



# TEAM USA Game Notes

2008 IIHF World Championship • Halifax, Nova Scotia

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

May 2, 2008 • 8:15 p.m. • Preliminary Round, Game 1

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• **TONIGHT'S GAME** -- The United States battles Latvia in its first game of the 2008 International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship here tonight. Team USA finished fifth in the World Championship a year ago.

• **RECORD vs. LATVIA** -- The U.S. owns a 5-2-1 all-time record against Latvia in the World Championship. The last time the two teams met came in 2006 when the U.S. gained a 4-2 win. Below is a look at the all-time series.

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		
1938	1-0	W		

• **EXHIBITION GAME** -- The U.S. played one exhibition game leading up to the World Championship, that a 5-1 victory over Sweden on April 27 at the Cumberland County Civic Center in Portland, Maine. **Peter Mueller** (Bloomington, Minn./Phoenix Coyotes) led the charge with a goal and two assists. Team USA conducted its training camp in Portland from April 24-30.

• **LEADERSHIP TEAM** -- **Jeff Halpern** (Potomac, Md./Tampa Bay Lightning/Princeton University) has been named captain of Team USA. The 2008 IIHF World Championship marks the sixth international competition as a member of Team USA for Halpern. **Zach Parise** (Faribault, Minn./New Jersey Devils/University of North Dakota) and **Mark Stuart** (Minneapolis, Minn./Boston Bruins/Colorado College) are the team's alternate captains.

• **GOLD MEDAL SUCCESSES** -- The United States has won two recent gold medals in international competition, including at the IIHF World Women's Championship and also at the IIHF Women's World Under-18 Championship. The U.S. also took the bronze medal at the IIHF Under-18 World Men's Championship.

• **COACHING STAFF** -- **John Tortorella** is the head coach of the 2008 U.S. Men's National Team. The winningest American-born coach in National Hockey League history, Tortorella is currently the head coach of the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning. **Mike Sullivan** and **Kurt Kleinendorst** are serving as assistant coaches of the U.S. Men's National Team.

• **TIDBITS** -- The 2008 version of the U.S. Men's National Team is the first ever to have a roster filled with players that are currently playing or have played in the National Hockey League ... Team USA features 14 players that had 30 or more points in the NHL in 2007-08 and six that had more than 50.

### U.S. Schedule & Results

<u>Friday, May 2 - Halifax</u>	
USA vs. Latvia	8:15 p.m.
<u>Sunday, May 4 -- Halifax</u>	
USA vs. Slovenia	8:15 p.m.
<u>Tuesday, May 6 -- Halifax</u>	
Canada vs. USA	4:30 p.m.
<u>Thursday, May 8 - Monday, May 12 -- Halifax</u>	
Qualification Games	
<u>Wednesday, May 14 -- Halifax</u>	
Quarterfinals	
<u>Friday, May 16 -- Quebec City</u>	
Semifinals	
<u>Saturday, May 17/Sunday, May 18 -- Quebec City</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	



• **BACK FROM LAST YEAR** -- The 2008 U.S. Men's National Team features six players that competed for Team USA a year ago in the IIHF World Championship in Moscow. They are listed below with their statistics from the 2007 tournament in parentheses.

David Backes (7GP, 1-2--3)  
 Keith Ballard (7GP, 0-3--3)  
 Matt Greene (7GP, 0-2--2)  
 Phil Kessel (7GP, 2-5--7)  
 Zach Parise (1GP, 0-0--0)  
 Lee Stempniak (7GP, 6-4--10)

• **2004 BRONZE MEDALISTS RETURN** -- **Keith Ballard** (Baudette, Minn.), **Dustin Brown** (Ithaca, N.Y.) and **Jeff Halpern** (Potomac, Md.), 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.

• **BROWN LEADS IN POINTS AT WORLDS** -- Forward **Dustin Brown** (Ithaca, N.Y.) has 11 career points (6-5) in World Championship play to lead all rostered U.S. players. **Lee Stempniak** (West Seneca, N.Y.) who led Team USA with 10 points (6-4) in his first World Championship in 2007, is the only other currently rostered player to have reached double digits in World Championship play.

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

David Booth (04 WJC/02 U18)  
 Patrick Kane (06 U18)  
 Phil Kessel (05 U18)  
 Peter Mueller (05 U18)  
 Patrick O'Sullivan (04WJC/02 U18)  
 Zach Parise (04 WJC/02 U18)  
 Drew Stafford (04 WJC)  
 Mark Stuart (04 WJC/02 U18)  
 James Wisniewski(04WJC/02 U18)

• **THOMAS TO GET START** -- **Tim Thomas** (Flint, Mich./Boston Bruins/University of Vermont) will get the call in goal tonight. He has been a member of Team USA in five previous World Championships and has played a total of 129 minutes with a 3.72 GAA and .930 save percentage.

• **THROWBACK JERSEYS** -- Players on Team USA will wear replica jerseys from the 1960 gold-medal winning U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team in tonight's game.

• **AND FINALLY** -- Team USA will practice tomorrow from 1 - 2 p.m. at the practice arena. All media requests will be handled at the Halifax Metro Centre after practice.

**Home State of Team USA**

Minnesota	7
Michigan	5
New York	5
Wisconsin	3
Illinois	1
Maryland	1
North Carolina	1

**Team USA College Connection**

Univ. of Minnesota	3
Univ. of North Dakota	3
Univ. of Wisconsin	2
Colorado College	1
Dartmouth College	1
Michigan State Univ.	1
Minn. St. Univ. Mankato	1
Princeton Univ.	1
Univ. of Vermont	1

**College Connection By League**

WCHA	10
ECACH	3
CCHA	1

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



**Team USA Point Leaders In World Championship Play (2008 Rostered Players)**

Through May 1, 2008 • Ranked By Points Per Game

Name	Years Played	GP	G	A	TP	PPG
Lee Stempniak	07, 08	7	6	4	10	1.42
Dustin Brown	04, 06, 08	16	6	5	11	0.69
Phil Kessel	06, 07, 08	14	3	6	9	0.64
Zach Parise	05, 07, 08	4	0	2	2	0.50
David Backes	07, 08	7	1	2	3	0.43
Patrick O'Sullivan	06, 08	3	1	0	1	0.33
Matt Greene	07, 08	7	0	2	2	0.29
Jeff Halpern	00, 01, 04, 05, 08	32	5	4	9	0.28
Keith Ballard	04, 07, 08	15	1	3	4	0.27
Drew Stafford	06, 08	7	0	1	1	0.14
Paul Martin	05, 08	7	0	0	0	0.00

