



CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE



MEDIA GUIDE

SEASON 2016-17

	Country	League	CHL Display Name	Short Name	Abbreviation	Page
FOUNDING LEAGUES	 AUT	EBEL	Black Wings Linz	Linz	BWL	05
	 CZE	EBEL	Orli Znojmo	Znojmo	ZNO	07
	 AUT	EBEL	Red Bull Salzburg	Salzburg	RBS	09
	 AUT	EBEL	Vienna Capitals	Vienna	VIC	11
	 CZE	Extraliga	BK Mlada Boleslav	Mlada Boleslav	MBL	13
	 CZE	Extraliga	Bili Tygri Liberec	Liberec	LIB	15
	 CZE	Extraliga	Dynamo Pardubice	Pardubice	PCE	18
	 CZE	Extraliga	HC Pilsen	Pilsen	PLZ	20
	 CZE	Extraliga	Sparta Prague	Sparta	SPA	22
	 CZE	Extraliga	Vitkovice Ostrava	Vitkovice	VIT	24
	 FIN	Liiga	IFK Helsinki	IFK Helsinki	IFK	26
	 FIN	Liiga	JYP Jyväskylä	JYP	JYP	28
	 FIN	Liiga	KalPa Kuopio	KalPa	KAL	30
	 FIN	Liiga	Kärpät Oulu	Kärpät	KÄR	32
	 FIN	Liiga	Lukko Rauma	Lukko	LUK	34
	 FIN	Liiga	SaiPa Lappeenranta	SaiPa	SAI	36
	 FIN	Liiga	Tappara Tampere	Tappara	TAP	38
	 FIN	Liiga	TPS Turku	TPS	TPS	40
	 GER	DEL	Adler Mannheim	Mannheim	MAN	42
	 GER	DEL	Eisbären Berlin	Eisbären	BER	45
	 GER	DEL	ERC Ingolstadt	Ingolstadt	ING	47
	 GER	DEL	Grizzlys Wolfsburg	Wolfsburg	WOB	49
	 GER	DEL	Krefeld Pinguine	Krefeld	KRE	51
	 GER	DEL	Red Bull Munich	Munich	RBM	53
	 SWE	SHL	Djurgården Stockholm	Djurgården	DIF	55
	 SWE	SHL	Färjestad Karlstad	Färjestad	FBK	57
	 SWE	SHL	Frölunda Gothenburg	Frölunda	FHC	59
	 SWE	SHL	HV71 Jönköping	HV71	HVJ	61
	 SWE	SHL	Linköping HC	Linköping	LHC	63
	 SWE	SHL	Luleå Hockey	Luleå	LHF	65
	 SWE	SHL	Skellefteå AIK	Skellefteå	SKE	67
	 SWE	SHL	Växjö Lakers	Växjö	VLH	69
 SUI	NLA	EV Zug	Zug	EVZ	71	
 SUI	NLA	Fribourg-Gottéron	Fribourg	FRI	74	
 SUI	NLA	HC Davos	Davos	HCD	76	
 SUI	NLA	HC Lugano	Lugano	HCL	78	
 SUI	NLA	SC Bern	Bern	SCB	80	
 SUI	NLA	ZSC Lions Zurich	Zurich	ZSC	82	
CHALLENGE LEAGUES	 BLR	BLR Extraleague	Yunost Minsk	Minsk	MSK	84
	 DEN	Metal Ligaen	Esbjerg Energy	Esbjerg	ESB	86
	 FRA	Ligue Magnus	Gap Rapaces	Gap	GAP	88
	 FRA	Ligue Magnus	Rouen Dragons	Rouen	ROU	90
	 GBR	EIHL	Sheffield Steelers	Sheffield	SHE	92
	 NOR	GET Ligaen	Lørenskog IK	Lørenskog	LOK	94
	 NOR	GET Ligaen	Stavanger Oilers	Stavanger	OIL	96
	 POL	Ekstraliga	Comarch Cracovia	Cracovia	CRA	98
	 SVK	SVK Extraliga	HC Kosice	Kosice	KOS	100
	 SVK	SVK Extraliga	HK Nitra	Nitra	NIT	102



CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE (CHL)

CHAMPIONS

2014-15: Luleå Hockey (SWE)

2015-16: Frölunda Gothenburg (SWE)

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.championshockeyleague.net
-  facebook.com/championshockeyleague
-  [@championshockey](https://twitter.com/championshockey)
-  [@championshockey](https://instagram.com/championshockey)
-  youtube.com/championshockeyleague

CHL BOARD

Chairman

Anders Ternbom (SWE), CEO of HUB, the association of the Swedish Founding Clubs of the CHL

Representing the Clubs

Rupert Zamorsky (AUT), Head of Marketing for EC Red Bull Salzburg

Peter Zahner (SUI), CEO of ZSC Lions Zurich

Petr Briza (CZE), Chairman of Sparta Prague, former Czechoslovak national team goalie

Gernot Tripcke (GER), GM of the Deutsche Eishockey Liga (DEL)

Timo Everi (FIN), Chairman of IFK Helsinki

Representing the Leagues

Christian Feichtinger (AUT), CEO of the Erste Bank Eishockey Liga (EBEL)

Jörgen Lindgren (SWE), General Manager of the Swedish Hockey League (SHL)

Representing the IIHF

Rene Fasel (SUI), President of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF)

CHL OFFICE

Brandschenkestrasse 50

8002 Zürich

Switzerland

Phone +41 44 562 27 77

CEO: Martin Baumann

Sport Director: Bo Lennartsson

Sport Manager: Alexander Jäger

Marketing Director: Patrick Jost

Sport & Marketing Coordinator: Florian Mayer

Communication Manager: Monika Reinhard

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Monika Reinhard

E-Mail: reinhard@championshockeyleague.net

Direct line: +41 44 562 27 71

CHL COMPANY INFO

The Champions Hockey League AG (CHL) is a company established in 2013 in Switzerland that holds all rights of the Champions Hockey League and organises the competition. CHL is an AG (Aktiengesellschaft = Ltd.) registered in Zurich under Swiss Law. As such the CHL is owned by shareholders and governed by a board which is elected by the CHL General Meeting, the league's legislative body.

The shareholding structure of the company is as follows:

26 Founding Clubs: 63%
 6 Founding Leagues: 25%
 IIHF: 12%

CHL FOUNDING MEMBERS

The Champions Hockey League was founded by 26 Founding Clubs, 6 Founding Leagues and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).

These are the 26 Founding Clubs representing the 6 Founding Leagues:

- Austria (EBEL): Red Bull Salzburg, Vienna Capitals.
- Czech Republic (Extraliga): Bili Tygri Liberec, HC Pardubice, Sparta Prague, Vitkovice Ostrava.
- Finland (Liiga): IFK Helsinki, JYP Jyväskylä, KalPa Kuopio, Kärpät Oulu, Tappara Tampere, TPS Turku.
- Germany (DEL): Adler Mannheim, Eisbären Berlin, ERC Ingolstadt, Krefeld Pinguine.
- Sweden (SHL): Djurgården Stockholm, Frölunda Gothenburg, Färjestad Karlstad, HV71 Jönköping, Linköping HC, Luleå Hockey.
- Switzerland (NLA): SC Bern, Fribourg-Gotteron, ZSC Lions Zurich, EV Zug.

The Founding Clubs have a permanent spot in the Champions Hockey League for the first three years of the competition, ending with the 2016-17 season. Starting with the 2017-18 season, also the Founding Clubs must earn their spot on ice.

CHL PLAYING FORMAT 2016-17

- 48 teams
- 38 teams from Founding Leagues, 10 from Challenge Leagues
- Max. 8 teams per country
- Group Stage: 16 groups of 3, 4 games per team (2 home, 2 away), 2 teams per group advance to the playoffs
- The Playoffs start with the Round of 32
- The first four playoff rounds (R32 to Semi-Finals) are all two game, home and away, total goal series
- Single game final at the home venue of the finalist with the best accumulated record (Group Stage + Playoffs)
- Total of 157 games

FUTURE PLAYING FORMAT, STARTING FROM 2017-18

- 32 teams, qualification on sporting merits only
- 24 teams from Founding Leagues, 8 from Challenge Leagues
- Max. 5 teams per country
- Group Stage: 8 groups of 4, 6 games per team (3 home, 3 away), 2 teams per group advance to the playoffs
- The Playoffs start with the Round of 16
- The first 3 playoff rounds (R16 to Semi-Finals) are all two game, home and away, total goal series
- Single game final at the home venue of the finalist with the best accumulated record (Group Stage + Playoffs)
- Total of 125 games



BLACK WINGS LINZ



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1992

Glory times:

National titles: 2 – 2012, 2003

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2015-16: 3rd in Group G

ARENA INFO

Name: Keine Sorgen EisArena

Address: Untere Donaulände 11, 4020 Linz, Austria

Capacity: 4,863

Year opened: 1986, renovated 2014

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.ehcliwestlinz.at

 facebook.com/liwestblackwings

 twitter.com/blackwingslinz

 instagram.com/bwlinz

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Ing. Peter Freunschlag

General Manager: Christian Perthaler

Head Coach: Rob Daum

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Klaus Führer

E-Mail: presse@ehcliwestlinz.at

Phone number: +43 650 304 06 61

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Application for accreditation until 24 hours before the game via mail to presse@ehcliwestlinz.at. We are only accrediting journalists who work for media (tv, radio, newspapers, magazines).

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Brian Lebler: After one year in the German league, the Austrian international heads back to Linz. He was born in Klagenfurt because his father was a professional hockey player at KAC in the '80s. Lebler came back to Austria in 2011, won the EBEL championship in his first year and gained increasing impact in the following years. In 2014-15 he demolished the Black Wings record for goals in one season (which was improved last year by Andrew Kozek) and voted MVP of the EBEL. Now he is coming back to Linz, where he is a fan favourite.

Brett McLean: The 38-year-old Canadian is a very important player on Rob Daum's squad as the first-line centre. He has played more than 300 games in the NHL, AHL and almost 300 in the NLA. A leader who is not known for his goal-scoring but for his work ethic. He is hard working and defensively oriented but also has some great playmaking skills.

Sebastien Piche: He entered Europe three years ago as a "no-name" player on the continent, but gained the EBEL title with HC Bolzano in his first year. The Canadian was voted best defenceman of the year and continued to impress after moving to Linz. His offensive-minded style may cause coach Rob Daum some sleepless nights, but his output is impressive. Off the ice the 27-year-old defender is everything but a guy of the modern age. He has no cellphone, no computer, no internet connection. He is also well-known in the EBEL for his wild hairstyle and interesting beards during the playoffs.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Jonathan D'Aversa (D, Dornbirn), Joel Broda (F, Bolzano), Brian Lebler (F, Ingolstadt), Curtis Loik (F, Penn State Univ.), Rick Schofield (F, Villach).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Rob Shearer, Rick Nasheim, Mark Szücs, Bernd Damm, Christian Perthaler, Pavel Nestak, Alex Westlund, Andrew Kozek.

OTHER

- Mascot is called "**Gonzo**", a raven
- In 2003-04 a player (Thomas Eichberger) suited in a jersey with the **number 95.2**, the frequency of a local radio station.

