2006 U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team

GAME NOTES
Team USA vs. Sweden
Friday, Feb. 17, 2006
Palasport Olimpico, 5:00 p.m.

TONIGHT’S TOP STORIES

• TONIGHT’S GAME -- The United States Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team faces Sweden tonight in the first semifinal game of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. Team USA enters the contest after posting a perfect 3-0-0 record in the preliminary round, while Sweden went 2-1-0 in its last three games. The two teams have met twice before in Olympic competition, with the United States winning both match-ups. Team USA defeated Sweden, 7-1 at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, and earned a 4-0 shutout at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Overall, the two teams have met 25 times in international competition, with Team USA holding a perfect 25-0-0 record and a 187-29 scoring advantage.

• COMEBACK KIDS -- Team USA rebounded from a 3-1 deficit in Tuesday’s game against Finland by scoring six unanswered goals to wrap up Group B action with an unblemished 3-0-0 record. The game marked only the third time in U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team history in which the United States faced a two-goal deficit. Team USA reeled off six unanswered goals in a preliminary round match with Canada at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, after having trailed, 4-1, early in the third period. The United States also trailed Canada, 3-1, in the gold medal game at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, but could only draw to within one before settling for the silver medal.

• PARSONS ATOP STAT SHEET: She may be competing in her first Olympics, but Sarah Parsons (Dover, Mass.) didn’t waste any time moving to the top of the U.S. stat sheet. The 18-year-old leads the squad with four goals and her seven points have her tied with veteran Jenny Potter (Edina, Minn.) for the team lead.

• COUNTRY TIME: Several members of the U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team offered their support at Tuesday’s game as the U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team rallied to a 7-3 victory over Finland. Featured on the U.S. broadcast cheering for the red, white & blue were forwards Scott Gomez (Anchorage, Alaska) and Mark Parrish (Bloomington, Minn.).

• YOU’RE HIRED!: Angela Ruggiero is among a group of 12 U.S. Olympic athletes nominated to compete on the sixth season of the NBC hit, “The Apprentice.” Fans will chose six of the 12 athletes via a public vote on NBCOlympics.com to compete on the show with Donald Trump. Voting continues until Feb. 26. “While we’ve let the viewers do the hiring...I’m still doing the firing,” said Trump in an NBC press release.

• YOU GOTTA SEE THIS: On Wednesday night, nine members of the U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team gave NBC Today Show host Matt Lauer a crash course on goaltending. Pam Dreyer (Eagle River, Alaska) led the lesson while eight players peppered Lauer with shots and even simulated a 5-on-3 situation. The piece will run on Monday’s Today Show.

• THE RECORDS: Includes all games, IIHF and non-IIHF USA vs:
  - Canada: 28-40-1
  - Finland: 27-0-2
  - Germany: 7-0-0
  - Italy: 0-0-0
  - Russia: 10-0-0
  - Sweden: 25-0-0
  - Switzerland: 4-0-0
ALL-TIME VERSUS THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD:
Overall Olympic Record: 13-1-0
Overall International Record (all games): 130-40-3
Overall International Record (IIHF games only): 56-12-1*
All-Time Versus Canada (all games): 28-40-1
*IIHF-sanctioned games include Women’s World Championship, Pacific Women’s Championship & Olympic competition

FOUR THREE-TIMERS -- Team USA’s roster is highlighted by four veterans entering their third Olympic Winter Games. The quartet of Jenny Potter (Edina, Minn.), Katie King (Sales, N.H.), Tricia Dunn-Luoma (Derry, N.H.) and Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.) has played every U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey game in history (11 games). The foursome is well-decorated as well, each with a gold and silver medal.

AFTER STARTING AS A 7TH GRADER: Natalie Darwitz ranks second on Minnesota’s high school all-time scoring chart with 468 points in her career. The two-time Olympian had 316 goals and 152 assists to rank second despite only playing two years. Darwitz spent her junior year with the U.S. Women’s National Team and spent her senior year with the U.S. Women’s Olympic Team.

