2/12/38	1-0	W		

May 2, 2008—at Halifax Metro Centre • Halifax, Nova Scotia (7,360)

United States	1	1	2	—	4
Latvia	0	0	0	—	0

- 1st:** USA-Brown (Martin, Kane), 5x4 PPG, 7:21
2nd: USA-Kane (Martin); 5x4 PPG, 8:44
3rd: USA-Parise (Kane, Brown), 5x4 PPG, 7:09
 USA-O'Sullivan (Mueller, Martin), 5x4 PPG, 11:05

Penalties: USA 9-18, LAT 13-26
Saves: USA-Thomas (5-8-11--24); 60:00
 LAT-Masalskis (13-12-20--45); 60:00
Power Plays: USA 4-9, LAT 0-6
Shots: USA 14-13-22--49; LAT 5-8-11--24

Officials: Refs-Milan Minar, Richard Schuetz; Lines-Ivan Dedioulia, Frantisek Kalivoda

Notes: Tim Thomas made 24 saves and Patrick Kane had a goal and two assists to lead Team USA to a victory in its opening game of the 72nd annual IIHF Men's World Championship. Lee Stempniak was hauled down going in alone and was awarded a penalty shot at 11:34 of the second period, but was stopped in his effort to give the U.S. a 3-0 advantage.

• **ESCHE IN GOAL TODAY** -- **Robert Esche** (Utica, N.Y./SKA St. Petersburg) will get the call in goal today. Esche started the final three games for Team USA at the 2008 World Championship and in four total games played recorded a 2.31 goals against average and .937 save percentage. Esche has appeared in 12 games in three World Championship appearances (2008, 2001, 2000) and has a 7-0-1-2-1 (W-OTW-OTL-L-T) record with a 1.86 goals against average and .941 save percentage.

• **PRACTICE PLANS** -- Team USA will practice tomorrow (April 26) from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. at the PostFinance Arena practice rink. All media requests will be handled at the arena following practice.

• **GOLD MEDAL SUCCESSES** -- The United States has won five recent gold medals in international competition, including at the 2008 and 2009 IIHF World Women's Championship, the 2008 and 2009 IIHF Women's World Under-18 Championship and the 2009 IIHF Under-18 World Men's Championship.

• **MEDIA GUIDE** -- Team USA's media guide is available for download at USAHockey.com. The latest version has profiles on all U.S. players, including the recent additions.

2009 IIHF World Championship Team USA Schedule

<u>Saturday, April 25 - Bern</u>	
USA vs. Latvia	4:15 p.m.
<u>Monday, April 27 - Bern</u>	
USA vs. Austria	4:15 p.m.
<u>Wednesday, April 29 - Bern</u>	
Sweden vs. USA	8:15 p.m.
<u>Thursday, April 30 -</u>	
<u>Monday, May 4 - Bern/Zurich-Kloten</u>	
Qualification Games	
<u>Wednesday, May 6/Thursday, May 7 -Bern</u>	
Quarterfinals	
<u>Friday, May 8 - Bern</u>	
Semifinals	
<u>Sunday, May 10 - Bern</u>	
Bronze & Gold Medal Games	

U.S. Medals at the World Championship

2004	Bronze	
1996	Bronze	
1962	Bronze	
1960		Gold
1956	Silver	
1952	Silver	
1950	Silver	
1949	Bronze	
1939	Silver	
1936	Bronze	
1934	Silver	
1933		Gold
1932	Silver	
1931	Silver	
1924	Silver	
1920	Silver	

• **LEADERSHIP** -- **Dustin Brown** (Ithaca, N.Y./Los Angeles Kings) has been named captain of Team USA and will serve in that role throughout the World Championship. **Ron Hainsey** (Bolton, Conn./Atlanta Thrashers/Massachusetts-Lowell) and **Jason Blake** (Moorhead, Minn./Toronto Maple Leafs/University of North Dakota) will serve as alternate captains for today's game.