- Summer 2009 marked a pre-season highlight, when the Black Wings were invited to attend a tournament in Canada. The London Knights hosted the so called Euro-Can-Cup, other teams in the tournament where EV Zug and EHC Munich.
- In 2010 the Black Wings won a playoff series after trailing 3-0 in games. Before Game 4, Swede Markus Matthiasson thought that there should be more fun in the dressing room, so he stepped into the middle of the room holding a can of fish (Surströmming) and said that man who could eat that fish could turn around a series, too.
- The Black Wings were the first sports team ever in Upper Austria to have a cable-car circulating through town totally branded in the colours of the team.
- In November 2016 a "Black Wings Musical" will be played in the home arena of the team.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Rob Daum comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League and the opponents:

"Last season was the first opportunity for the Black Wings to play in the Champions Hockey League. It was a very rewarding experience. I think it was terrific for the players; it was a wonderful coaching experience and it was excellent for our management and ownership to see firsthand how other organizations run their teams. It was exciting for our fans to see top-quality teams from other leagues. I anticipate that it will be the same this season and we as a team, and our organization, look forward to the challenge it presents."

"Both HC Košice and SC Bern are similar teams. They both have a rich history of excellence and both will be formidable opponents."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

- Ice hockey = Eishockey
- Faceoff = Faceoff, Bully
- Offside = Abseits
- Puck = Puck, Scheibe
- Hockey stick = Hockeyschläger
- Goal = Tor
- Penalty = Strafe
- Referee = Schiedsrichter



ORLI ZNOJMO

 CZECH REPUBLIC (REPRESENTING THE AUSTRIAN EBEL-LEAGUE)

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1933

Glory times:

National (Czech) bronze medallists: 1 – 2006

EBEL runners-up: 1 – 2016

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: Nevoga Arena

Address: Dvořákova 21, 66902 Znojmo, Czech Republic

Capacity: 4,800

Year opened: 1970

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.hcorli.cz



facebook.com/hcorli



twitter.com/orliznojmo



instagram.com/hcorli



youtube.com/user/HcOrliZnojmo

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Ing. Pavel Ohera

CEO: Mgr. Petr Veselý

Team Manager: Kateřina Oherová

Sport Director: Rostislav Dočekal

Head Coach: Jiří Režnar

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Ing. Lukáš Peroutka

E-Mail: peroutka@hcorli.cz

Phone number: +420 777 58 37 86

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

It is mandatory to apply for the accreditation in advance, at least 24 hours before the game at peroutka@hcorli.cz.

When confirmed by the club, the accreditations are available at the VIP entrance (just behind the corner from the main entrance). These accreditations shall then be returned at the same place after the game. To enter the stadium, media shall use the main entrance through turnstiles.

Press box is available for media representatives at all games, offering good view of the entire ice rink, electric plug-ins and wireless internet connection.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Peter Pucher: Turning 42 before the CHL begins, the big Slovak centre continues to prove that age is only a number. A silver-medallist from the 2000 World Championship, Pucher is a true playmaker with an eye for the perfect pass. Entering his 14th season in Znojmo, this fan favourite is always dangerous in the offensive zone.

André Lakos: 201 cm tall, Lakos is a player not to be missed on the ice. A strong defenceman with a powerful shot who can also contribute offensively, one of the most successful Austrian hockey players has re-started his career in Znojmo and helped the team to the league finals.

Adam Hughesman: This skilled Canadian forward excelled during his junior career in the WHL and has taken his scoring ability to Europe, as well. In his very first season on the old continent, Hughesman was the scoring champion of the Italian Serie A. This season, he is expected to contribute in the EBEL in a Znojmo jersey.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Adam Hughesman, Petr Kalus, Patryk Wronka, Sean McMonagle.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Patrik Eliáš, Marek Uram, Radek Haman.

OTHER

Orli Znojmo were the first Czech team to enter an international league when they joined the EBEL in 2011. After the demise of Lev Prague (KHL) they also remain the only one to date. The name of the club means "Eagles" in English, so the club mascot is an eagle.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Jiří Režnar comments about the other teams in the group:

Red Bull Munich: "We have seen their games in the past season and they have been impressive. I think you can make a pretty good picture of the strength of their squad just by looking at their roster. There are players who play for the national team and even they have to fight for a place on the team. It is obviously going to be a very tough opponent."

Fribourg-Gottéron: "Another skilled team of incredible quality. The presence of Roman Cervenka in their team makes it more interesting for fans and also for us. He was the top scorer of last year's Czech Extraliga so it just shows the caliber of players we will be up against. But it is going to be one game and we will do our best to cause an upset."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Lední hokej

Faceoff = Buly

Offside = Ofsajd

Puck = Puk

Hockey stick = Hokejka

Goal = Gól

Penalty = Vyloučení

Referee = Rozhodčí



RED BULL SALZBURG



CLUB INFO

Founded: 2000

Glory times:

National titles: 7 – 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016

League titles: 6 – 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016

Continental Cup titles: 1 – 2010

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2010

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 1st in Group I, Round of 16

2015-16: 2nd in Group C, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Eisarena Salzburg

Address: Hermann-Bahr-Promenade 2, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

Capacity: 3,200

Year opened: 1960

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.redbulls.com/icehockey

 facebook.com/ECRedBullSalzburg

 twitter.com/ecrbs

 instagram.com/ECRedBullSalzburg

CLUB STAFF

President: Rudolf Theierl

CEO: René Dimter

Managing Director Sport: Stefan Wagner

Team Manager: Christof Rudinger

Head Coach: Greg Poss

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Guido Stapelfeldt

E-Mail: Icehockeyrbs.presse@redbulls.com

Phone number: +43 664 32 67 817

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Contact Guido Stapelfeldt, Communication Manager, at the latest two days before the game by phone or e-mail (see above).

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Matthias Trattnig: This Austrian defenceman is the Red Bulls' longest serving player and at 37 years of age, he has considerable national and international experience. The extremely athletic defender has been playing in Salzburg since the 2005-06 season and has shared in all of the club's major successes, also taking on the role of captain in recent years. His personal achievements include taking part in several World Championships and two Olympic Games with the Austrian national team.

John Hughes: This Canadian forward joined the Red Bulls straight from the OHL in the 2008-09 season and wasted no time in showing his incredible talent. He then enjoyed brief stints in Finland and Germany before spending several years with two further EBEL clubs and winning several awards, such as Austrian Rookie of the Year in 2010-11 and Austrian MVP in 2011-12. The 28-year-old centre returned to Salzburg in 2014 and won the EBEL championship with the Red Bulls last season. An eye for his teammates sets him apart; 115 of his total 157 points in the last two years with the Red Bulls came from assists.

Ryan Duncan: This Canadian is one of the most successful forwards in the history of the Salzburg club. In a total of five seasons with the Red Bulls – in between he also spent one season with the Portland Pirates (AHL) and one with EHC Red Bull Munich (DEL) – the 30-year-old centre has lifted the EBEL trophy no fewer than four times. Despite being a regular top scorer for Salzburg, he has always been one of the most selfless players. It would be no exaggeration to describe him as one of the poster boys of the Red Bulls' team.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Bill Thomas (F, USA), Mark Flood (D, CAN), Bobby Raymond (D, CAN), Raphael Herburger (F, AUT), Bernhard Starkbaum (G, AUT).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Greger Artursson, Arturs Irbe.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Greg Poss comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our goal first and foremost is to advance to the next round. This will be no easy task having two very good teams like Sheffield and HV71 in our group."

Poss comments about the other teams in the group:

Sheffield Steelers: "I know the Steelers well, having coached several players on Sheffield and coached against several others. They have a very good team that will be opportunistic with their scoring chances."

HV71 Jönköping: They are one of the best teams in Sweden. They play fast and structured. It will be a good challenge for us to play such a good team early in the season."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = (Hockey-) Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



VIENNA CAPITALS



CLUB INFO

Founded: 2001

Glory times:

National titles: 1 – 2005

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 1st in Group B, Round of 16

2015-16: 2nd in Group J, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Albert Schultz Eishalle

Address: Attemsgasse 1; 1220 Wien, Austria

Capacity: 7,000

Year opened: 1995; re-opened following renovation: 2011

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.vienna-capitals.at



facebook.com/viennacapitals



twitter.com/viennacapitals



instagram.com/viennacapitals2001



youtube.com/user/ViennaCapitals2001

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Dkfm. Hans Schmid

General Manager: Franz Kalla

Head Coach: Serge Aubin

MEDIA CONTACT

Please contact office@vienna-capitals.at.

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please write an e-mail to presse@vienna-capitals.at

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jonathan Ferland: He is the captain of the Vienna Capitals.

Rafael Rotter: He is the player with probably the most fans in Vienna.

Andreas Nödl: He is a guy from Vienna with NHL experience.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Collin Bowman, Taylor Vause, JP Lamoureux.

OTHER

Mascot: Capitano

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Serge Aubin comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"It's always a great challenge to play in the CHL because the level is very high. Our goal is to win as many points as we can so we give ourselves the best possible chance to reach the next round."

Aubin comments about the other teams in the group:

Skellefteå AIK: "Champions twice over the past four seasons and reaching the finals in the SHL the last six years, it will be a big challenge and also a great opportunity for us."

KalPa Kuopio: "A very good hockey team that plays a very solid game. One of the best teams defensively in Finland last year."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Spielbeginn

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



BK MLADÁ BOLESLAV

 CZECH REPUBLIC

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1908

Glory times:

National 2nd division titles: 2 – 2008, 2014

National semi-finalists: 1 - 2016

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: ŠKOENERGO Aréna

Address: Viničná 31, 293 01 Mladá Boleslav, Czech Republic

Capacity: 4,200

Year opened: 1956

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.bkboleslav.cz



facebook.com/bkboleslav



twitter.com/bkboleslav



instagram.com/bkmladaboleslav



youtube.com/user/bkmladaboleslav1908

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jan Plachý

General Manager: Jan Tůma

Sport Director: David Výborný

Head Coach: František Výborný

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jitka Čechová

E-Mail: jitka.cechova@bkboleslav.cz

Phone number: +420 724 620 048

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please be welcome to send an e-mail with the name of journalist(s) and media to jitka.cechova@bkboleslav.cz.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jakub Klepiš: Klepiš was drafted in the first round, 16th overall, by the Ottawa Senators in the 2002 NHL Entry Draft. He ultimately played in 66 NHL games, all with the Washington Capitals, before returning to Europe to continue his professional career in the Kontinental Hockey League. He won the Gagarin Cup in 2012 with Dynamo Moscow, scoring the series-winning goal in the seventh game. In 2014, he left Lev Prague after two seasons to join Swedish club Färjestad of the SHL. After that he played for Oceláři Třinec and BK Mladá Boleslav. Klepiš played his first game for the national team in 2004, and has played in four World Championships for the Czech national team culminating in a gold medal win in 2010.

Petr Vampola: Vampola played in the Swedish Hockey League for Timrå IK and the Växjö Lakers, and in the Swiss League for Genève-Servette HC. In January 2013, after nearly three years away, he returned to HC Pilsen. After that he became a Czech champion with Liberec in 2016 before moving to Mladá Boleslav. In 2010 he played in the World Championship, where he played on a forward line with Klepiš and Jaromír Jágr, and was a gold-medalist.

Marek Trončinský: This Czech national team member (11 games) made his Extraliga debut in the 2005-06 season in Kladno, via the youth teams of Ústí nad Labem and Litvínov. After five seasons in Kladno he moved to Liberec, where he became one of the team's top defencemen. In the summer of 2012 he went to Khanty-Mansiysk of the KHL. After that, he went to Oceláři Třinec, followed by Mladá Boleslav.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Jan Lukáš, Jan Hanzlík, David Štich, Jakub Orsava, Petr Vampola, Lukáš Žejdl.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Klepiš, Vampola, David Výborný (currently the club's sports manager).