IN JUST THREE YEARS: After helping the University of Minnesota to back-to-back NCAA National Championships in 2004 and 2005, Natalie Darwitz announced on Jan. 25 that she would forgo her senior year of eligibility. The 22-year-old leaves as the Golden Gopher’s all-time leader in points with 246 (102-144) in just 99 games. Her 114 goals are second all-time in program history and are tied for fourth in the university’s career record book.

USA HOCKEY VETERANS: The 2006 U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team is full of players with international experience. Nine players have competed in past Olympic Winter Games, with four (Katie King, Tricia Dunn-Luoma, Jenny Potter and Angela Ruggiero) capturing a first-ever gold medal awarded in women’s hockey at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. Julie Chu, Natalie Darwitz, Courtney Kennedy, Lyndsay Wall and Krissy Wendell joined the four pioneers at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, and helped Team USA capture silver.

Of the 11 Olympic newcomers, 10 (Caitlin Cahow, Molly Engstrom, Chanda Gunn, Jamie Hagerman, Kim Insalaco, Kathleen Kauth, Kristin King, Sarah Parsons, Helen Resor and Kelly Stephens) represented the United States at the 2005 International Ice Hockey Federation Women’s World Championship this past April in Linkoping and Norrkoping, Sweden. Following a thrilling 1-0 shootout victory over rival Canada, Team USA captured gold, marking the first time in the tournament’s history that a team other than Canada captured the top prize.

Pam Dreyer returned to Team USA and the U.S. Women’s National Team on September 30, 2005, after suffering an injury at the 2004 Women’s Four Nations Cup in Lake Placid, N.Y.
TODAY’S WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY GAMES:
1:00 p.m. Russia vs. Switzerland Esposizioni
5:00 p.m. USA vs. Sweden (SF) Palasport Olimpico
6:30 p.m. Germany vs. Italy (SF) Esposizioni
9:00 p.m. Canada vs. Finland Palasport Olimpico

PRELIMINARY ROUND STANDINGS:

Group A

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LAST TIME OUT: Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.) scored two goals including the game-winner while Sarah Parsons (Dover, Mass.) had her second consecutive two-goal game as the U.S. Olympic Women’s Ice Hockey Team defeated Finland 7-3 at the Palasport Olimpico on Tuesday (Feb. 14). Team USA rebounded from an early deficit to advance to the semi-final game against Sweden.

“We caught a huge goal on Parsons’ second of the night,” said Ben Smith head coach of the U.S. Olympic Women’s Team. “I thought if we held our course and chipped away at the lead, we’d be able to come back. We did that and had a big third period.”

Finland got off to an early lead when Mari Pehkonen picked off a centering pass and fired it to the high far-side corner just 13 seconds into the game. At 8:08 with Team USA on its first power play, Parsons took a pass from Krissy Wendell (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) at the top of the crease and shot it under the crossbar to even the tilt. With Team USA in the penalty box at 11:26, Emma Laaksonen gave the Finns a 2-1 advantage with a high shot from the doorstep.

Finland upped its lead to 3-1 on a five-on-three at 12:01 of the second. Kati Kovalainen carried the puck to the low slot and scored just inside the right post unassisted. Parsons added her second goal of the game with 66 seconds left in the second period, blasting a slap shot through a screen.

Less than two minutes into the third period, Katie King (Salem, N.H.) fired a shot from the slot that beat Finnish goaltender Maija Hassinen through the five-hole. At 10:16, Ruggiero notched the go-ahead goal when she took the puck the length of the ice and fired high to the far corner. Just 45 seconds later with Team USA on the man-advantage, Natalie Darwitz (Eagan, Minn.) weaved through the defense and pushed the puck in near the right post. Wendell made it 6-3 for the USA when she took a feed from Parsons at center ice, deked to her right, cut to her left and tucked the puck just inside the near post. Ruggiero wrapped up the scoring at 15:36 in the third period.