• **COACHING STAFF** -- **Ron Wilson** is the head coach of the 2009 U.S. Men's National Team. Currently the head coach of the National Hockey League's Toronto Maple Leafs, Wilson has 599 NHL coaching victories to his credit (7th all-time). **Scott Gordon** and **Joe Sacco** are serving as assistant coaches of the U.S. Men's National Team. Gordon is the head coach of the NHL's New York Islanders, while Sacco is the head coach of the Lake Erie Monsters of the American Hockey League. **Nigel Kirwan** is Team USA's video coordinator and serves in a similar capacity for the Tampa Bay Lightning.

• **MANAGEMENT TEAM** -- The 2009 U.S. Men's National Team is under the direction of **Brian Burke** (Toronto), general manager; **David Poile** (Nashville), associate general manager; and **Jim Johannson**, assistant executive director for hockey operations at USA Hockey. The U.S. Men's National Advisory Group, which includes Burke, **Paul Holmgren** (Philadelphia), Johannson, **Dean Lombardi** (L.A. Kings), **Ray Shero** (Pittsburgh) and **Don Waddell** (Atlanta), is charged with leading the selection of players for the U.S. Men's National Team.

• **BACK FROM LAST YEAR** -- The 2009 U.S. Men's National Team features seven players that competed for Team USA a year ago in the IIHF World Championship in Halifax and Quebec City. They are listed below with their statistics from the 2008 tournament in parentheses.

David Backes (6GP, 0-1--1)
 Keith Ballard (5GP, 0-2--2)
 Dustin Brown (7GP, 5-4--9)
 Robert Esche (4GP, 2-0-1-1, 2.12 GAA)
 Patrick O'Sullivan (7GP, 3-3--6)
 Drew Stafford (7GP, 1-3--4)
 Lee Stempniak (7GP, 0-3--3)

• **GOLD MEDALISTS** -- Team USA boasts a total of seven players who have won gold medals in IIHF World Championship play. Below is a list of players who have earned world titles at the World Junior Championship or World Under-18 Championship.

Keith Ballard (2004 WJC)
 Jack Johnson (2005 U18)
 Al Montoya (2004 WJC)
 Patrick O'Sullivan (2004 WJC/2002 U18)
 Drew Stafford (2004 WJC)
 Ryan Suter (2004 WJC/2002 U18)
 Colin Wilson (2006 U18)

• **TIDBITS** -- **Bob Webster** is the team leader for the United States for the fifth straight year. Webster had served as Team USA's equipment manager in 15 previous World Championships (1979, 82, 86, 87, 89-96, 2002, 03, 04) ... **Universal Sports** will provide live streaming and television coverage of the 2009 IIHF World Championship in the United States beginning with the quarterfinal round ... Team USA has won its opening game of the World Championship in each of the last four years. As a matter of fact, in the last 10 years, the U.S. is 8-1-1 in its opening game of the tournament. Last year, Team USA downed Latvia by a 4-0 count in its first game of the World Championship, using four power-play goals to gain the win ... Team USA's roster includes nine players who have been part of USA Hockey's highly acclaimed National Team Development Program. The group includes **Keith Ballard**, **Nick Foligno**, **Ron Hainsey**, **Jack Johnson**, **John-Michael Liles**, **Al Montoya**, **Patrick O'Sullivan**, **Ryan Suter** and **Colin Wilson**.

• **2004 BRONZE MEDALISTS RETURN** -- **Keith Ballard** (Baudette, Minn.) and **Dustin Brown** (Ithaca, N.Y.), members of the U.S. Men's National Team that earned the bronze medal at the 2004 IIHF World Championship, are back with Team USA this year. The bronze medal in 2004 was the last medal for the United States in the event.

• **EXHIBITION GAME** -- The U.S. played one exhibition game leading up to the World Championship, a 5-2 loss to Switzerland on April 21 at Arena Zurich-Kloten in Kloten, Switzerland. **Dustin Brown** (Ithaca, N.Y./Los Angeles Kings) scored both goals for Team USA, including a five-on-three power-play marker and a three-on-five shorthanded tally.