OTHER

Our mascot is a lion called Embik. Petr Vampola previously played for Växjö, who we will face in the CHL group stage.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach František Výborný comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"It is a new thing for us so we don't have any big goals now. We will be happy to advance from the first stage and then we will see. So our main goal is to please our fans and play good hockey."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = lední hokej

Faceoff = vzhazování

Offside = postavení mimo hru

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = penalta

Referee = rozhodčí



BÍLÍ TYGŘI LIBEREC

 CZECH REPUBLIC

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1956

Glory Times

National titles: 1 – 2016

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances

2014-15: 2nd in Group A

2015-16: 2nd in Group D, Round of 16

ARENA INFO

Name: Home Credit Arena

Address: Jeronýmova 494/20, 46007 Liberec, Czech Republic

Capacity: 7,500

Year opened: 2005

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.hcbilitygri.cz

 facebook.com/hcbilitygri

 twitter.com/bilitygrilbc

 instagram.com/bilitygrilbc

 youtube.com/user/redakcebilitygri

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Petr Syrovátko

CEO: Ctibor Jech

General Manager: Ctibor Jech

Sport Director: Filip Pešán

Head Coach: Filip Pešán

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Martin Kadlec

E-Mail: kadlec@hcbilitygri.cz

Phone number: +420 731 547 909

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please send an e-mail to: kadlec@hcbilitygri.cz

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Ján Lašák: A World Champion on the Bílí Tygři roster, Ján Lašák, owns his own complete collection of World Championships medals. He gained the most precious, a gold, with the Slovak National Team in 2002. (2000 – silver, 2003 – bronze). The 37-year-old ultra-experienced goaltender is also a bronze medal winner of the World Junior Championship, and he has gathered success in other clubs too. He won the Czech title with Bílí Tygři Liberec in 2016 and also with Pardubice team in 2005. He added a Slovak title with Košice. Lašák was voted the best goalkeeper in the Extraliga 2015-16. Historically the very first Slovak goaltender playing in NHL (for Nashville Predators), Jan has been Bílí Tygři's rock since January 2014.

Branko Radivojevič: A 36-year-old forward, Branko Radivojevič is another representative of a successful generation of Slovak ice-hockey players wearing the Bílí Tygři jersey. Despite being half Serbian on his father's side, he has always represented Slovakia and together with the Slovak National Team he won a Bronze World Championship medal (in 2003) and a Silver World Championship medal (in 2012). Because his career started overseas it is obvious that Branko Radivojevič has the highest number of starts in NHL among the Bílí Tygři players. He played 424 matches in the world's most famous league and continuously played for Phoenix Coyotes, Philadelphia Flyers and Minnesota Wild. He listed another 300 match appearances in the KHL. Radivojevič transferred to Liberec at the end of 2014.

Michal Birner: A Czech national team player who has played for Liberec since the beginning of the previous season. He is a strong forward who played a huge part in the first title season in the history of Bílí Tygři. He was one of the top scorers in the regular season and in the playoffs, too. To his title from Finnish SM-Liiga (2010) he added another from the Czech league. His great performance helped him to be part of the Czech national team again. In contrast with 2015, when the nomination for the World Championship slipped away from him, he notched his first starts at the World Championship in 2016. In the summer he refused offers from the KHL and the Swiss National League A to stay in Liberec.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Milan Bartovič.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Petr Nedvěd, Milan Hnilička, Ladislav Šmíd, Jaroslav Modrý, Jiří Fischer, Václav Nedorost, Radim Vrbata, Jan Ludvig.

OTHER

History: Bílí Tygři Liberec established themselves quickly in the Czech Extraliga following their promotion in 2002. After two years of getting used to the highest level of hockey, they became the team with the highest ambitions in the Czech Extraliga. They reached the playoffs for the first time in 2005. Thanks to the NHL lockout many players played for Bílí Tygři such as Milan Hnilička, Radim Vrbata, Jaroslav Modrý, Aleš Kotalík, Jiří Fišer and Václav Nedorost. Bílí Tygři were eliminated in the semifinals, but recorded their first award - a bronze medal.

A year later, in the 2005-2006 season, the team dominated the regular season, when they created a record of invincibility in front of the home crowd (26 games). But in the playoffs they finished in the quarterfinals. Bílí Tygři won the regular season again in 2007, but once more didn't go through to the semifinals. In this period, they could only dream about winning a trophy.

In the following years, when Bílí Tygři were led by the legendary player Petr Nedved, Liberec was regularly ranked among the top 6 teams, but participation in the Extraliga finals was still far away.

In October 2010, Bílí Tygři became the first Czech team, to host a NHL franchise. The Boston Bruins came to Liberec as part of the NHL PREMIERE (in the same season the Bruins won the Stanley Cup).

Between 2012-2015 the team went through a generational replacement and the first sport crisis arrived. Three years in a row without reaching the playoffs are good proof of this. However, their return to the elite was fabulous.

New coach and sports director in one, Filip Pešán, accustomed the team to a new face before the 2015-16 season. Modern, aggressive and offensive, the team proved its quality in the CHL, when they smoothly advanced from the group stage. Then they handled the ambitious Linköping HC and were stopped in an amazing two-game series by HC Davos.

In the Czech Extraliga, Bílí Tygři rolled over their rivals. In 52 matches they recorded 41 wins and

collected a total of 118 points. Both numbers are records for Extraliga. Another record was broken when Bílí Tygři won 14 times in a row. Petr Vampola set a club record of the fastest hat-trick scorer (he pulled it off in 6:41 minutes). On the other hand Branko Radivojevic notched the most points in one game in the club's history (1+6). Bílí Tygři won the regular season of the Czech Extraliga for the third time in the franchise's history. The dream season continued in the playoffs with a breathtaking ride into the finals without a single defeat. Now the final mission was ahead, they faced Sparta Prague in the finals to struggle for the T. G. Masaryk Cup. Bílí Tygři won the series 4-2 and they secured the title for the first time in the franchise's history. Head coach Filip Pešán became the youngest coach ever to win the Extraliga.

Bílí Tygři/White Tigers: For a long time, the Liberec club had been called by a traditional Czech sport club name – Stadion (since 1961). In 2000, at the time when the club was experiencing its steepest rise, the name was changed to „Bílí Tygři/White Tigers Liberec“. This name is closely connected to another pride of the town, the ZOO, the oldest ZOO in the Czech Republic. Exceptional white tigers, a rare form of the Indian tiger, are bred there. The club was given a name which evokes a beast and at the same time is closely related to the hometown.

STATEMENTS

Sport Director & Head Coach Filip Pešán comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"This year, we have similar goals in the CHL as we had in the previous season. We want to advance from the group stage to the playoffs but we know it won't be easy. Both Scandinavian teams are good quality. There is no doubt about TPS but we mustn't also underestimate Lørenskog. In the past season the Norwegians confirmed they play at a high level."

Pešán comments about the other teams in the group:

Lørenskog IK: "The CHL is a great competition and we're glad to be part of it. It is always good when the players can compare their skills and abilities on an international level. Last year, it helped us to be confident in the Czech Extraliga, too. We are looking forward to playing against Lørenskog which is one of the best

teams in Norway. We have seen how good the Norwegian teams were in the previous season of the CHL. Stavanger and Storhamar both won their groups and beat Czech teams like Sparta and Třinec. It is proof that hockey in Norway is constantly improving, as we can see in the World Championships every year. We have a month to prepare for it and we know it will be tough. Facing Lørenskog will be a very good test for us."

TPS Turku: "TPS Turku is a club with such a great history and one of the best teams of the Finnish SM-Liiga. Despite disappointing results in the past two seasons, the team is strong and of course they want to be successful again. The CHL can help them with this goal. I think their next season will be much better so I expect an attractive, traditional and tough opponent."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Lední hokej

Faceoff = buly, vřazování

Offside = postavení mimo hru

Puck = puk, kotouč

Hockey stick = hokejová hůl, hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = trest

Referee = rozhodčí



DYNAMO PARDUBICE

 CZECH REPUBLIC

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1923

Glory times:

National titles: 6 – 1973, 1987, 1989, 2005, 2010, 2012

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 4th in Group F

2015-16: 3rd in Group E

ARENA INFO

Name: Tipsport arena

Address: Sukova třída 1735, Pardubice, Czech Republic

Capacity: 10,194

Year opened: 1947, renovated: 2001

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.hcdynamo.cz

 facebook.com/hcpce

 twitter.com/hcpce

 instagram.com/hcpce

 youtube.com/hcpce

 periscope.tv/hcpce

Google+: www.google.com/+hcpce

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Roman Šmidberský

CEO: Roman Šmidberský

General Manager: Pavel Rohlík

Head Coach: Peter Draisaitl

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jan Hrabal

E-Mail: jan.hrabal@hcdynamo.cz

Phone number: +420 777 257 527

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Via e-mail jan.hrabal@hcdynamo.cz, or http://www.hcdynamo.cz/press_akreditace.asp?game=1 (in Czech)

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Petr Čáslava: The skilled defender and World Champion (2010) has spent the majority of his career with Pardubice of the Czech Extraliga. He also played in Russia for Severstal Cherepovets for the 2007-08 season before returning to Pardubice and to Sweden for Timrå IK for 2009-10 before moving back to Russia for CSKA Moscow and Severstal. He has played 201 games for the Czech national team.

Petr Sýkora: The younger brother of former NHL defenceman Michal Sýkora was born in Pardubice. He has scored 337 goals in Czech Extraliga. He was drafted by the Detroit Red Wings in the 1997 NHL Entry Draft in the 3rd round, 76th overall. In 1998, the Red Wings traded him to the Nashville Predators. Petr suited up for two games for the Predators in the 1998-99 season and did not play in the NHL again until the 2005-06 season, when he played 10 games for the Washington Capitals. Sýkora is Czech champion from 2004-05 and 2009-10 and a Swiss champion from 2008-09 and 2010-11.

Tomáš Rolinek: This loyal and skilled forward played in the 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 World Championships for the Czech Republic. He captained the team that won the 2010 IIHF World Championship and the team that finished third in 2011. He also played for the national team at the 2010 Winter Olympics. For four seasons he played for Metallurg Magnitogorsk in the KHL, for whom he played in the original CHL Finals. He is also a Czech champion from 2004-05.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Martin Bárta, Martin Růžička, Martin Rýgl – from BK Mladá Boleslav (CZE), Petr Hubáček – from JYP Jyväskylä (FIN), Justin Hodgman – from Örebro HK (SWE), Nicholas Schaus – from HC Innsbruck (AUT), Josef Zajíc – from Rytíři Kladno (CZE).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jiří Andrt, Bronislav Danda, Jiří Dolana, Dominik Hašek, Milan Hejduk, Otakar Janecký, Vladimír Kobranov, Vladimír Martinec, Vladimír Nadrchal, Jiří Novák, Josef Paleček, Stanislav Prýl, Jiří Šejba, Bohuslav Šťastný.

OTHER

Our club and Litvínov have never been relegated from the top league in Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic. Player Nicholas Schaus played the 2014-15 in Wolfsburg, our opponent in the group stage. We changed our club name last June back to Dynamo, the team's name from 1953 to 1960.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Peter Draisaitl comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our goal is to go to the playoffs. The Champions Hockey League is a high-quality competition and we are proud to be member of this organization. We have very tough opponents – the Swedish and CHL champions and the German finalists. Both opponents are very interesting for us."

Draisaitl comments about the other teams in the group:

Frölunda Gothenburg: "The Swedish champions are one of the hardest possible opponents for us. It is a challenge for us to play against last season's winners. We start our group stage with a home game against Frölunda and we want to play our best game. If everyone plays his best game, we have a chance to win."

Grizzlys Wolfsburg: "The DEL is a high-quality competition in Europe. Wolfsburg were in the German finals, so this team is very tough. We have two very difficult opponents but our goal is to reach the playoffs."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = lední hokej

Faceoff = vřazování/buly

Offside = postavení mimo hru/ofsajd

Puck = kotouč/puk

Hockey stick = hokejová hůl/hokejka

Goal = branka /gól

Penalty = vyloučení

Referee = rozhodčí



HC PILSEN

 CZECH REPUBLIC

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1929
 Glory times:
 National titles: 1 – 2013
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 None.

