



TEAM USA GAME NOTES

2010 IIHF World Under-18 Championship • Minsk & Bobruisk, Belarus

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

April 14, 2010 • 3:30 p.m. • Preliminary Game 2

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• **TODAY'S CONTEST** -- The U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team will take on Switzerland in its second preliminary round game against Switzerland today. The Swiss come into the game in surprising fashion as they knocked off Canada, 3-1, yesterday in the tournament's first game.

• **MATCH-UP HISTORY** -- Team USA will meet Switzerland for the fifth time in tournament history today. The U.S. owns a perfect 4-0-0-0 record against the Swiss in the all-time series, outscoring its opponent 22-5. The two clubs last met on April 13, 2008, when Team USA downed Switzerland 7-2.

4/14/08	7-2	W
4/17/05	7-1	W
4/15/02	5-1	W
4/16/02	3-1	W

• **LET'S PLAY TWO** -- The U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team has not lost its second preliminary-round game since 2001. During that span, Team USA has compiled an 8-0-0-0 record, and has outscored its opponents 45-10.

• **LAST TIME OUT** -- The U.S. did not get the start it wanted yesterday after falling to Sweden, 4-2, in the opening game. Despite having a 2-0 lead in the early goings, three third period goals sunk the U.S. **Chase Balisy** (Fullerton, Calif.) and **Brandon Saad** (Gibsonia, Pa.) scored the goals for the U.S., while **Jack Campbell** (Port Huron, Mich.) made 27 saves. The last time Team USA lost its first game of the tournament came on April 12, 2007, when the U.S. fell, 5-3, to Russia. However, the U.S. bounced back and earned the silver medal that year.

• **FRESH FACE BEHIND THE BENCH** -- For the first time in six years, a head coach not named John Hynes or Ron Rolston will lead the U.S. Men's National Team at an IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship. **Kurt Kleinendorst** will guide Team USA for the first time at the event. This season, he led the U.S. National Under-18 Team of USA Hockey's National Team Development Program to a 36-18-2 record, including a 9-8-0 mark against U.S. college opponents, an 18-8-2 clip in the United States Hockey League. The team also compiled a 7-0-0-2 in international competition this season, which included a first-place finish at the 2009 Under-18 Four Nations Cup in Finland and second place at the 2010 Under-18 Six Nations Cup in Minsk, Belarus.

• **CAPTAINS** -- **Jarred Tinordi** is the captain of the 2009 U.S. Men's National Junior Team. The native of Millersville, Md., has served as the captain for the 1992 birth-year team at the National Team Development Program since December of 2008 ... Team USA has four alternate captains, two in blue jerseys and two in white jerseys. **Nick Shore** (Denver, Colo.) and **Stephen Johns** (Wampum, Pa.) are alternates when Team USA wears white, while **Jason Zucker** and **Frankie Simonelli** (Bensenville, Ill.) each have an "A" in blue.

• **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 and participation on U.S. National Teams. 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 12 years, 166 players have been selected in the National Hockey League Entry Draft, including 33 in the first round and three with the first overall selection (Rick DiPietro, 2000; Erik Johnson, 2006; Patrick Kane, 2007). This year, 20 of the 22 players on the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team are products of the National Team Development Program.

Team USA Schedule

<u>Thursday, April 8 -- Soligorsk, Belarus</u> USA vs. Belarus (ex.)	W, 13-2
<u>Saturday, April 10 -- Bobruisk, Belarus</u> USA vs. Slovakia (ex.)	W, 7-3
<u>Tuesday, April 13 -- Bobruisk, Belarus</u> Sweden vs. USA	L, 2-4
<u>Wednesday, April 14 -- Bobruisk, Belarus</u> Switzerland vs. USA	3:30 p.m.
<u>Friday, April 16 -- Bobruisk, Belarus</u> USA vs. Canada	7:00 p.m.
<u>Sunday, April 18 -- Bobruisk, Belarus</u> USA vs. Belarus	7:00 p.m.
<u>Tuesday, April 20 -- Minsk, Belarus</u> Quarterfinal Round	TBD
<u>Wednesday, April 21 -- Minsk, Belarus</u> Semifinal Round	TBD
<u>Friday, April 23 -- Minsk, Belarus</u> Bronze-Medal Game	3:00 p.m.
Gold-Medal Game	7:00 p.m.

Team USA Medals at the World Under-18 Championship

Year	Medal	Head Coach
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** -- FASTHockey is providing live web-streaming of Team USA's remaining games at the 2010 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship. All games will be available on a pay-per-view basis for the remainder of the tournament using FASTHockey's unique game credits system. For more information, visit USAHockey.FASTHockey.com ... In addition, USAHockey.com has coverage of the tournament including game recaps, photos and a tournament blog ... Team USA and Sweden played to the largest crowd yesterday. According to IIHF.com, 4,100 spectators took in last night's contest at Bobruisk Arena ... The game was preceded by the tournament opening ceremonies in which each team captain accepted a loaf of bread from women dressed in native garb, as is the custom of welcoming new friends in Belarus.