Team USA Overall	
Average Height	6-0.5 (184)
Average Weight.....	198 (90)
Average Age	24.38
Shoots/Catches Left.....	14
Shoots/Catches Right ...	10

Home State of Team USA	
Minnesota .....	.8
New York .....	.6
Connecticut .....	.3
Indiana .....	.2
Wisconsin .....	.2
Illinois .....	.1
North Carolina .....	.1
Ohio .....	.1

Team USA College Connection	
Univ. of North Dakota .....	.3
Boston College .....	.2
Univ. of Michigan .....	.2
Univ. of Minnesota .....	.2
Yale University .....	.2
Boston University .....	.1
Colorado College .....	.1
Dartmouth College .....	.1
Univ. of Mass. Lowell .....	.1
Michigan State University .....	.1
Univ. of Minn. Duluth .....	.1
Minn. State Univ. Mankato .....	.1
Univ. of Wisconsin .....	.1

College Connection By League	
WCHA .....	.9
HEA .....	.4
CCHA .....	.3
ECACH .....	.3

Key: WCHA-Western Collegiate Hockey Association; HEA-Hockey East Association; CCHA-Central Collegiate Hockey Association; ECACH-Eastern College Athletic Conference Hockey.

**Team USA Point Leaders In IIHF World Championship Play
 (2009 Rostered Players)**

Through April 24, 2009 • Ranked By Points Per Game

Name	Years Played	GP	G	A	TP	PPG
Lee Stempniak	08, 07	14	6	7	13	0.93
Dustin Brown	08, 06, 04	23	11	9	20	0.87
Patrick O'Sullivan	08, 06	10	4	3	7	0.70
Drew Stafford	08, 06	14	1	4	5	0.36
Ryan Suter	07, 06, 05	15	2	3	5	0.33
David Backes	07, 08	13	1	3	4	0.31
Keith Ballard	08, 07, 04	20	1	5	6	0.30
Jason Blake	00	7	1	1	2	0.29
Jack Johnson	07	7	1	0	1	0.14
John-Michael Liles	05	7	0	0	0	0.00



2009 U.S. Men's National Team vs. Latvia
IIHF Men's World Championship • Saturday, April 25, 2009 • Bern, Switzerland



LEFT WING

55 **BLAKE, JASON**
 5-10, 180 Toronto Maple Leafs
 Moorhead, Minn.
A
 9/2/73
 Left Shot
 Univ. of North Dakota (WCHA)
 NHL: (78GP, 25-38--63)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2006 Olympic Winter Games

74 **OSHIE, T.J.**
 5-11, 170 St. Louis Blues
 Warroad, Minn.
 12/23/86
 Right Shot
OH-shee
 Univ. of North Dakota (WCHA)
 NHL: (57GP, 14-25--39)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2006 IIHF World Junior Championships

17 **FOLIGNO, NICK**
 6-0, 205 Ottawa Senators
 Buffalo, N.Y.
 10/31/87
 Left Shot
foh-LIHG-noh
 NHL: (81GP, 17-15--32)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Making 1st MWC Appearance

49 **STUART, COLIN**
 6-2, 205 Atlanta Thrashers
 Rochester, Minn.
 7/8/82
 Left Shot
 Colorado College (WCHA)
 NHL: (35GP, 5-3--8)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Won 2008 Calder Cup with Chicago Wolves (AHL)

DEFENSE

2 **BALLARD, KEITH**
 5-11, 208 Florida Panthers
 Baudette, Minn.
 11/26/82
 Left Shot
BAL-uhrd
 Univ. of Minnesota (WCHA)
 NHL: (82GP, 6-28--34)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2004, 2007-08 IIHF World Champs.

6 **HAINSEY, RON** **A**
 6-3, 205 Atlanta Thrashers
 Bolton, Conn.
 3/24/81
 Left Shot
HAYN-zee
 Univ. of Mass. Lowell (HEA)
 NHL: (81GP, 6-33--39)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Making 1st MWC Appearance

3 **JOHNSON, JACK**
 6-1, 225 L.A. Kings
 Indianapolis, Ind.
 1/13/87
 Left Shot
 Univ. of Michigan (CCHA)
 NHL: (41GP, 6-5--11)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Had 3 goals at 2007 IIHF Men's World Champ.