LAST GAME’S BOX SCORE:

February 14, 2006 - United States vs. Finland
Olympic Winter Games Preliminary Round - Torino, Italy

Scoring By Period
USA 1-1-5 -- 7
FIN 2-1-0 -- 3

First Period – Scoring: 1, FIN, Pehkonen (Rantamaki), 0:13; 2, USA, Parsons (Wendell, Potter), 8:08 (pp); 3, FIN, Laaksonen (Tuominen), 11:26 (pp). Penalties: USA, Kennedy (body-checking), 3:14; USA, Dunn-Luoma (hooking), 4:45; FIN, Kuoppala (interference), 6:58; FIN, Laaksonen (hooking), 9:16; USA, Kr. King (interference), 10:58; FIN, Kuoppala (boarding), 12:25; USA, Kauth (holding the stick), 16:16.

Second Period – Scoring: 4, FIN, Kovalainen (unassisted), 12:01 (pp); 5, USA, Parsons (Chu), 18:54. Penalties: USA, Engstrom (holding), 4:29; FIN, Sirvio (body-checking), 4:59; USA, Resor (body-checking), 7:14; FIN, Rantamaki (hooking), 8:52; USA, Stephens (hooking), 10:51; USA, Dunn-Luoma (checking from behind), 11:29; USA, Insalaco (hooking), 19:03.

Third Period – Scoring: 6, USA, Ka. King (unassisted), 1:28; 7, USA, Ruggiero (unassisted), 10:16; 8, USA, Darwitz (Wall), 11:01 (pp); 9, USA, Wendell (Parsons, Ruggiero), 12:18; 10, USA, Ruggiero (Darwitz, Stephens), 15:36. Penalties: USA, Potter (interference), 2:25; FIN, Pellati (hooking), 2:25; FIN, Laaksonen (holding), 4:05; USA, Resor (interference), 7:03; USA, Gunn (delay of game), 8:46; FIN, Pellati (body-checking), 9:13; USA, Stephens (hooking), 12:41; USA, Cahow (interference), 17:50; FIN, Laaksonen (tripping), 19:31.

Shots By Period

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Power Play: USA 2-10; FIN 2-13
Penalties: USA 15-38; FIN 11-22
Officials: Referee- Stephanie Normand Linsmen- Klara Qualgliato, Kim Robichaud
Attendance: 7,697
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Averages/Game

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ALL-TIME OLYMPIC SERIES WITH SWEDEN:
The United States leads the series, 2-0-0.
Team USA defeated Sweden, 7-1, at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, and earned a 4-0 win at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

TEAM USA OLYMPIC STATS VS. SWEDEN
Natalie Darwitz (1-0-1) Katie King (2-0-2)
Jenny Potter (0-1-1) Krissy Wendell (0-2-2)

2005-06 U.S. OLYMPIC WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY TEAM NOTES:

Multiple Goal Games:
Sarah Parsons (2) -- 2/12 vs. GER Sarah Parsons (2) -- 2/14 vs. FIN
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 2/12 vs. FIN Krissy Wendell (2) -- 2/11 vs. SUI

Multiple Assist Games:
Katie King (2) -- 2/12 vs. GER Jenny Potter (3) -- 2/11 vs. SUI
Angela Ruggiero (0-2-2) -- 2/11 vs. SUI

Multiple Point Games:
Natalie Darwitz (1-1-2) -- 2/14 vs. FIN
Sarah Parsons (2-1-3) -- 2/12 vs. GER
Jenny Potter (1-3-4) -- 2/11 vs. SUI
Angela Ruggiero (0-2-2) -- 2/11 vs. SUI
Krissy Wendell (2-0-2) -- 2/11 vs. SUI

