

How the European teams look

By Denis Gibbons

How well the USSR does in the Canada Cup tournament should be a good test of a theory I've developed over the last four years that the Soviets have at least 100 players capable of playing somewhere in the NHL. I can name you 100 different Soviets I've seen in action against top calibre Canadian amateur clubs and somehow I don't really think the California Seals would be much better than the excellent Junior "A" all-star squads they beat.

Arne Stromberg, former head coach of the Swedish nationals, a man in a much better position to know, disagreed with me last summer. Arne thought only about 30 Soviets could back it in the NHL, but he confided his assessment was based on the feeling Soviet players would have a difficult time adjusting to life in North America, not that they lack talent.

Gone from the Soviet National Team roster, at least for the Canada Cup series, are seven extremely skilled hockey players, who have nothing more to prove to North Americans and, I feel, would be welcome on any NHL club. Aleksandr Yakushev, Valery Kharlamov, Boris Mikhailov, Vladimir Petrov, Vladimir Shadrin, Yuri Lapkin and Vacheslav Anisim helped rescue me from the doldrums of North American professional hockey mediocrity in 1972. It hurts me a little that they won't be here this time, although I'm convinced some, if not all of them, will show up in Vienna for the world championships in April.

How strong will the Soviet roster be for

the Canada Cup? Strong enough to finish no lower than third, even without those seven big guns, I predict.

CZECHS:

Soviet ice hockey officials readily admit that it was the Czechs, who first taught them how to play hockey. Although they are drawing players from a population of only 14,000,000, the Czechs have a talented, spirited National Team, whose only major disadvantage in the Canada Cup may be that they will be playing on ice surfaces, 15 feet narrower than the European rinks on which they shaped their major team tactic. That is to move the puck around constantly, using the entire width of the ice surface, in order to open up holes in the opposition defence.

From goal, where Jiri Holicek, a hulk of a man, whose size alone intimidates shooters serves as anchor, the Czech National team represents a battleship that has sailed through the wars of European hockey to the world championship.

The Czechs, although it perhaps does not have much significance on the eve of the Canada Cup where the very best Canucks will finally be on the same ice surface at the same time, are undefeated in four matches against Canadian professionals. They tied Team NHL 3-3 in '72, defeated Team WHA 3-1 in '74 and scored 6-1 and 3-1 victories over the Winnipeg Jets in pre-season games last year.

In 10 games at the world championships

in Katowice, Poland in April, the Czechs went unbeaten, although they had a 3-3 draw with the Soviets. Among their victories was a 10-2 trouncing of the U.S. National team, which carried five professionals, who are suiting up with the U.S. Canada Cup team.

In front of Holicek, who Bobby Hull named as goalie when asked to select a world all-star team for the press, the Czechs rely on a solid defence led by Frantisek Pospisil and Oldrich Machac, veterans of international hockey. Vladimir Martinec, one of the team's best forwards scored nine goals and assisted on 11 others to lead individual scorers at last year's world championships. Czechs Ivan Novak and Milan Novy ranked second and third respectively, in scoring at the world tournament. Ivan Hlimanka, veteran Jiri Holik and Bohuslav Eberman are also attackers to keep an eye on. In total, 18 of the 24 Czechs here for the Canada Cup, helped their country to last year's world championship.

In summary, it looks to me like the Czechs will be the second best team in this tournament, good enough to push Team Canada to three games in the final.

SWEDEN:

When you consider that Sweden's population is only 8 million, it's possible the Tre Kronor have players equal to any nation on a per capita basis. They have at least two players, defence-

man Borje Salming and winger Anders Hedberg, who can play on my world all-star team any night. Salming must rank among the globe's top five defenders. Hedberg, I believe, is the fastest on blades.

