



TEAM USA GAME NOTES

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

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Team USA (0-0-0-0) vs. Sweden (0-0-0-0)

April 13, 2010 • 7:00 p.m. • Preliminary Game 1

• **TONIGHT'S CONTEST** -- The U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team will open up the 2010 International Ice Hockey Federation Men's World Under-18 Championship against Sweden tonight.

• **MATCH-UP HISTORY** -- Team USA will meet Sweden for the seventh time in tournament history tonight. The U.S. holds a 5-1-0 advantage over Sweden in the all-time series. In the most recent meeting between the two clubs, back on April 23, 2008, Team USA defeated Sweden 6-3 to earn the bronze medal at the 2008 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship. The U.S. has outscored Sweden by a 31-16 margin in the all-time series.

2008	6-3	W
2008	4-5	L
2005	6-2	W
2004	6-2	W
2003	3-2	W
2002	6-2	W

• **FRESH FACE BEHIND THE BENCH** -- For the first time in six years, a 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.

• **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.

• **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. 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). In addition, NTDP players have gone on to great success on the international stage. The NTDP produced seven players that earned the silver medal at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C., this past February. Additionally, the 12 NTDP alumni or current players were part of the U.S. National Junior Team that captured the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship in Regina and Saskatoon, Sask. 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	7:00 p.m.
<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** -- The media guide for the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team is available on USAHockey.com, which is also hosting a live blog for each of Team USA's games at the 2010 IIHF World Under-18 Championship. In addition to the live blog, USAHockey.com will post features, notes and photos from the tournament ... USA Hockey has seen each of its national teams successfully medal in each of their designated events. Both the U.S. Olympic Men's and Women's Hockey Teams took silver at the Olympic Winter Games, the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team earned gold at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, the U.S. National Junior Team captured gold at the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship, the U.S. Women's National Under-18 Team earned silver at the 2010 IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship and the U.S. National Under-17 Team earned first place at the 2010 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

• **THE NEW BOYS** -- While 20 players come from the National Team Development Program, two players played last season in the junior ranks. **Austin Watson** (Ann Arbor, Mich.) split the season with the Windsor Spitfires and Peterborough Petes of the Ontario Hockey League. He was also named to the CHL Top Prospects game. Watson gained international experience at last summer's Memorial of Ivan Hlinka Tournament. Also **Connor Brickley** (Everett, Mass.) of the United States Hockey League's Des Moines Buccaneers. Brickley also has compiled a nice resume in international competition. The forward played at the 2009 World Jr. A Challenge in Summerside, P.E.I., Canada, where the U.S. Junior Select Team took home first place, and he skated with the U.S. National Under-18 Team at the 2010 Under-18 Six Nations Cup in Minsk.

• **EXHIBITION PERFORMERS** -- The U.S. Men's National Team played in two pre-tournament games last week in Belarus. In its first contest on April 8, Team USA downed host Belarus, 13-2, in Soligorsk. **Austin Czarnik** (Washington, Mich.) and **Brandon Saad** (Gibsonia, Pa.) each scored hat tricks, while Czarnik (3-2--5) and **Rocco Grimaldi** (Rossmoor, Calif./0-5--5) each recorded five points. In Team USA's second per-tournament game, **Bryan Rust** (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.) and **Luke Moffatt** (Paradise Valley, Ariz.) each tallied twice as the U.S. defeated Slovakia, 7-3, in Bobruisk.

• **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.

• **2009 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** (Rossmoor, 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. Their head coach during the season was Ron Rolston, who has led the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team to the gold medal twice at this event.

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 ... Team USA's host at the 2010 IIHF World Men's Under-18 Championship is Sergei Boychik, of Minsk, Belarus.