ARENA INFO

Name: Home Monitoring Arena
 Address: Štefánikovo náměstí 833/1, 30100 Plzeň, Czech Republic
 Capacity: 7,100
 Year opened: 1956

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.hcškoda.cz
-  facebook.com/hcplzen1929
-  twitter.com/HC_Plzen
-  instagram.com/hcplzen
-  youtube.com/user/hcškoda
-  [hcplzen](https://snapchat.com/hcplzen)
-  [HC_Plzen](https://maps.google.com/HC_Plzen)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Martin Straka
 General Manager: Martin Straka
 Sport Director: Tomáš Vlasák
 Head Coach: Michal Straka

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jakub Vais
 E-Mail: vais@hcplzen.cz
 Phone number: +420 773 781 143

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

All journalists asking for accreditation for the Champions Hockey League games must fill the accreditation form in the press section of the website - hcškoda.cz/press.asp

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Matěj Machovský: A young star in the Czech league. Machovský came to Pilsen after winning the title in 2013. Machovský has become the starting goalie and a mainstay on the team. In 2016 he was the third goalie for the Czech national team at IIHF World Championship in Moscow.

Petr Kadlec: The experienced defender who has played more than 1150 games in the Czech Extraliga is one of the certainties on Plzen's defence. His career started with Slavia Prague, but the last two seasons he's played in Pilsen.

Ondřej Kratěna: The team captain and a great personality throughout the competition. In the Czech Extraliga he has won eight championships, which is a record – four times with Vsetín, three times with Sparta Prague and once with Pilsen.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Peter Čerešňák, David Stach, Colton Yellow Horn, Jakub Koreis.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Bohuslav Ebermann, Stanislav Svntek, Milan Kajkl, Martin Straka, Jaroslav Špaček.

OTHER

The logo with the profile of a North American Indian head was created to **honour the US Army** that liberated Pilsen at the end of World War II. Newly acquired **Colton Yellow Horn** is a member of the Blackfoot nation, one of the officially recognized Indian nations of Canada. HK Nitra, who will face Pilsen in Group J, also have a Canadian Indian on their team, **Judd Blackwater**, who is a former teammate and friend of Yellow Horn.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Michal Straka comments about the other teams in the group:

Stavanger Oilers: "Norwegian hockey has improved very significantly in recent years on the international scene. Stavanger have been the Norwegian champions for several years in a row now, which shows how great a team they are. They have a bunch of overseas players who fit great into the team."

HK Nitra: "There are a number of players in Nitra who have played in Czech Extraliga and we know them well. This is a team that's been pretty good for a long time. The results of recent years and especially winning the title last year is proof of that. The rivalry between Czech and Slovak hockey is well-established and we are looking forward to those games."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = lední hokej

Faceoff = vzhazování

Offside = ofsajd

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = trest

Referee = rozhodčí

**SPARTA PRAGUE****CZECH REPUBLIC**

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1903

Glory times:

National titles: 8 – 1953, 1954, 1990, 1993, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2007

European League runners-up: 1 – 2000

European Champions Cup runners-up: 1 – 2008

Spengler Cup titles: 2 – 1962, 1963

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 1st in Group G, Round of 16

2015-16: 2nd in Group M, Round of 16

ARENA INFO

Name: O2 Arena

Address: Českomoravská 2345/17, 190 00 Praha 9, Czech Republic

Capacity: 17,037

Opened: 2004

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.hcsparta.cz



facebook.com/hcsparta



twitter.com/HCSpartaPraha



instagram.com/hcspartapraha



youtube.com/user/HcSpartaPraha

CLUB STAFF

General manager: Petr Bříza

Sport Director: Jiří Kalous

Head Coach: Jiří Kalous

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Tomáš Zetek

E-Mail: zetek@hcsparta.cz

Phone number: +420 266 727 229

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please send an e-mail to Tomáš Zetek (zetek@hcsparta.cz), PR and media manager, for more information about accreditation.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jaroslav Hlinka is a Czech forward. From 1994 to 2007, Hlinka mostly played for Sparta in the Extraliga, winning the Czech championship four times. From 2002 to 2006 he played for three seasons with Kloten Flyers in Switzerland and one season with the KHL's Ak Bars Kazan. In 2007-08, Hlinka played one season in the NHL with the Colorado Avalanche. One year later, he signed a two-year contract with Linköping HC in Sweden. In 2012 he returned to the Czech Republic and rejoined Sparta, where he remains today.

Petr Vrána is a Czech centre. He was drafted by the New Jersey Devils in the 2003 and signed the next year. Then he gained three years of AHL experience with the Albany River Rats and the Lowell Devils. He made his NHL debut with New Jersey in 2008, becoming the 13th player in Devil's history to score a goal in his first NHL contest. The next year, he returned to the Czech Republic, signing with HC Vítkovice. The 2011-12 season he spend with Amur Khabarovsk. After that, he went on to play for several KHL clubs. Then he signed with the SHL's Brynäs Gävle for the 2015-16 campaign but he left Sweden after the season to join Sparta.

Tomáš Pöpperle is a Czech goaltender. He played two games for the Columbus Blue Jackets during the 2006-07 season. However, he spent most of that year with the Syracuse Crunch. After a second season, Pöpperle returned to Europe to play for HC Sparta Praha. He signed with KHL team HC Lev Praha in 2012. Two years later, he signed with HC Sochi. Then, he rejoined HC Sparta Praha for the 2015-16 season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Brian Ihnačák, Petr Vrána, Martin Gernát, Dominik Uher.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Josef Maleček, Vladimír Zábrodský, Karel Gut, Luděk Bukač, Jan "Gusta" Havel, Jiří Holeček, František Tikal.

OTHER

The official mascot of HC Sparta Prague is **Sparták** (Spartacus). Always in attendance at home games, Sparták wears gladiatorial armour and a helmet. Hollywood actor **William Fichtner** is a fan of the team.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Jiří Kalous comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"I think it's a great competition. We'd love to reach the highest position possible. As there are many teams from all around Europe, I'm sure boys will do their best to represent both themselves and us as a team."

Kalous comments about the other teams in the group:

Färjestad Karlstad: "Färjestad is one of the traditional hockey clubs which everyone has to respect for its strength. We're aware that they will be a typical Swedish opponent, which means that they play a responsible defensive game supported by fast skating. It will be another great and worthy experience for our players. After all, games against Swedish teams always are."

Comarch Cracovia: "It's safe to say that the Polish club won't play the role of group favourite, but we definitely won't underestimate them, especially after last season's experience with Storhamar from Norway. The quality of hockey in Poland is steadily increasing and it will be an interesting experience for both parties involved. Prague and Krakow are relatively close to each other, which means that both of the games should be played in a great atmosphere. It could be an advantage for Cracovia, since they have nothing to lose and the support from their fans could drive them towards success. We are, of course, the more talented team; however, that definitely won't make things easier for us."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Hokej

Faceoff = Buly

Offside = Ofsajd

Puck = Puk

Hockey stick = Hokejka

Goal = Gól

Penalty = Vyloučení

Referee = Rozhodčí



VÍTKOVICE OSTRAVA

 CZECH REPUBLIC

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1928

Glory times:

National titles: 2 – 1952, 1981

European Cup runners-up: 1 – 1982

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 3rd in Group H

2015-16: 2nd in Group I, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Ostrava Arena

Address: Ruská 3077/135, Ostrava, 700 30, Czech Republic

Capacity: 10, 004

Year opened: 1986 (renovated 2004, 2012)

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.hc-vitkovice.cz



facebook.com/hcvitkovice



twitter.com/hcvitkovice



instagram.com/hcvitkovice



youtube.com/hcvitkovicecz

CLUB STAFF

President: František Černík

Chairman: Aleš Pavlík

CEO: Petr Handl

General Manager: Jakub Petr

Sport Director: Ladislav Svozil

Head Coach: Jakub Petr

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Zdeněk Janiurek

E-Mail: zdenek.janiurek@hc-vitkovice.cz

Phone number: +420 725 475 376

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Contact via e-mail:

zdenek.janiurek@hc-vitkovice.cz

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Rostislav Olesz: Born in Bilovec near Ostrava, he is one of the youngest players to ever play a senior Extraliga game (age 15) and became to be the youngest player who ever played for the Czech senior national team (17). In 2004 he was drafted by the Florida Panthers. Olesz played 356 NHL games for Florida, Chicago, and New Jersey. In 2006 he won an Olympic bronze medal. Since 2014 he is back in Vitkovice as one of the leaders and biggest stars as well. In July 2015 he signed a new three-year contract with the club.

Jan Výtisk: Born in Ostrava, he was raised in the Vitkovice hockey club, but in 2003 left and played for Sparta Prague, Třinec and Plzeň, but his biggest success was captaining Bílí Tygři Liberec to the Czech championship title last

season. A hardworking defenceman and a strong personality, he decided to return back to his hometown and home team in 2016.

Ivan Baranka: This Slovak defenceman moved to the USA at a young age to pursue his hockey dreams. After years in AHL and NHL, he moved to the other side of the hockey world in 2008 and played eight years in the KHL with Spartak Moscow, Ufa and Omsk. Last season he spent in Sweden in Rögle BK. Baranka won a World Championship silver medal with Slovakia in 2012.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Jan Výtisk (D, from Liberec), Ivan Baranka (D, from Rögle), Ondřej Roman (F, from Yekaterinburg), David Květoň (F, from Piráti Chomutov).

As well, Vitkovice has one of the most successful youth programs in the Czech Republic, so several junior-aged players have a chance to try out for the senior team as well.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Ladislav Staněk, Miroslav Vlach, Jan Kasper, Josef Mikoláš, František Černík, Miroslav Fryč, Ladislav Svozil, Richard Šmehlík, David Moravec, Pavel Kubina.

OTHER

Their home arena – Ostrava Arena – co-hosted IIHF World Championships in 2004 and 2015. The team mascot is **Vitek**, a knight, who is the main symbol of Vitkovice hockey. Vitkovice is a district of the city of Ostrava – a mainly industrial town with big steelworks and factories. This is the basis of the name “**Vitkovice Steel**”.

New GM and head coach **Jakub Petr** was also the head coach of the Czech U20 national team head coach last season and previously the national U18 team. Last summer he was an external coach at the Chicago Blackhawks training camp.

STATEMENTS

GM & head coach Jakub Petr comments about the team’s goals in the Champions Hockey League:

“For our team it’s gonna be a big challenge. Last year we made our way through the group stage

to playoffs and we cannot have any other goal than repeating that and advancing to the Round of 32. We will have some young players on our team with lots of potential, which haven’t had this kind of international experience before, but even so we trust them and we believe that this experience help these guys improve their hockey qualities to become stars. So basically, although we have very strong opponents, we do not deny our responsibility. We want to succeed in our group and advance to the playoffs.”

Petr comments about the other teams in the group:

Kärpät Oulu: “Finnish teams are our destiny, it seems. We played SaiPa two years ago, Tappara last year and this year we have Kärpät. From what I know and also, what every fan knows, Kärpät is one of the top hockey teams in Finland with a rich history – very successful. Last season they made the semi-finals in their national league and in the CHL they made the Final, so we know they will be one of the strongest opponents we’ll meet. Last year they gave opportunities to their young stars and these were very quickly the most dangerous players for other opponents – players like Aho and Puljujärvi. The whole Oulu team is of high quality and so is the whole organization. I think that especially for our fans it’s gonna be special treat to see this team and their players on our ice.”