Defencemen Lars-Eric Sjoberg and Thommie Bergman and forwards, Ulf Nilsson and Willy Lindstrom who helped the Winnipeg Jets win the WHA championship are capable players, as is centre Juha Widing, an NHL veteran with the Los Angeles Kings. It will be interesting also to see Maple Leaf winger Inge Hammarstrom working under international rules. Somehow I feel the NHL goon squads have prevented him from playing up to his potential.

What concerns me about the Swedes, and Hammarstrom in particular, is that they might tend to pay their opponents even more respect than they should. Stig Nilsson claims that feeling was responsible for the Swedish National Team's 4-3 loss to Team WHA in 1974. Hammarstrom, when I spoke to him in Tyringe, Sweden, last summer, couldn't speak highly enough about the NHL. I almost felt it was the money he was talking about.

FINLAND:

The Finns, as hockey fans in Georgetown learned last winter, do not take defeat easily, which is one of the reasons they're improving rapidly as a hockey nation. Their fighting spirit is not unlike the desire Team NHL showed in Moscow in 1972.

Veli-Pekka Ketola, Heikki Riihiranta and Pekka Rautakallio have all demonstrated their ability to at least stay with North American professionals in the WHA. According to Carl Brewer, who will help coach the Finnish National team in the Canada Cup, goalie Anntti Leppanen can tend goal with Tretiak and Holicek. Brewer

also reports, however, that three or four of the best Finnish amateur players are unable to join their national team for the Canada Cup, because they can no longer afford to take the time off work to train. Although they finished only fifth out of

eight in the world championships last year, even behind the U.S., the Finns still lost just four games out of 10. They earned four ties and it's not beyond the realm of possibility that they'll get at least one draw or even a win in the Canada Cup.

Free Press predicts

By Eric Elstone



	W	L	P
Canada	5	0	10
CSSR	4	1	8
Sweden	3	2	6
USSR	3	2	6
Finland	1	4	2
USA	0	5	0

Team Canada will sweep the round robin series in spite of the brief time its members have worked together as a unit. The opposition, especially after seeing Monday's Czech-Canada exhibition game, just is too underpowered for the home team. The Russians to date have not sent their top players, and unless they pull some surprises, they will probably fall to Sweden. The Swedes may have trouble incorporating the NHLers and WHA types into a team.

Finland, reported to be the only true amateurs in the

contest, will upset no one because they simply do not have the talent. Team America is as much a question mark as the USSR, but they will finish last because they have not exhibited any desire to win. This lack in attitude was notable from their two pre-series games against the Canadians.

The Canadians will become a bit sloppy from over confidence in the finals against the Czechs who will win one from their hosts. Canada will take the finals two games to one.

Free Press WHO DOES IT DIRECTORY

ACCOUNTANTS

ROBERT LINDQUIST
B. Com. C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
LINDQUIST AND HOLMES
4 Berry St. Acton
Call
Bus. 416-924-0313
Res. (519) 853-0490 evenings

BUILDER

Framing
Additions
Renovations
Rec Rooms
Custom Homes
ROY GALLOWAY
R.R. 1 Moffat
854-2424 dmtf

CONCRETE PRODUCTS

PRECAST UNIT STEPS
Cathea Concrete
Restorations Ltd.
250 Main St., Milton
878-6853

DRIVING SCHOOL

MARK'S DRIVING SCHOOL
To serve you in Acton and Georgetown
Personal service by M.O.T.C. licensed independent owner and instructor
Call Henry Rasmussen
877-6686

FLOOR REFINISHING

FLOOR REFINISHING
We now have a modern sander and edger. We will refinish your floors or rent you the equipment to do the job yourself. J. B. Frank, phone 853-7030, Frederick St. S. Acton

INSURANCE

Is Your Insurance Up-To-Date?
Denny's Insurance Agency
17 Mill Street West ACTON
GENERAL and LIFE INSURANCE
853-0150

OPTOMETRISTS

DR. ROBERT W. SCHUMACHER
Optometrist
22 Main Street S. Acton
Telephone for appointment 853-2211 dalt