2006 U.S. OLYMPIC WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY TEAM BREAKDOWN:

Record when--
Team USA scored first: 2-0-0
Opponent scored first: 1-0-0
Team USA led after first: 2-0-0
Opponent led after first: 1-0-0
Tied after first: 0-0-0
Team USA led after second: 2-0-0
Opponent led after second: 1-0-0
Tied after second: 0-0-0
Team USA scored two goals or less: 0-0-0
Team USA scored three goals: 0-0-0
Team USA scored four goals or more: 3-0-0
Opponent scored two goals or less: 2-0-0
Opponent scored three goals: 1-0-0
Opponent scored four goals or more: 0-0-0
One-goal games: 0-0-0
Two-goal games: 0-0-0
Games decided by three or more: 3-0-0
Outshot opponent: 3-0-0
Opponent outshot Team USA: 0-0-0
Shots tied: 0-0-0
Team USA had less than 20 shots: 0-0-0
Team USA had 20-29 shots: 0-0-0
Team USA had 30-39 shots: 1-0-0
Team USA had 40 shots or more: 2-0-0
Opponent had less than 20 shots: 3-0-0
Opponent had 20-29 shots: 0-0-0
Opponent had 30-39 shots: 0-0-0
Opponent had 40 shots or more: 0-0-0
Team USA did not score a PPG: 0-0-0
Opponent scored a PPG: 1-0-0
Opponent did not score a PPG: 2-0-0

2006 U.S. OLYMPIC WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY TEAM BREAKDOWN:
ALL-TIME OLYMPIC RECORDS:

FASTEST GOAL SCORED - GAME
USA - C. Granato, 1:19 (Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
Overall -- M. Pehkonen [FIN], 0:13 (Feb. 14, 2006 vs. USA)

FASTEST GOAL SCORED - PERIOD
USA -- S. Parsons, 1:11 (2nd Period, Feb. 12, 2006 vs. Germany)
Overall -- M. Pehkonen [FIN], 0:13 (1st Period, Feb. 14, 2006 vs. USA)

FASTEST TWO GOALS SCORED BY A TEAM
USA -- 0:22 (Feb. 12, 1998 vs. Japan)
Overall -- 0:06 [CAN] (Feb. 19, 2002 vs. Finland)

FASTEST TWO GOALS SCORED BY A PLAYER
USA -- 2:43 (Katie King, Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
Overall -- 0:16 (Caroline Oullette [CAN], Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Italy)

MOST GOALS SCORED IN A GAME - TEAM
USA -- 12 (Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
Overall -- 16 [CAN] (Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Italy)

MOST GOALS SCORED IN A PERIOD - TEAM
USA -- 6 (Feb. 14, 1998 vs. Canada)
Overall -- 7 [CAN] (3rd Period, Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Italy)
7 [CAN] (1st Period, Feb. 12, 2006 vs. Russia)

MOST GOALS SCORED BY A PLAYER IN A GAME
USA -- 3 (Katie King, Feb. 12, 1998 vs. China)
3 (C. Granato, Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
3 (N. Darwitz, Feb. 16, 2002 vs. Finland)
Overall -- 3 (Done 12 times)

MOST POINTS BY A PLAYER IN A GAME
USA -- 4 (K. Bye, Feb. 12, 2002 vs. Germany)
4 (Katie King, Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
4 (J. Potter, Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Switzerland)
Overall -- 6 (C. Piper [CAN], Feb. 11, 2006 vs. Italy)

MOST SHOTS ON GOAL IN A GAME:
USA -- 60 (Feb. 12, 2006 vs. Germany)
Overall -- 70 (Canada, Feb. 16, 2002 vs. Sweden)

MOST SHOTS ON GOAL IN A PERIOD:
24 [2] (Feb. 12, 2002 vs. Germany)
24 [1, 3] (Feb. 14, 2002 vs. China)
Overall -- 33 [3] (Canada, Feb. 16, 2002 vs. Sweden)

2005-06 U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM NOTES:

Multiple Goal Games:
Julie Chu (1-1-2) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Natalie Darwitz (0-2-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Natalie Darwitz (2-0-2) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Natalie Darwitz (1-1-2) -- 12/11 vs. HEA
Natalie Darwitz (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Natalie Darwitz (0-2-2) -- 1/1 vs. CAN
Tricia Dunn-Luoma (2-0-2) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Jamie Hagerman (1-1-2) -- 12/11 vs. HEA
Kathleen Kauth (1-1-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Katie King (1-2-3) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Katie King (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Katie King (1-1-2) -- 12/18 vs. FIN
Sarah Parsons (1-1-2) -- 8/31 vs. FIN
Sarah Parsons (0-3-3) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Sarah Parsons (1-1-2) -- 12/18 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 8/31 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 9/3 vs. SWE
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 12/15 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (1-1-2) -- 1/1 vs. CAN

Multiple Assist Games:
Angela Ruggiero (2-0-2) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Jennifer Potter (2-0-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Lyndsay Wall (2-0-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Lyndsay Wall (2-0-2) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Lyndsay Wall (2-0-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA

Multiple Goal Games:
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Tricia Dunn-Luoma (2) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Jenny Potter (2) -- 8/31 vs. FIN
Katie King (2) -- 9/3 vs. SWE
Sarah Parsons (3) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Angela Ruggiero (2) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Angela Ruggiero (3) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Lyndsay Wall (2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA

Multiple Point Games:
Julie Chu (1-1-2) -- 12/14 vs. FIN
Natalie Darwitz (0-2-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Natalie Darwitz (2-0-2) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Natalie Darwitz (1-1-2) -- 12/11 vs. HEA
Natalie Darwitz (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Natalie Darwitz (0-2-2) -- 1/1 vs. CAN
Tricia Dunn-Luoma (2-0-2) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Jamie Hagerman (1-1-2) -- 12/11 vs. HEA
Kathleen Kauth (1-1-2) -- 9/30 vs. WCHA
Katie King (1-2-3) -- 11/1 vs. ECAC
Katie King (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Katie King (1-1-2) -- 12/18 vs. FIN
Sarah Parsons (1-1-2) -- 8/31 vs. FIN
Sarah Parsons (0-3-3) -- 10/1 vs. WCHA
Sarah Parsons (1-1-2) -- 12/18 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 8/31 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 9/3 vs. SWE
Jenny Potter (2-0-2) -- 12/15 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (1-1-2) -- 12/17 vs. FIN
Jenny Potter (1-1-2) -- 1/1 vs. CAN

2005-06 U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM BREAKDOWN:

Record when--
Team USA scored first: 10-1-0
Opponent scored first: 4-7-0
Team USA led after first: 8-0-0
Opponent led after first: 2-5-0
Tied after first: 4-3-0
Team USA led after second: 11-0-0
Opponent led after second: 0-5-0
Tied after second: 3-3-0
Team USA scored two goals or less: 3-8-0
Team USA scored three goals: 3-0-0
Team USA scored four goals or more: 8-0-0
Opponent scored two goals or less: 12-1-0
Opponent scored three goals: 2-2-0
Opponent scored four goals or more: 0-5-0
One-goal games: 2-2-0
Two-goal games: 5-2-0
Games decided by three or more: 7-4-0
Outshot opponent: 12-2-0
Opponent outshot Team USA: 1-6-0
Shots tied: 1-0-0
Team USA had less than 20 shots: 0-3-0
Team USA had 20-29 shots: 6-3-0
Team USA had 30-39 shots: 5-1-0
Team USA had 40 shots or more: 3-1-0
Opponent had less than 20 shots: 11-0-0
Opponent had 20-29 shots: 3-1-0
Opponent had 30-39 shots: 0-7-0
Opponent had 40 shots or more: 0-0-0
Team USA scored a PPG: 10-1-0
Team USA did not score a PPG: 4-7-0
Opponent scored a PPG: 5-6-0
Opponent did not score a PPG: 9-2-0