Krefeld Pinguine: “They’re going to be a big challenge too. Krefeld, even though they weren’t among the best in the DEL last year, were some years ago on the top, so I think they’ll be difficult to beat too. German hockey is well-known for combining the Canadian style and other styles. Last year we faced Adler Mannheim, so I expect something very similar.”

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = lední hokej

Faceoff = vřazování / buľ

Offside = ofsajd

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = vyloučení

Referee = rozhodčí



IFK HELSINKI



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1897

Glory times:

National titles: 7 – 1969, 1970, 1974, 1980, 1983, 1998, 2011

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 2nd in Group J, Quarter-Finals

2015-16: 2nd in Group A, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Helsinki Ice Hall

Address: Oy HIFK-Hockey Ab, 00250, Helsinki, Finland

Capacity: 8200

Year opened: 1966

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.hifk.fi

 [IFK Helsinki](https://www.facebook.com/IFKHelsinki)

 [@HIFKHockey](https://twitter.com/HIFKHockey)

 [ifk_helsinki](https://www.instagram.com/ifk_helsinki)

 [@HIFKHockey](https://www.google.com/maps/@60.169528,24.762115,15z)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Timo Everi

CEO: Jukka Valtanen

General Manager: Tom Nybondas

Head Coach: Antti Törmänen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Petteri Linnavalli

E-Mail: petteri.linnavalli@hifk.fi

Phone number: +358 40 820 26 55

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please apply for accreditation by
e-mail: media@hifk.fi

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Lennart Petrell: After spending five seasons abroad, Petrell returns to IFK for the upcoming season. Petrell, a huge fan favourite, played two seasons in the NHL for the Edmonton Oilers, one season for Swiss team Geneve-Servette and last two seasons for Luleå Hockey in Sweden. The speedy and tough winger won the CHL championship with Luleå in 2015.

Tommi Taimi: A skilled defenceman with a fabulous shot from the blueline, Taimi is eager to support forwards in the offensive zone and is a highly talented playmaker. Before joining IFK in 2015, Taimi played for Khabarovsk in the KHL. He won the Finnish championship with his youth club Ässät in 2013.

Niklas Bäckström: One of the best goalkeepers in Finland joins IFK after 10 seasons in the NHL. Bäckström, a native of Helsinki, was the starting goalie for the Minnesota Wild for several seasons. During his career he has won two Finnish championships with Kärpät, an Olympic silver in 2006, an Olympic bronze in 2010, World Championship bronzes in 2006 and 2009, and a World Championship silver in 2016.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Niklas Bäckström (G), Teemu Eronen (D), Saku Salmela (D), Joe Finley (D), Lennart Petrell (F), Juhamatti Aaltonen (F).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Matti Hagman, Ville Peltonen, Hexi Riihiranta, Matti Murto, Mika Kortelainen, Pertti Lehtonen, Simo Saarinen, Sakari Lindfors, Stig Wetzell.

OTHER

IFK has **11 players** that have played for the club since the inaugural season of the CHL. Of the 11 players, **Jasse Ikonen** and **Robert Leino** scored goals in IFK's first CHL game that was played in Denmark against SønderjyskE Vojens.

Samu Haber, lead singer of the band **Sunrise Avenue**, is one of the most well-known IFK fans. Samu is a season-ticket holder and frequently attends IFK home games. He sometimes even travels to away games.

The future looks bright for IFK, since the club recently signed long term contracts with three players who won the U18 World Championship for Finland last spring. They are **Niilo Halonen (G)**, **Miro Heiskanen (D)** and **Juha Jääskä (F)**.

STATEMENTS

GM Tom Nybondas comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Participating and being successful in international games and tournaments has always been important for IFK. We have played international games since early 1970s and we are one of the founding members of the Nordic Trophy, which expanded and developed into what the CHL is today. Our goal for next season is to win the CHL championship."

GM Tom Nybondas comments about the other teams in the group:

EV Zug: "During the first two seasons of the CHL, we have played against three Swiss teams: Fribourg, Bern and Davos. All of them were very tough games and we expect nothing less from EV Zug. It will be a huge battle for the number one spot in our group."

Esbjerg Energy: "Two years ago we played against another Danish team in the Group Stage. We were very close to losing the away game and finally got two points after penalties. That just proves that in the CHL you can't underestimate any team. Esbjerg is a team with plenty of talent and we need to be ready for anything when we play in their rink."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = jääkiekko

Faceoff = aloitus

Offside = paitsio

Puck = kiekko

Hockey stick = staga

Goal = byyri

Penalty = jäähy

Referee = dumari



JYP JYVÄSKYLÄ



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1923

Glory Times:

National titles: 2 – 2009, 2012

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2014

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 2nd in Group I, Quarter-Finals

2015-16: 2nd in Group N, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Synergia Arena

Address: Puistokatu 21, Jyväskylä 40100, Finland

Capacity: 4,618

Year opened: 1982

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.jypliiga.fi



facebook.com/jypliiga



twitter.com/jypijyvaskyla



instagram.com/jypijyvaskyla



youtube.com/channel/UClc4j7oze-59GBrdaQy8zA

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jukka Seppänen

CEO: Aku Vallenius

Sport Director: Jukka Holtari

Head Coach: Marko Virtanen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jari Lindström

E-Mail: jari.lindstrom@jypliiga.fi

Phone number: +358 40 7326 112

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-Mail: media@jypliiga.fi - For gamedays during the week please apply until 14.00 on game day. For games on weekends, please apply before Friday at 14.00.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jani Tuppurainen: Jani is a speedy winger with good attitude. He made his breakthrough in Finland as a 25-year old. Tuppurainen has played also in Sweden (SHL) and Russia KHL). In the 2014-15 season he made his personal record of 51 points (17 + 34).

Sami Niku: A home-grown product and big talent on the blue line, Sami is a good skater and has ability to find some nice passes. In 2014-15 Sami played most of the season in the JYP Akatemia (2nd highest league) and notched 25 points in 39 games, before he was drafted by the Winnipeg Jets in the 7th round. Last season Sami played 38 Liiga games for JYP (11 points).

Veini Vehviläinen: Born and raised in Jyväskylä Vehviläinen is surely the pride of the whole town. Vehviläinen carried his team to U20 World Championship gold medal in January 2016 and played in net during the postseason for JYP in three games. Despite not being drafted in 2015, this young goalie will shine in international rinks in the future.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Pekka Tuokkola, Juha-Pekka Hytönen, Ossi Louhivaara, Juuso Vainio, Kai Lehtinen, Urho Vaakanainen, Robert Rooba, Antti Suomela, Micke Saari, Juha Uotila.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Risto Kurkinen, Ari-Pekka Siekkinen, Jarkko Immonen, Michael Nylander, Sami Vatanen.

OTHER

Ex-goalkeeper Sinuhe Wallinheimo is nowadays a member of the parliament in Finland.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Marko Virtanen comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our first goal is to get through the group and into the first playoff round - and get people to the arena in August already. And of course we want to win the trophy in the end."

Virtanen comments about the other teams in the group:

Gap Rapaces: "Playing Gap Rapaces will be a new experience for us. We haven't met a French team for years but I guess there are many American and Canadian born players in the team, so their approach and tactical aspects will be more North American. Our equipment manager's son played in Gap a couple of years ago, so maybe he'll give us some tips."

Linköping: "We have met Linköping and other Swedish teams quite often and we know the hockey which is played in Sweden: good skaters with nice passing plays. It will be interesting to see ex-JYP Kristian Näkyvä in a Linköping jersey."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = maila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Jäähy

Referee = Tuomari



KALPA KUOPIO



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1929
 Glory times:
 National runners-up: 1 – 1991
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 2014-15: 3rd in Group G
 2015-16: 3rd in Group L

ARENA INFO

Name: Data Group Areena
 Address: Hannes Kolehmainen katu 4, 70110 Kuopio, Finland
 Capacity: 5,064
 Year opened: : 1979

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.kalpa.fi
-  facebook.com/KalPa-113983340192
-  [@KalPa_Hockey](https://twitter.com/KalPa_Hockey)
-  [@kalpa_hockey](https://instagram.com/kalpa_hockey)
-  [kalpahockeyoy](https://youtube.com/kalpahockeyoy)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Sami Kapanen
 CEO: Toni Saksman
 Sport Director: Kimmo Kapanen
 Head Coach: Pekka Virta

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Paula Seppänen
 E-Mail: paula.seppanen@kalpa.fi
 Phone number: +35 844 787 11 03

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists can send an e-mail to media@kalpa.fi and apply for an accreditation. The accreditation must be made at least one day prior to the game.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Eero Kilpeläinen: 31 years old, an excellent goalie, who played for KalPa in his junior years and got drafted by the NHL. He played 10 seasons mainly in other SM-liiga teams, but he has also played abroad, for Peterborough Petes in the OHL in 2004-05 and for EV Zug in the NLA three years ago. He is an experienced goalkeeper who is used to playing a lot, usually about 50 games per season. Kilpeläinen is definitely a game-winning goalie and among the top goalies in the Finnish Liiga. He can perform at an even level from game to game and step up in the team when needed.

Janne Keränen came to KalPa for the 2014-15 season and with KalPa he has managed to take the next step in his hockey career. Formerly he had played in IFK Helsinki and Lukko Rauma in Liiga, but in KalPa he got his chance on the top lines and earned more time on ice, which also accumulated in total points: 18+9=27 in his first regular season in KalPa. Last season his total was 33 points (18+15) in the regular season.

Tommi Jokinen is KalPa's own product, who has won a national junior championship with KalPa's junior team in 2008. That season he had also played 31 games in Liiga. After that, Tommi played four more seasons in KalPa and then four seasons in SaiPa Lappeenranta. When Tommi returned back home last season, he recorded 33 points (15+18), so KalPa has great expectations towards Tommi for the upcoming season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Denis Godla, goaltender, Waltteri Ruuskanen, defenceman (played for KalPa A juniors), Eetu Sopanen, defenceman, Ville-Vesa Vainiola, forward, Alexander Ruuttu, forward.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Darius Rusnak, Brent Sapergia, Jouni Rinne, Pasi Kuivalainen, KalPa owners and NHL stars Sami Kapanen and Kimmo Timonen, Olli Jokinen (NHL), Tuomas Kiiskinen (KHL and SHL), Teemu Hartikainen (KHL).

OTHER

KalPa has retired three jerseys: #27 Jouni Rinne (in 1990), #1 Pasi Kuivalainen (2005) and #24 Sami Kapanen (2015). The fourth jersey retirement will be on 3 December, when KalPa will retire hockey icon Kimmo Timonen's number #44.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Pekka Virta comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We haven't made it to the playoffs yet in the CHL, so this season we definitely want to play so well that we'll proceed from group stage to the playoffs."

Virta comments about the other teams in the group:

Skellefteå AIK: "Skellefteå AIK have been in the SHL finals the last six seasons and that shows the quality and competitiveness of the club. They are a top European club, which can produce players of very high quality even to North America. Skellefteå's style of play is active and based on powerful skating."