4 **BOGOSIAN, ZACH**
 6-2, 200 Atlanta Thrashers
 Massena, N.Y.
 7/15/90
 Right Shot
 NHL: (47GP, 9-10--19)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
buh-GO-shun
Third overall pick in 2008 NHL Entry Draft

CENTER

12 **O'SULLIVAN, PATRICK**
 5-11, 190 Edmonton Oilers
 Winston-Salem, N.C.
 2/1/85
 Left Shot
 NHL: (81GP, 16-27--43)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2006, 2008 IIHF World Championships

42 **BACKES, DAVID**
 6-3, 216 St. Louis Blues
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 5/1/84
 Right Shot
BAK-ihz
 Minn. State Univ. Mankato (WCHA)
 NCAA: (82GP, 31-23--54)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2007 & '08 IIHF World Championships

26 **SHANNON, RYAN**
 5-9, 173 Ottawa Senators
 Darien, Conn.
 3/2/83
 Right Shot
 Boston College (HEA)
 NHL: (35GP, 8-12--20)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Won the 2007 Stanley Cup with Anaheim

33 **WILSON, COLIN**
 6-2, 215 Boston University
 Greenwich, Conn.
 10/20/89
 Left Shot
 Boston University (HEA)
 NCAA: (43GP, 17-38--55)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Won 2009 NCAA DI Championship with BU

DEFENSE

5 **NISKANEN, MATT**
 6-0, 194 Dallas Stars
 Virginia, Minn.
 12/6/86
 Right Shot
NIHS-kah-nehn
 Univ. of Minn. Duluth (WCHA)
 NHL: (80GP, 6-29-35)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in the 2007 IIHF World Jr. Championship

20 **SUTER, RYAN**
 6-1, 194 Nashville Predators
 Madison, Wis.
 11/26/82
 Left Shot
 Univ. of Wisconsin (WCHA)
 NHL: (82GP, 7-38--45)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2005-07 IIHF World Championships

15 **LILES, JOHN-MICHAEL**
 5-10, 185 Colorado Avalanche
 Indianapolis, Ind.
 11/25/80
 Left Shot
LIGH-uhlz
 Michigan State Univ. (CCHA)
 NHL: (75GP, 12-27--39)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2006 Olympic Winter Games

7 **HARROLD, PETER**
 5-11, 188 L.A. Kings
 Kirtland Hills, Ohio
 6/8/83
 Right Shot
 Boston College (HEA)
 NHL: (69GP, 4-8--12)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Making 1st MWC Appearance

RIGHT WING

23 **BROWN, DUSTIN**
 6-0, 207 Los Angeles Kings
 Ithaca, N.Y.
C
 11/4/84
 Right Shot
 NHL: (80GP, 24-29--53)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2004, 2006, 2008 IIHF World Champs.

9 **OKPOSO, KYLE**
 6-1, 200 New York Islanders
 St. Paul, Minn.
 4/16/88
 Right Shot
awk-POH-soh
 Univ. of Minnesota (WCHA)
 NHL: (65GP, 18-21--39)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2007 & '08 World Junior Championships

21 **STAFFORD, DREW**
 6-2, 202 Buffalo Sabres
 Milwaukee, Wis.
 10/30/05
 Right Shot
 Univ. of North Dakota (WCHA)
 NHL: (79GP, 20-25--45)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2006, 2008 IIHF World Championships

22 **STEMPNIAK, LEE**
 6-0, 195 Toronto Maple Leafs
 West Seneca, N.Y.
 2/4/83
 Right Shot
STEHP-nee-ak
 Dartmouth College (ECAC)
 NHL: (75GP, 14-30--34)
 2009MWC: (0GP, 0-0-0--0)
Played in 2007 & '08 IIHF World Championships

GOALTENDERS

31 **ESCHE, ROBERT**
 6-0, 204 SKA St. Petersburg
 Utica, N.Y.
 1/22/78
 Catches Left
EHS
 KHL: (38GP, 21-14-6, 1.87, .912)
 2009MWC: (0-0-0-0, 0.00, .000)
Played in 2000, '01 & '08 World Championship

35 **MONTROYA, AL**
 6-2, 185 Phoenix Coyotes
 Chicago, Ill.
 2/13/85
 Catches Left
 NHL: (5GP, 3-1-0, 2.08, .925)
 2009MWC: (0-0-0-0, 0.00, .000)
mawn-TOI-uh
Led U.S. to gold at 2004 IIHF World Jr. Champ.

Head Coach
 Ron Wilson

Assistant Coaches
 Scott Gordon
 Joe Sacco