SEPTIC TANKS

RON GIDDEN
Septic Tank Cleaning
Phone
Rockwood
856-4202 dalt

TV and APPLIANCES

SEE THE DEPENDABILITY PEOPLE
MAYTAG
WIGO TV & APPLIANCES
877-3376
40 Main Street GEORGETOWN dalt

G.H. WARD & PARTNERS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
20 Mill St. E. Acton
853-2820 dalt

BUILDING YOUR NEW HOME

Framing, Trimming, Cupboards, Rec rooms, Supervision, shell erecting and building of Pre-Manufactured homes. 10 years experience
Call
GERRY WARD
103 Kingham Dr. Acton
853-2916

ACTON PRECAST CONCRETE & SUPPLIES

Septic Tanks
Well Tiles
Other Concrete Products
Plastic Sewer Pipe
Pumping Service
853-1529

ELECTRICAL SERVICE

HALTON HILLS
Electrical Contracting
24 Hour Service
Industrial
Commercial
Residential
853-2572 ACTON dalt

GARDENING

Custom Rototilling for Garden and larger fields.
Call:
856-9605

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

DRYWALL TAPING and JOINT FILLING
Free Estimates
JOE SEELLEN
MILTON
878-3337

PEST CONTROL

Household Insects
Tree Spraying
Outdoor Pest
Fully government licensed and insured.
Call
878-0387 dmq18

SOFT WATER

AQUAFINE
WATER SOFTENERS
SOFT WATER
THE WAY IT SHOULD BE
FREE INSTALLATION and Service
LOWEST MONTHLY Rental Rate
COMPLETE LINE of Water Treatment Equipment for Homes, Farms and Business
SELT SERVICE
Salt Pickup or Delivery
877-6242 dalt

TOWING

24 Hour Service
Anywhere Anytime
PHONE
853-2940
RICH'S SERVICE CENTRE
dalt

AIR CONDITIONING

THINK COOL
THINK WESTWAY
For Your AIR CONDITIONING
over 800 installations in Halton County
"WE PROMISE THE BEST SERVICE IN TOWN"
SEE THE SPECIALISTS IN HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
WestWay
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
146 GUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN
971-6232 dalt

CAR CARE

Expert AUTO-BODY
Repairs
Halton Hills
Collision
Crewson Corners
853-2860
Dan Kociuk John Bugala

CUSTOM HAYING

PETER'S CUSTOM FARMING
Plowing, combining, grains and corn, full seeding.
878-7717
or 854-9957 dmtf

FUEL

Thompson Fuels Ltd.
DEPENDABLE SERVICE SINCE 1946
PH 853-2174

CONSTRUCTION & WOODWORKING

General Repairs
Renovations
Pine Furniture
853-1409 dalt

JANITOR SERVICE

IMPERIAL JANITORIAL SERVICE
Complete Janitorial Service including
Rug Cleaning
Georgetown
(416) 877-1187 dalt

PAINTING and DECORATING

DAVID COHEN
290 Peel St., Acton
Phone 853-2815
Interior Decorating & Exterior Painting
Estimates Free dalt

PHOTOGRAPHY

R. J. Jennings
PHOTOGRAPHY
For all your Photographic needs
PHONE 853-2227
110 Mill St. W. ACTON, ONTARIO

WOODY'S

For better weed control and fertilizing, fully government licensed and insured. All work guaranteed.
878-0387 dmq18

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

LET US TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING REQUIREMENTS
MANUFACTURERS AGENTS
Carrier
Chrysler
Lennox
Westinghouse
Heat Pumps
Johns-Manville
Insulation
Participating Union Gas Dealer
877-1773
BRIDLEWOOD
OAKVILLE
844-7354
"You'll Be Comfortable With Us" dgmft

CAR AND TRUCK RENTAL

See us first when you need a car or truck rental for
Business Trips
Holidays
Moving
Low Daily Rates and good mileage
45 Main St. N. Acton
853-2370