Vienna Capitals: "The Vienna Capitals are a traditional hockey club from Central Europe and it's been nice to play against them. They are a physical and strong team that plays North American hockey, being strong in front of the net."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = jääkiekko

Faceoff = aloitus

Offside = paitsio

Puck = kiekko

Hockey stick = jääkiekkomaila

Goal = maali

Penalty = jäähy

Referee = tuomari



KÄRPÄT OULU



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1946

Glory times:

National titles: 7 – 1981, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2014, 2015

CHL runners-up: 1 – 2016

European Champions Cup runners-up: 2 – 2005, 2006

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 1st in Group A, Semi-Finals

2015-16: 1st in Group J, Final

ARENA INFO

Name: Oulun Energia Areena

Address: Urheilukatu 5 A, 90130 Oulu, Finland

Capacity: 6,614

Year opened: 1975

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.oulunkarpat.fi



facebook.com/OulunKarpat



twitter.com/OulunKarpatFi



instagram.com/karpatofficial



youtube.com/channel/UCuKMhEZEPcagB8AWONi6l8Q

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Tommi Virkkunen

CEO: Juha Junno

General Manager: Harri Aho

Sport Director: Ari Hilli

Head Coach: Kai Suikkanen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Matias Sakko

E-Mail: matias.sakko@oulunkarpat.fi

Phone number: +35 841 433 48 87

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation requests to media@oulunkarpat.fi.
Media entrance at entrance B.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Lasse Kukkonen: The epitome of leadership. He has been the team captain since 2013 and has been a big factor in Kärpät's revival back to the glory days.

Mika Pyörälä: A highly skilled and smart two-way forward who never gives up on a play. When the going gets rough, it's guys like Pyörälä who will step up.

Sami Aittokallio: Arguably the best goalie in the CHL returns to European ice. He played 11 CHL games with a whopping save percentage of .951.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Mikael Ruohomaa: He had 43 points in 59 games last year when playing in KalPa. This 27-year-old centre is ready to take the next step in his career.

Jussi Rynnäs: The starting goalie from the 2013-14 when Kärpät took their first Finnish Championship since 2008. He has since played in the NHL, AHL and KHL. With his return, Kärpät has one of the most solid goaltending tandems in the whole CHL.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Reijo Ruotsalainen, Jari Viuhkola.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kai Suikkanen's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The CHL is shaping up to be a bloody fine series. It is and will be an important thing for us now and in the future. Whichever team lifts the trophy at the end of the season is Europe's best hockey club, it's as simple as that. We've gotten close to winning in the past, so of course it's something we're really trying to win."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Maila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Jäähy

Referee = Tuomari



LUKKO RAUMA



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1936

Glory Times:

National titles: 1 - 1963

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances

2014-15: 1st in Group K, Quarter-Finals

2015-16: 2nd in Group K, Semi-Finals

ARENA INFO

Name: Kivikylän Areena

Address: Nortamonkatu 23, 26100 Rauma, Finland

Capacity: 5,400

Year opened: 1970 (last big modifications in year 2006)

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.raumanlukko.fi



facebook.com/rauman.lukko



twitter.com/TeamRaumanLukko



instagram.com/rauman_lukko_official



youtube.com/user/RaumanLukkoTV

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jari Laiho

CEO: Timo Rajala

General Manager: Hannu Vanhatalo

Head Coach: Juha Vuori

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Marko Östman

E-Mail: marko.ostman@raumanlukko.fi

Phone number: +358 50 3577 357

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists can apply for accreditation by sending an e-mail to the following address: sanna.vastamaki@raumanlukko.fi

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Aaron Gagnon (F): This season will be the fourth in Lukko for Gagnon. He's the leading centre of the team and one of the most important players for it, both on and off the ice. As a true playmaker Gagnon makes a lot of points but he's also a very important player in the locker room also. Gagnon and Ville Vahalahti has been a very dangerous combination for opponents in past seasons.

Ville Vahalahti (F): One of the most experienced players in the Finnish hockey league when it comes to active players. He has played 817 regular season games in Liiga and in those games he has scores 240 goals and made 377 assist, which makes 617 points in those games. Like Gagnon, he's one of the leaders of the team on and off the ice.

Janne Niskala (D): One of the hometown players that hasn't played in any other Finnish team other team than Rauman Lukko. Has played six games in the NHL and also won the World Championship with Finland's national team in Bratislava 2011, and an Olympic bronze medal in Vancouver 2010. One of the true leaders of Lukko's defensive line

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Kaapo Kähkönen (G), Steven Seigo (D), Lauri Tukonen (F), Aleksi Saarela (F).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Teppo Rastio, Jouni Peltonen, Matti Keinonen, Jorma Vehmanen, Jari Torkki, Matti Forss, Erik Hämäläinen.

OTHER

Rauma is a small town with population approximately 40,000 but it's a very fanatic when it comes to ice hockey and Lukko. The mascot of Lukko is a fox called Eetu the Fox.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Juha Vuori comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Lukko's goal in the CHL is to win it, to be the best team in the league. We are fortunate to be able to play in the international league where you have an opportunity to play against Europe's top teams and see their excellent players."

Vuori comments about the other teams in the group:

Ingolstadt: "Ingolstadt has experienced success in the recent past. Now they are looking for new energy and a lift for the upcoming season. We are expecting fast, intensive hockey. Our games will be entertaining. We are really looking forward to play against Ingolstadt."

Zurich: "Similar to Ingolstadt, Zurich has had success in the past and is a club now looking to get back on top again with new coaching staff. I'm expecting uptempo, high intensity games with Zurich. We are fortunate to have a chance to play against Zurich right away in the beginning of the league."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Jääkiekkomaila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Jäähy

Referee = Tuomari



SAIPA LAPPEENRANTA



FINLAND

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1948
 Glory times:
 National bronze medal: 1 – 1966
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 2014-15: 1st in Group H, Quarter-Finals

ARENA INFO

Name: Kisapuisto
 Address: Kisakatu 9, Lappeenranta, Finland
 Capacity: 4,820
 Year opened: 1972

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.saipa.fi
-  facebook.com/SaiPaofficial
-  twitter.com/liiga_saipa
-  instagram.com/liiga_saipa
-  youtube.com/saipaoofficial

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Timo Tersa
 CEO: Marko Ek
 General Manager: Marko Ek
 Sport Director: Antti Tuomenoksa
 Head Coach: Ari Santanen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Mikko Pehkonen
 E-Mail: mikko.pehkonen@saipa.fi
 Phone number: +358 447 63 21 94

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-mail to: media@saipa.fi

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jussi Markkanen: SaiPa legend, former Edmonton Oilers and New York Rangers goalie, twice voted best goalie in the Finnish Liiga, played in 2002 Winter Olympics, 2002 and 2004 World Championships. Former teams include CSKA Moscow, EV Zug, Tappara Tampere and Lada Togliatti.

Brett Carson: A solid defensive defenceman at 193 cm/103 kg, 90 NHL games with the Carolina Hurricanes and Calgary Flames.

Curtis Hamilton: New player from Sparta Prague, drafted #48 overall by the Edmonton Oilers in 2010, 1 NHL game, Czech Extraliga best plus/minus last season with +29.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Curtis Hamilton, Tero Koskiranta, Lauri Taipalus.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Petri Skriko, Petteri Nokelainen, Jussi Markkanen, Ville Koho, Lalli Partinen, Heikki Mälkiä.

OTHER

Defenceman Per Savilahti-Nagander is from Luleå and he won the CHL title with Luleå Hockey in 2014-15.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Ari Santanen comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Of course we want to win every game but the first goal is the playoffs. Step by step."

Santanen comments about the other teams in the group:

Luleå Hockey: "Two years ago we didn't face any Swedish teams, so this is a new challenge for us. Luleå is one of biggest clubs in Sweden. A real test to our team and a good opportunity to see where we stand compared to Sweden."

Eisbären Berlin: "Lots of good players and one of the biggest clubs in Germany. A good test for us because they play a different style hockey than us."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Maila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Jäähy

Referee = Tuomari



TAPPARA TAMPERE



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1932

Glory times:

National titles: 16 – 1953, 1954 (as TBK), 1955, 1959, 1961, 1964, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 2003, 2016

European Trophy runners-up: 1 – 2013

Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 1st in Group E, Quarter-Finals

2015-16: 1st in Group B, Round of 16

ARENA INFO

Name: Hakametsä Arena

Address: Keltinkatu 2, 33530 Tampere, Finland

Capacity: 7,300

Year opened: 1965

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.tappara.fi



facebook.com/TapparaOfficial



twitter.com/TapparaOfficial



instagram.com/tapparafansofficial



youtube.com/TapparaOfficial



periscope.tv/tapparaofficial

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Erkki Peltonen

General Manager: Mikko Leinonen

Sport Director: (Mikko Leinonen)

Head Coach: Jussi Tapola

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Tero Aalto

E-Mail: tero.aalto@tappara.fi

Phone number: +35 846 878 34 06

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

To apply for accreditation at Tappara home games: send an email to media@tappara.fi or tero.aalto@tappara.fi.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jani Lajunen: He doesn't have the softest hands on the ice, he doesn't produce a huge amount of points every year, but he keeps on winning. He came to Tappara as a Swedish champion, and then was a big part of Tappara winning their first championship in 13 years. 33 points during the regular season and 10 more in the playoffs. Jani also a part of the Finnish national team that made it to the finals in the World Championships this year.

Jukka Peltola: The team captain leads by example in every department of the game; he was the second best scorer in Tappara last year marking up his career-high 39 points (17 goals), but is still more known for his shorthanded play and shot-blocking. Has been selected as one of the league's most underrated players so many times that cannot really be called underrated any more. Can be used in any situation: powerplay, shorthanded, center, wing, even defense.

Jan-Mikael Järvinen: Tappara's Cramo Top Scorer in the Champions Hockey League last year with 8 points. He is the classic playmaker type, dishing saucer passes on tape to tight spots and seeing open spaces in places where no one else does.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Otso Rantakari, D, last year MoDo Örnsköldsvik and Espoo Blues; Valtteri Kemiläinen, D, last year JYP Jyväskylä; Teemu Nurmi, F, last year Lukko Rauma; Tapio Sammalkangas, D, last year Ässät Pori; Teemu Lassila, G, last year TPS Turku.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Janne Ojanen, Pekka Marjamäki, Timo Jutila, Timo Susi, Kalevi Numminen, Teppo Numminen, Ville Nieminen, Aleksander Barkov.

OTHER

Our mascot is called **Tapsu**.

In the spring a local rap group called Mansesteri made a song called "**Saravon Pekka**" praising long-time Tappara defenceman **Pekka Saravo**. The song, inspired by the DVBBS and Borgeous electronic piece called "Tsunami", became a hit in Finland, and is often played at sporting events.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Jussi Tapola comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We have had success in our national league, but we have not yet been able to get the best out of our team in the Champions Hockey League. We have to better this year, go further in the playoffs, and be a real challenger for the title."

Tapola comments about the other teams in the group:

HC Lugano: "We have met EV Zug and SC Bern in previous CHL seasons, so we know something about Swiss hockey. Looking at HC Lugano's roster, it sure will be a tough team to beat. Every team that gets to their national championship finals knows what it takes to be successful in competitive situations."

Adler Mannheim: "It's been a while since we've played against a German team. We expect to face another tough team playing with a North American style. And of course we have heard about the Mannheim crowd in their home arena. That will be something to experience for us."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = jääkiekko

Faceoff = aloitus

Offside = paitsio

Puck = kiekko

Hockey stick = maila

Goal = maali

Penalty = jäähy

Referee = erotuomari



TPS TURKU



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1922

Glory times:

National titles: 11 – 1956, 1976, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2010

European Hockey League titles: 1 – 1997

European Cup titles: 1 – 1994

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 2nd in Group F

2015-16: 1st in Group G, Quarter-Finals

ARENA INFO

Name: HK Arena

Address: Artukaistentie 8, 20210 Turku, Finland

Capacity: 11,820

Year opened: 1990

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 hc.tps.fi

 facebook.com/hctps

 [HCTPS](https://twitter.com/HCTPS)

 [HCTPS](https://www.instagram.com/HCTPS)

 [HC TPS](https://www.youtube.com/HCTPS)

 [HCTPS](#)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Matti Perkonoja

CEO: Mika Eskola

General Manager: Mika Eskola

Sport Director: Antero Niittymäki

Head Coach: Ari-Pekka Selin

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jessi Ristilä

E-Mail: jessi.ristila@tps.fi

Phone number: +35 840 510 38 47

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please send your accreditation request to media@tps.fi before the game day 2.00 pm.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Tomi Kallio, #71, Ilkka Heikkinen, #49,
Henrik Tallinder, #7.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Ilkka Heikkinen, Jasper Lindsten, Topi
Taavitsainen.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Saku Koivu, Mikko Koivu, Miikka Kiprusoff, Petteri
Nummelin, Marko Kiprusoff, Antero Niittymäki,
Tomi Kallio, Aki Berg, Hannu Virta, Mikko Eloranta,
Rasmus Ristolainen and Mikko Rantanen.