• **BACK IN BELARUS** -- The U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team has earned medals in six consecutive IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championships. That unprecedented streak all started in Belarus back in 2004, when John Hynes led Team USA to the silver medal in his first year as coach. That team included such standouts as Phil Kessel and Jack Johnson.

• **GOLDEN BOYS** -- Five members of the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team, including **Jack Campbell** (Port Huron, Mich.), **Adam Clendening** (Niagara Falls, N.Y.), **Jon Merrill** (Brighton, Mich.), **Matthew Nieto** (Long Beach, Calif.) and **Jason Zucker** (Las Vegas, Nev.), were part of the U.S. team that captured the gold medal at the 2009 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship in Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn. Additionally, Zucker and Campbell, played for the U.S. National Junior Team that captured the gold medal at the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship in Regina and Saskatoon, Sask., in January.

• **A FAMILY AFFAIR** -- Three members of the U.S. Men's National Team have family ties to this tournament. **Nick Shore's** (Denver, Colo.) brother, Drew, was part of the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team that captured gold at the 2009 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship. **Bryan Rust's** brother, Matt, competed at the 2007 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship where Team USA took home silver. Lastly, **Austin Czarnik's** cousin, Robbie Czarnik, earned the bronze medal with the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team at the 2008 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship.

• **CHAMPIONSHIP CONNECTIONS** -- In addition to the five 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 return. The pair also was part of the staff for the U.S. National Junior Team at the 2010 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. **Derek Forbort** (Duluth, Minn.) is tops among current U.S. players at No. 7 among North American skaters. Additionally, Cam Fowler (Farmington Hills, Mich.), who led the U.S. to the gold medal at last year's IIHF World Under-18 Championship, is ranked at No. 5. Fowler received the directorate award as the tournament's best defenseman last season. 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**

- Derek Forbort (No. 9)
- Austin Watson (No. 14)
- Jon Merrill (No. 21)
- Stephen Johns (No. 35)
- Bill Arnold (No. 36)
- Jarred Tinordi (No. 38)
- Jason Zucker (No. 51)
- Justin Faulk (No. 56)
- Connor Brickley (No. 58)
- Bryan Rust (No. 80)
- Luke Moffatt (No. 95)

• **NHL TIES** -- Two players on the U.S. roster have fathers that played in the National Hockey League. **Jarred Tinordi's** father, Mark, enjoyed a 12-year run in the NHL, which included stints with the New York Rangers, Minnesota North Stars/Dallas Stars and the Washington Capitals. **Tyler Biggs' (Cincinnati, Ohio)** 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, International Hockey League and East Coast Hockey League from 1984-2002. His number is retired by the Cincinnati Cyclones, now of the ECHL.

• **YOUNG GUNS** -- Of the 22 players on Team USA's roster, only two are from outside of the 1992 birth year. **Rocco Grimaldi** (Rossmore, Calif.) and **Tyler Biggs** were both born in 1993. The pair spent this past season with the U.S. National Under-17 Team at the National Team Development Program. The highlight of their young careers came on Jan. 5, 2010 when the pair led the U.S. Under-17 squad to the title at the 2010 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Timmins, Ont. Grimaldi led the tournament in scoring with 14 points (4-10), while Biggs scored both goals for the U.S. in its 2-1 win against Canada-Ontario in the championship game.



Chase Balisy scored Team USA's first goal of the tournament. (Photo: Dave Arnold)

Home State of Team USA Players

Michigan	5
California	3
Massachusetts	2
Minnesota	2
New York	2
Pennsylvania	2
Arizona	1
Colorado	1
Illinois	1
Maryland	1
Nevada	1
Ohio	1

Team USA College Commitments

Univ. of Notre Dame (CCHA)	3
Boston Univ. (HEA)	2
Univ. of Denver (WCHA)	2
Univ. of Michigan (CCHA)	2
Boston College (HEA)	1
Cornell Univ. (ECACH)	1
Miami Univ. (CCHA)	1
Univ. of Minnesota Duluth	1
Univ. of North Dakota (WCHA)	1
Univ. of Vermont (HEA)	1
Univ. of Wisconsin (WCHA)	1

College Connection By League

CCHA	6
WCHA	4
HEA	4
ECACH	1

Average Height	6'0" (183)
Average Weight	197 (85)
Shoots/Catches Left	10
Shoots/Catches Right	12

• **FUN FACTS** -- Equipment manager **Brook Bradley** has been on the staff of four of the seven U.S. Men's National Under-18 Teams that have medaled at the IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship including Team USA's first-ever gold medal-winning team in 2002 ... Team USA received good luck wishes through email from Ron Wilson, head coach of the 2010 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team and the Toronto Maple Leafs ... Ron DeGregorio, president of USA Hockey, also passed along his well wishes to the team ... Scott Monaghan, the director of operations for the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team has attended each of the 11 IIHF World Under-18 Championships ... During down time this week, Team USA has gone on a tour of historic Bobruisk and has enjoyed such activities as bowling. The team of Stephen Johns, Brandon Saad, Jason Zucker, Bryan Rust, Austin Czarnik and Austin Watson were the top bowlers, winning both of the games played last week.