TEAM USA'S HILTON FAMILY SKATE TO 2006 TOUR:

Date | Opponent | Location | Score
--- | --- | --- | ---
Sept. 30 | WCHA All-Stars | St. Paul, Minn. | W, 5-1
Oct. 1 | WCHA All-Stars | Duluth, Minn. | W, 5-2
Nov. 1 | ECAC All-Stars | New Haven, Conn. | W, 6-2
Nov. 27 | Canada | Columbus, Ohio | W, 2-1SO
Dec. 1 | Canada | Chicago, Ill. | L, 3-1
Dec. 11 | Hockey East All-Stars | Durham, N.H. | W, 5-2
Dec. 14 | Finland | Reading, Pa. | W, 3-1
Dec. 15 | Finland | Rochester, N.Y. | W, 3-1
Dec. 17 | Finland | Hartford, Conn. | W, 5-3
Dec. 18 | Finland | Trenton, N.J. | W, 3-1
Dec. 30 | Canada | St. Paul, Minn. | L, 4-2
HEAD COACH BEN SMITH: Ben Smith is making his third appearance as head coach of the U.S. Women’s Olympic Team and his fourth Olympic appearance overall. Smith was appointed by USA Hockey as the first full time head coach of the U.S. Women’s National and Olympic Teams in June of 1996.

A native of Gloucester, Mass., Smith guided the United States to a gold and silver medal at the 1998 and 2002 Olympic Winter Games. In April 2005, he led the U.S. Women’s National Team to its first-ever gold medal at the International Ice Hockey Federation Women’s World Championship. Smith’s teams have also won five silver medals at the IIHF Women’s World Championship and a gold and six silver medals at the Women’s Three/Four Nations Cup.

On February 17, 1998, Smith helped put U.S. women’s hockey on the map. He guided Team USA to a 3-1 victory over Canada at the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, as the United States claimed the first-ever Olympic gold medal awarded in women’s ice hockey. The team’s 6-0-0 run at the Olympics came after a 32-game pre-Olympic tour that saw the U.S. team finish with a 24-7-1 record.

In 2002, Smith again guided Team USA to a podium finish as the team earned the silver medal at the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. The performance followed a perfect 31-0-0 run by the 2001-02 U.S. Women’s National Team during the Visa Skate To Salt Lake Tour, which included an 8-0-0 mark against Canada.

On the men’s side, Smith served as an assistant coach for three-straight U.S. National Junior Teams (1985-1987), and helped guide the 1986 team to the United States’ first-ever medal – a bronze – at the IIHF World Junior Championship. In addition, he has twice served on the coaching staff for the U.S. Men’s National Team (1987 and 1990) and served as an assistant coach for the 1988 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team. Smith’s most recent men’s assignment was as head coach of the 1998 U.S. Select Team.

A 1968 graduate of Harvard University, Smith spent nine seasons (1981-90) as the top assistant for the Boston University men’s ice hockey program. In 1991, he accepted the reins of the Northeastern University men’s ice hockey program and guided the team to an appearance in the 1994 NCAA Tournament. Smith also spent five years as an assistant men’s ice hockey coach at Yale University (1976-81).

THEY SAID IT...

Eddie DeWolfe, a goaltender who plays “T-Pub’s” pick-up hockey with Katie King in Boston: "She has a gold and a silver medal. I can live with her scoring on me."

Tricia Dunn-Luoma on her surprise at the effect of the USA’s 1998 gold medal as quoted in the Boston Globe: "My mom said, 'You have no idea what's going on back here. I said, 'What do you mean?' When you're in the middle of it, you have no idea."

Jenny Potter on seeing her daughter in the stands as quoted by USA Today: "I took my helmet off and waved to her, and I made her cry because she wanted to see me."

Karen Ruggiero (Mother of Angela) on her cheerleading plans a quoted in the Detroit Free Press: "Angela's sister, Pam, is bringing her gold eyelashes and a gold wig. I'm bringing a suitcase filled with my cheerleading supplies - hand-held flags to give to all the other parents, face paint, posters and banners. Everything in my wardrobe will be red and blue."