STATEMENTS

Player Henrik Tallinder comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We have pretty clear in our minds that we are going all in. We want to win this thing. Some other teams might not take this as seriously as we do but we gonna try to win this."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Maila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Jäähy

Referee = Tuomari



ADLER MANNHEIM



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1938

Glory times:

National titles: 7 – 1980, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2007, 2015.

Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 4th in Group G

2015-16: 1st in Group I, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: SAP Arena

Address: An der Arena 1, 68163 Mannheim, Germany

Capacity: 13,600

Year opened: 2005

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.adler-mannheim.de



facebook.com/dieadlermannheim



[@adlermannheim](https://twitter.com/adlermannheim)



[@adlermannheim_official](https://instagram.com/adlermannheim_official)



youtube.com/user/DieAdlerMannheimTV

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Daniel Hopp

CEO: Matthias Binder

General Manager: Marcus Kuhl

Sport Director: Teal Fowler

Head Coach: Sean Simpson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Adrian Parejo

E-Mail: a.parejo-ramon@adler-mannheim.de

Phone number: +49 174 375 18 14

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-Mail to: a.parejo-ramon@adler-mannheim.de

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Dennis Endras: The 28-year-old is one of Germany's top goalies. After playing five of his first six professional seasons for the DEL club Augsburg Panther, he had a short stint playing for the AHL's Houston Aeros and Finnish club IFK Helsinki in 2011-12. In 2010 he led the German national team to their biggest success in decades, reaching the World Championship semi-finals in Germany and was also voted Best Goalkeeper of the tournament. Since signing with Adler Mannheim, he's had a save percentage higher than .925 in three of his four seasons. In 2014-15 he had 8 shutouts while leading the team to the championship.

Marcel Goc: He participated in two Winter Olympics and nine World Championships, leading the German national team as captain in 2016. After 699 NHL games for San Jose, Nashville, Florida, Pittsburgh and St. Louis, he returned to Mannheim in 2015, from where he left to the NHL in 2003. In Mannheim, Marcel joined brother Nikolai Goc, who is starting his seventh season on the team's defence. Both of them always look forward to the German league's southwestern derby against the Schwenningen Wild Wings and captain Sascha Goc, the oldest of the three brothers.

Chad Kolarik: The six-time NHLer and former AHL All-Star was the top goal-scorer of the 2013-14 regular season in Sweden's Eliteserien with 30 goals for Linköping HC. In 2014-15 he recorded 24 points in 41 games for Avangard Omsk (KHL) before joining the Kloten Flyers in the Swiss National League. He signed with "Die Adler" before Kloten head coach Sean Simpson decided to take the job in Mannheim.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Aaron Johnson (D, Stockton Heat/AHL), David Wolf (F), Garrett Festerling (F, both Hamburg Freezers/DEL), Daniel Sparre (F, Red Bull Munich/DEL), Chad Kolarik (F, Kloten Flyers/SUI).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Retired numbers: #2 Werner Lorenz (~750 games between 1952 and 1971), #3 Harold Kreis (891 games between 1978 and 1997), #10 Kurt Sepp (1957-67), #12 Bruno Guttowski (1956-64), #15 Marcus Kuhl (490 games between 1979 and 1993), #20 René Corbet (2001-09), #25 Stéphane Richer (1995-2002).

Plus (not retired numbers): Dennis Seidenberg (1999-2002 and 2012-13 during lockout, 827 NHL games since 2002), Leon Draisaitl (never played for the professional team, but had his last four years in Germany with the Adler junior team before moving to North America in 2012, #3 overall draft pick in 2014 and currently playing for the Edmonton Oilers). His father Peter played for Mannheim from 1983 to 1990 and from 1992 to 1994.

OTHER

Alder Mannheim and new head coach Sean Simpson: Between 1997 and 2001, Mannheim won four championships in five years. The only season without success in this time was the 1999-2000 campaign, when the Munich Barons won the title with Simpson as head coach. In 2001, Munich and Simpson lost the finals against Mannheim. In 2010, Switzerland, coached by Simpson, lost the World Championship quarter-finals against Germany in Mannheim's SAP Arena.

Simpson was the head coach of the first team to win the Champions Hockey League – ZSC Lions Zurich in 2009.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Sean Simpson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The Champions Hockey League is growing every year. It's a great event for European club hockey. I had the experience to be in it a few years ago with Zurich and I really enjoyed the competition. I think it's important that the club teams in Europe have such a competition. We take it very seriously. We have a tough and challenging group with Lugano and Tampere, but our mindset is very serious. We'd certainly like to go to the next round and we'll take it step by step. It's going to be good for us to play in that strong group."

Simpson comments about the other teams in the group:

HC Lugano: "Obviously I know Lugano very well, being in Switzerland all the years I have. They made the finals last year in Switzerland. They're a well-organized team. They got all the components of a successful team – they are big, they are strong, they are fast. They play the up-tempo Swiss game and they are a difficult opponent."

Tappara Tampere: “You don't have to say too many words about Tampere. They are the Finnish champions with a great reputation. It's a great organization. Any time you play a Finnish team in these international competitions, whether it's club or with the national team, you know you are in for a tough test. Finnish hockey has done very well, especially last year with the titles they won at the different levels. It's going to be a great challenge for us to play against the Finnish champions.”

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



EISBÄREN BERLIN



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1954 (as SC Dynamo Berlin), renamed in 1992

Glory Times:

National titles (Germany): 7 – 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013

National titles (German Democratic Republic): 15 – 1966, 1967, 1968, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988

Deutscher Eishockey Pokal title: 1 – 2008

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2010

Bronze medal European Hockey League (EHL): 1 – 1999

Bronze medal IIHF-Europacup: 1 – 1984

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances

2014-15: 4th in Group D

2015-16: 2nd in Group P, Round of 16

ARENA INFO

Name: Mercedes-Benz Arena Berlin

Address: Mercedes-Platz 1, 10243 Berlin, Germany

Capacity: 14,200

Year opened: 2008

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.eisbaeren.de

 facebook.com/eisbaeren

 twitter.com/eisbaeren_b

 instagram.com/eisbaerenberlin

 youtube.com/c/eisbaerenberlin

 [Periscope: eisbaeren_b](https://periscope.tv/eisbaeren_b)

CLUB STAFF

Owner: Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG)

CEO: Peter John Lee

Sport Director: Stefan Ustorf

Head Coach: Uwe Krupp

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Daniel Goldstein

E-Mail: d.goldstein@eisbaeren.de

Phone number: +49 176 1804 77 74

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please drop a short note to presse@eisbaeren.de

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Petri Vehanen: The Finnish goaltender is well-known on the European hockey stage. His biggest accomplishments have been so far winning the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) in 2010 with AK Bars Kazan and the World Championships as netminder for Team Finland in 2011. Vehanen joined the Eisbären in 2015 after an impressive season with KHL's HC Lev Praha. Back then the Czech team won the silver medal of the KHL. Now 38 years old, the Rauma native improved his stats in the DEL as well as in the CHL slightly in comparison to last season proving once again that he might be one of the most stable goaltenders in the whole of Europe.

Constantin Braun: After being out 5 months due to a heavy foot injury in the 2014-15 season, Eisbären Defenseman Constantin Braun came back last year in the last CHL group stage game away to in Gap, and played all games for his team since then. He managed to make Germany's squad for the World Championships in Russia and had a share in making the quarter-finals again

first time in 5 years. Braun started playing hockey as a forward, was then turned into a defenseman and has gone on to win 5 German championships and the European Trophy 2010 all aged just 28. In the 2013 Playoffs Constantin Braun was voted MVP of the DEL Playoffs.

Marcel Noebels: Marcel Noebels was Eisbären Berlin's CRAMO Topscorer in the CHL season 2015-16, recording 3 goals and 3 assists in 8 games. He also scored the third most points of the team in the regular season of the DEL 2015-16. Only his linemates Barry Tallackson and Darin Olver managed to score more and helped the 24 years old Philadelphia Flyers draft pick of 2011 to improve his game one step further. Noebels also made the Team Germany roster of this year's World Championship recording 3 assists in 7 games in Russia. Eisbären's number 92 will be to watch during the upcoming CHL season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Jamie MacQueen (from Kassel Huskies/DEL2),
Nick Petersen (from Iserlohn Roosters/DEL),
Daniel Fischbuch (from Düsseldorfer EG/DEL).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Hartmut Nickel, Bernd Karrenbauer, Joachim Ziesche, Dietmar Peters, Dieter Frenzel, Jiri Dopita, Andrej Lomakin, Marc Fortier, Thomas Steen, Erik Cole, Olaf Kölzig, Mark Beaufait, Sven Felski, Steve Walker, Denis Pederson, Stefan Ustorf, Claude Giroux, Danny Briere, Rob Zepp.

OTHER

Eisbären Berlin has **two mascots**. The polar bears Bully and Bully Bambini are fan favorites all over Europe. The club itself ranks **2nd in the European hockey attendance standings** for last season.

The atmosphere in the Mercedes-Benz Arena Berlin is driven by a **standing area with 2,000 people** all cheering for the team with their hearts and souls.

Eisbären Berlin is the most successful sports club of the former East Germany and **unites East and West** right next to the last pieces of the Berlin wall called East Side Gallery.

Right between the arena and the East Side Gallery constructions started for a **whole new Berlin quarter**. It's going to be Germany's most exciting area with Cinemas, a bowling alley, a new Music clubs, bars and restaurants.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Uwe Krupp comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We have a good group. The Scandinavian teams dominated the CHL over the last years. Luleå and SaiPa are two strong opponents. We will take those tests really seriously and of course want to win the games."

Captain André Rankel and goaltender Petri Vehanen comment about the other teams in the group:

Petri Vehanen on SaiPa: "It will be a tough opponent. They're always based on hard work. They don't always have the best players, but they have a really good working team."

André Rankel on Luleå: "The Swedish teams play really fast hockey. They are really strong on defense and good skaters. They also play with a real good tactical discipline."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Schläger, Kelle

Goal = Toooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

Penalty = Strafzeit

Referee = Schiedsrichter



ERC INGOLSTADT



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1964

Glory times:

National titles: 1 – 2014

German Cup titles: 1 – 2005

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 4th in Group H

2015-16: 2nd in Group O, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Saturn Arena

Address: Südliche Ringstraße 64, 85053 Ingolstadt, Germany

Capacity: 4,816

Year opened: 2003

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.erc-ingolstadt.de



facebook.com/ercingolstadt



twitter.com/ERCIngolstadt



@ercingolstadt_official



www.youtube.com/channel/UCI_qG13W5vCiNUrUU5U33Dg

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jürgen Arnold

CEO: Claus Gröbner

Sport Director: Jiri Ehrenberger

Head Coach: Tommy Samuelsson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Martin Wimoesterer

E-Mail: martin.wimoesterer@erc-ingolstadt.de

Phone number: +49 (0) 151 20 59 77 99 (mobile)

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For German speakers:
<http://erc-ingolstadt.de/medien/tagesakkreditierung>

For Non-German speakers: Send an e-mail to martin.wimoesterer@erc-ingolstadt.de – Freelancers: Please add an official document from your media company that tells you are coming to the game for them.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Timo Pielmeier: Goalkeeper with nerves of steel. German national team goalie and hero of Ingolstadt's championship team of 2014.

