



NIHA-CANADA Press Release

NIHA-Canada Men's National Team Program announces return of Team Manager for 2010 IIHF World Championships

September 3, 2009

Dauphin, Manitoba – National Inline Hockey Association - Canada (NIHA – Canada) is pleased to announce there will be at least one familiar face on the 2010 Men's National Team Staff heading into Sweden for the IIHF Men's world Inline Championships.

Jan Antons will be returning as Team Manager for the second season as Canada fights to get closer to the podium. Jan is no stranger to the NIHA-Canada Men's National Team program as this will actually be his third season on the Team Staff, initially getting involved as the Team Trainer/Equipment Manager in the programs first year back at the IIHF World Championships.

"We're very excited that Jan was interested in coming back to the program to continue moving forward on the great accomplishments the team made last year under his guidance," Kevin Sharp, President NIHA-Canada stated. "Jan built a solid foundation for the players, other members of the team staff and also for this organization. I know he will continue to grow all aspects of this program in 2010."

"I'm very proud to be a part of the NIHA-Canada Men's National Team program for a 3rd year now and am excited about the strides we made at last year's event. We now know exactly what to expect from the teams in the Top Division and will be able to prepare even better than we were able to in 2009," Antons stated. "The 2010 event will be Canada's time to show the world what we've learned in the past two years from attending the Championships and I can guarantee many eyes are watching how we will respond."

This season, Team Canada will be in the Top Division again, after a solid 7th place finish in 2009 guaranteed a spot against the world's Top 8 teams.

"I believe we showed that Canada is one of the strongest inline countries in the world by guaranteeing our spot in the Top Division in only our second year of attending the IIHF Men's World Inline Championships. Our team and our program are only going to get stronger as we continue down the path we have started," says Nathan Fleck, Executive Director, NIHA-Canada. "A huge part of creating that solid path and continuing down it has been the addition and retention of Jan in the Team Manager position. His attention to detail and support of the organization as a whole, has allowed our coaching staff to get some of the best Canadian players into the program as well as get the most out of those players on and off the floor."

Team Canada will attend the 2010 IIHF Men's World Inline Championships in Karlstad, Sweden from June 28 - July 4, 2010 and the Top Division pools are:

Group A: Sweden, Finland, Austria, Slovenia

Group B: USA, Germany, Czech Republic, Canada

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Tryouts for the 2010 Men's National Team will be held across Canada in the beginning of May 2010, specifics to be announced shortly.

For more details on the NIHA-Canada Men's National Team Program, check out www.niha.ca

For more information, please contact:

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