Art Berglund, USA Hockey International Consultant, on Sarah Parson’s goal (2/12) as quoted in USA Today: "Her first goal was the best goal I've seen in women's competition. That puck had some sizzle on it."

Coach Ben Smith on finding talent in non-traditional hockey markets as quoted in The Mercury News: "We're getting a good representation of outstanding players from Florida, California, Texas, New Mexico. That's a tribute to what that '98 team delivered and what the spread of the NHL has meant, too."

On Title IX as quoted in The Mercury News: "This continent has had the upper hand because of Canadian tradition and what the laws of the land are in the USA to the point where Title IX is so influential that it helps other countries. Good players from there are coming to school to play here."

Krissy Wendell on her pre-game mindset as quoted in The Denver Post: "I try not to think about the game. The more I think about it, the worse I do. If I'm not thinking about it, it's like being a child again, just going out and having fun. That's when I feel like I perform the best."
STORYLINES

Traveling Chu's: Julie Chu's parents, Wah and Miriam, have busily been seeing the world one hockey tournament at a time. A fixture in the USA cheering section, the Chu's have visited Sweden, Finland, Canada and Salt Lake City to watch Julie and the U.S. team compete in various tournaments. The Fairfield resident Chu's are at tonight's game, and will attend 10 of the 11 Hilton Family Skate to 2006 Tour games. If that wasn't enough to show their support, the three (Julie, Wah & Miriam) have matching tattoos of the Olympic rings and Julie’s number 13.

Smart Jocks: Of Team USA's 20 rostered players, 10 have or are in the process of earning their degrees from Ivy League Institutions. Angela Ruggiero and Jamie Hagerman are Harvard products while Caitlin Cahow and Julie Chu are still students in Cambridge. Kathleen Kauth, Katie King, Pam Dreyer and Kim Insalaco make up a quartet of Brown University grads Local product, Kristin King is a Dartmouth alumnus. Rounding out the group of Ivy Leaguers, Helen Resor is a student at Yale. A 12th student, Sarah Parsons, will join the illustrious 10 when she enters Dartmouth College next fall.

Team Mom: Jenny Potter, a two-time Olympic medalist, is the only mother on the team. Potter and her husband Rob are parents to four-year-old Madison, who was born in January, 2001. Less than three months after Madison was born, After intense training, which often meant totting young Madison to the gym with her, Jenny returned to international competition with the U.S. Women’s Team. Her new daughter watched the game with Rob. Madison is here in Torino and will see her mom play the opening game on Saturday.

No Joke: Courtney Kennedy is known by her teammates for her quick wit and ability to tell a joke. But another Kennedy is known by the laughter-loving crowds of Chicago. Courtney’s older brother, Mike, is currently part of the cast at Chicago’s famous Second City, well-known as the training ground for SNL.

Glamour Girls: Five members of the U.S. Women’s National Team played model for the day, shooting for the February issue of Glamour Magazine. Krissy Wendell (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Natalie Darwitz (Eagan, Minn.), Tricia Dunn-Luoma (Derry, N.H.), Kelly Stephens (Seattle, Wash.), and Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.) braved the 105 degree-heat in Death Valley, Calif., to be photographed for the magazine’s “Strong Women are Beautiful” feature.

People Who Know People: Seven U.S. hockey players were featured in last week’s (Feb. 12) issue of People Magazine. The publication, which reaches 3.5 million readers, shot Jenny Potter (Edina, Minn.), Krissy Wendell (Brooklyn Park, Minn.), Katie King (Salem, N.H.), Chanda Gunn (Huntington Beach, Calif.), Angela Ruggiero (Harper Woods, Mich.), Kelly Stephens (Seattle, Wash.) and Julie Chu (Fairfield, Conn.) on the frozen Mirror Lake in Lake Placid, N.Y.