DEAD STOCK REMOVAL

Dead or disabled animals removed. Old healthy horses 3c a lb
FERGUS 843-2240 or 843-2519
Lic. 410 C/73
304 RP 73 dalt

CO-OP

HOME HEAT SERVICE
for WARMTH you can rely on.
Fuel Oil
Automatic Degree Day Delivery System
Parts Protection Plans
100 Gallons Furnace Oil FREE if You Run Out Once You Become a Certified Furnace Oil Customer
853-2174 dalt

EXCAVATIONS

Trenching, ditching and foundations.
Licensed Contractors For Installation of Septic Tanks
853-2539 dalt

LANDSCAPING

Topsoil, sand and gravel, also bulldozer and backhoe work
853-2490 dalt

PRINTING

Dills Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd.
110 Willow St., Acton (dalt)

TV SALES SERVICE

John Salmon COUNTRY T.V. CENTRE
SALES & SERVICE
Hwy. 24, Rockwood Line
Specializing in TV Service Authorized Electrolux & R.C.A. T.V. and Appliance Dealer
PHONE 856-9825

UPHOLSTERING

GUELPH UPHOLSTERY
formerly Acton Upholstery Earl Jensen
Recovering and Restyling of your antique and modern furniture. Free estimates—pick up and delivery. 25 years experience. Satisfaction guaranteed.
824-0533 dalt

BOOKKEEPING

COOPER BUSINESS SERVICE
Bookkeeping
Income Tax
Payroll Systems
Cost Systems
"Small Business Specialists"
853-3370
103 Main St. N., Acton dalt

CLEANERS

Family Cleaners AND BARGAIN CORRAL
13 Mill St. E. Acton
FREE Pick Up & Delivery
853-2310 dalt

DENTAL

DR. LEONARD EMBRACK
Dental Surgeon
294 Queen St., Acton, Ont.
For appointments phone 853-1300

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Bumfey Shoemaker
Phone 853-0350 night or day.
If no answer call 856-1601.
Bruce E. Shoemaker, Prop. dalt

GENERAL REPAIRS

DAVE McMULLEN CONCRETE CONTRACTOR
Floors, Walks, Patios, Concrete Drives
Plaster Repairs
Chimney Repairs
Textured Spray Ceilings
Stucco Work
FOR FREE ESTIMATE CALL 853-2726 dalt

OPTOMETRISTS

Arthur A. Johnson, O.D.
MILTON - 214 Main St.
878-3673
By Appointment dmtf

ROOFING - SIDING

WESTERN GENERAL CONTRACTORS
Specializing in roofing and vinyl aluminum siding, soffits, fascia, also steel barns, eavestroughing.
FREE ESTIMATES
Call 853-3240 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or Erin collect 853-9070 after 5 p.m.
WE NOW ACCEPT CHARGEX dalt

FIRST LINE T.V.

SALES AND SERVICE
5 Mill St. E., Acton
Phone 853-1057
for store and after hours (service)
Zenith & Motorola Dealer
Antenna installations & repairs

WELDING

SPEYSIDE Portable Welding Service
Free Estimates
Commercial-Industrial
W. KAMMINGA
R.R. No. 1, Acton
Phone 853-2438 dalt

GO CLASSIFIED

CONSTRUCTION

Minor to Major repairs and alterations. Family rooms, additions, decks and patio doors.
UNISAL CONSTRUCTION LTD.
Al Bousfield
853-3903 dmtf

WANT ADS

ON TARGET EVERY TIME

Tell the advertiser you saw his ad in...
The Acton Free Press

Advertise Where People Look to Buy in the
WANT ADS

The Acton Free Press

Read By Over 15,000 People Weekly.

Check
The Acton Free Press
Classifieds for good buys. Sell it too. Dial 853-2010

Check
The Acton Free Press
Classifieds for good buys. Sell it too. Dial 853-2010