Patrick McNeill: Veteran Canadian defender with playmaking skills. In his first season in Europe, McNeill finished 1st in scoring amongst all D-men in the German league.

Brandon Buck: A rocket on skates, the Canadian centre is Ingolstadt's top scorer. Under contract until 2020.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Thomas Oppenheimer, Christoph Kiefersauer (both Hamburg Freezers), Petr Pohl (Eisbären Berlin), Darryl Boyce (SaiPa Laapeenranta), Martin Buchwieser (Hamburg Freezers).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jimmy Waite, Glen Goodall, Doug Ast (all with retired numbers), Jakub Ficenec (number to be retired after his career ends), Thomas Greilinger (still on the roster, ERC's leading scorer in DEL years).

OTHER

Mascot: Xaver, a panther in an ERC jersey who runs the Xaver Kids-Club.

Fans: more than 20 official fan clubs.

STATEMENTS

Sports Director Jiri Ehrenberger comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our opponents are real top dogs of their leagues. We'll try to show that we are ready to give them a good fight."

Ehrenberger comments about the other teams in the group:

ZSC Lions Zurich: "Zurich was the top team of the Swiss NLA after the regular season. That is impressive. The club is one of Europe's biggest. I am happy for our fans who wished to play the ZSC Lions."

Lukko Rauma: "I had an eye on Rauma's performance in the CHL last season. I like the style they play, they were really strong and made it to the semi-finals. We have to be at 100 percent to have a chance there."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



GRIZZLYS WOLFSBURG



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1992
 Glory times:
 German Cup title: 1 – 2009
 National runners-up: 2 – 2011, 2016
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 None.

ARENA INFO

Name: Eis Arena Wolfsburg
 Address: Allerpark 5, 38448 Wolfsburg, Germany
 Capacity: 4,503
 Year opened: 2006

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.grizzlys.de
-  facebook.com/grizzlyswolfsburg
-  twitter.com/@grizzlys_wob
-  instagram.com/grizzlys_wolfsburg
-  youtube.com/user/EHCWOLFSBURG2012

Google+: www.youtube.com/user/EHCWOLFSBURG2012

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Detlef Wittig
 CEO: Karl-Heinz Fliegau
 General Manager: Karl-Heinz Fliegau
 Sport Director: Karl-Heinz Fliegau
 Head Coach: Pavel Gross

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Christopher Gerlach
 E-Mail: christopher.gerlach@grizzlys.de
 Phone number: +49 177 28 54 456

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-mail to: christopher.gerlach@grizzlys.de

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Tyler Haskins: Captain, leader, under contract until 2020.

Sebastian Furchner: Goal-scorer, player with most league games (817), under contract until 2020.

Felix Brückmann: Goaltender, has played for German national team, 2nd best goalie in DEL in 2015-16 by stats.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Kris Foucault, Alexander Weiss.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Norm Milley, Jan Zurek.

OTHER

Mascot: Ben, a grizzly bear.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Pavel Gross comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Playing against the best teams in Europe is a big challenge and of course a great honour for our players and our young organization. We are going to show our best performance in every game."

Gross comments about the other teams in the group:

Frölunda Göthenburg: "The Swedish champions and winners of the CHL are one of the best teams in Europe. They are a fast-skating and very talented team. We have to get up to our limits against them."

Dynamo Pardubice: "A pretty fast skating team as well with good technical skills. They've got a new coach and are going to reorganize a few things. We do not have to hide."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully/Anspiel

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Penalty

Referee = Schiedsrichter



KREFELD PINGUINE



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1936
 Glory times:
 National titles: 2 – 1952, 2003
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 2014-15: 4th in Group J
 2015-16: 3rd in Group J

ARENA INFO

Name: KönigPALAST
 Address: Westparkstraße 111, 47803 Krefeld, Germany
 Capacity: 8,029
 Year opened: 2004

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  portal.krefeld-pinguine.de
-  facebook.com/KR.Pinguine
-  twitter.com/kr_pinguine
-  instagram.com/krefeld_pinguine
-  youtube.com/user/KEVPinguineGmbH
-  periscope.tv/KrefeldPinguine

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Wolfgang Schulz
 CEO: Karsten Krippner
 General Manager: Rüdiger Noack
 Head Coach: Franz Fritzmeier

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Katharina Schneider-Bodien
 E-Mail: schneider-bodien@krefeld-pinguine.de
 Phone number: +49 173 567 38 49

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please send an e-mail to Katharina Schneider-Bodien (schneider-bodien@krefeld-pinguine.de) with all details of your work (including number of press admissions needed, internet access, etc).

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Herberts Vasiljevs: Forward, 40 years old, Captain. He comes from Riga, Latvia, but has German and Latvian citizenship. Has played in six World Championships and one Olympic tournament for Latvia. 25 NHL games for Atlanta Thrashers and Vancouver Canucks. Has been with the Pinguine since 2005.

Daniel Pietta: Forward. He has played for the Pinguine since 2005. Has played in two U18, one U20 and three A World Championships for Germany. In 12 seasons he has played 556 games and scored 276 assists, the most in club history.

Patrick Galbraith: Goalie. He arrived during last season. Has played in 6 World Championships for Denmark, and is a two-time Danish champion with SønderjyskE Vojens.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Mark Mancari: Forward. 42 NHL games for the Vancouver Canucks and Buffalo Sabres.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Christian Ehrhoff (defence, more than 750 NHL games). Karel Lang (Goalie, 1990 – 2001), Robert Müller (Goalie, 2002 – 2006).

OTHER

Mascots: KEVin (a male penguin) and Karola (a female penguin, she is especially for the kids).

Franz Fritzmeier is the youngest head coach in the DEL (36 years old). Assistant coach **Ville Vaija** is from Finland. The second assistant coach **Elmar Schmitz** is simultaneously the head coach of Krefeld's highest youth team, the DNL (Deutsche Nachwuchsliga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Franz Fritzmeier comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are proud to be part of the CHL again. For my team, the CHL is a serious trial of strength between Europe's best teams. Our goal is to reach the playoffs."

Fritzmeier comments about the other teams in the group:

Kärpät Oulu: "I saw the CHL Final in Oulu. We already know each other from last year's group stage. I am curious about the games."

Vitkovice Ostrava: "Czech teams are always very strong. That is going to be an interesting encounter."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafstoß

Referee = Schiedsrichter



RED BULL MUNICH



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1998
 Glory times:
 National titles: 1 – 2016
 DEB Pokalsieger: 1 – 2009
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 2015-16: 1st in Group H, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Olympia-Eisstadion
 Address: Spiridon-Louis-Ring 3, 80809 München, Germany
 Capacity: 6,142
 Year opened: 1967

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.redbullmuenchen.de
-  facebook.com/EHCRedBullMuenchen
-  twitter.com/redbullmuenchen
-  instagram.com/redbullmuenchen
-  youtube.com/channel/UCiLZbsIKYfUpzRhzwPjF6A
-  [@RedBullMuenchen](https://twitter.com/RedBullMuenchen)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: René Dimter
 CEO: René Dimter
 General Manager: René Dimter, Christian Winkler, Torsten Hofmann, Rudolf Theierl
 Sport Director: Christian Winkler
 Head Coach: Don Jackson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Emanuel Hugl
 E-Mail: Emanuel.hugl@redbulls.com
 Phone number: +49 89 30 66 91 027

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Online: www.redbullmuenchen.de/akkreditierung

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Michael Wolf: One of the all-time top scorers in the German Hockey League, long-term captain of the national team and part of the Olympic team in Vancouver 2010. Led Munich to their first-ever championship as a captain in 2016. Started the 2015-16 CHL season with a hat-trick in Košice.

Jason Jaffray: Former NHL player, long-term captain of the St. John's IceCaps in the AHL. Set a new record with a 8-game goal streak at the start of his first DEL season.

Keith Aucoin: Former NHL player, with nine points in five games one of the top CHL scorers of the Red Bulls last season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Jerome Flaake, Jon Matsumoto, Brooks Macek, Derek Joslin, Deron Quint.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Michael Wolf.

OTHER

In 2010 Munich set a new world record for the **longest shootout** (42 attempts) when they lost against Straubing.

During Oktoberfest the team wears a special **"Oktoberfest jersey"**, which looks similar to Bavarian lederhosen.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Don Jackson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We will prepare well and be ready for the start of the Champions Hockey League season. Our aim is to win the CHL."

Jackson comments about the other teams in the group:

Fribourg-Gottéron: "We expect two very challenging games against Fribourg. They are used to competing on a high level and showed a very strong performance in the CHL last year against very skilled teams."

Orli Znojmo: "I know Orli Znojmo from the EBEL as a hardworking team with talented players. We will have to show our best hockey early in the season to make the next round."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



DJURGÅRDEN STOCKHOLM



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1891

Glory times:

National titles: 16 – 1926, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1983, 1989, 1990, 1991, 2000, 2001

European Cup titles: 2 – 1991, 1992

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 3rd in Group D

2015-16: 2nd in Group B, Round of 16

ARENA INFO

Name: Hovet

Address: Globentorget 2, 121 77 Johanneshov, Sweden

Capacity: 8,094

Year opened: 1955 (roof added 1962)

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.difhockey.se



facebook.com/Djurgarden



[@difhockeyse](https://twitter.com/difhockeyse)



[@difhockeyse](https://www.instagram.com/difhockeyse)



[difhockeyse](https://www.youtube.com/difhockeyse)



[difhockeyse](https://www.difhockey.se)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Kaarel Lehiste

CEO: Jenny Silfverstrand

General Manager: Joakim Eriksson

Sport Director: K-G Stoppel

Head Coach: Robert Ohlsson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jimmy Peterson

E-Mail: jimmy.peterson@difhockey.se

Phone number: +46 76 882 94 82

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-mail to akkreditering@difhockey.se before 15:00 the day before the game

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Matt Anderson: In his first season in Sweden, Anderson was an offensive threat for Djurgården with his excellent puck-handling and scoring ability.

Markus Ljungh: You probably won't notice him on the ice but Markus Ljungh is a skilled centre that gets his name on the scoresheet most nights. He is smart player who makes his linemates reach their potential.

Mikael Tellqvist: This veteran goalkeeper won the Swedish championship with Djurgården in 2000 and 2001. He is still a top performer who likes to play in the big games. Tellqvist has nerves of steel.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Calle Ridderwall is back in Stockholm after time in North American leagues on almost all levels, from high school hockey to the AHL. His last team was Sibir Novosibirsk in the KHL. Now he makes his debut for his home town team Djurgården.

Emil Johansson is a talented defenceman who made a run with the national team in the end of last season. He is a poised player who also likes to contribute in the defensive zone. He played well with HV71 of the SHL last season and is now aiming for his real breakthrough in the league.

Jeff Tambellini won the Swedish championship with Växjö in 2015. Last season he moved back to North America where he became the third best goal-scorer in the AHL. He is now in Djurgården, ready to challenge the top goal-scorers of the league.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Mats Sundin, Patric Hörnqvist, Marcus Krüger, Thomas Eriksson, Sven Tumba, Lasse Björn.

OTHER

Järnkaninen – The Iron Rabbit – is the official mascot of the team. The name derives from Järnkaminerna – The Iron Stoves – which has been the team's nickname since the '50s and '60s when Djurgården were famous for their relentless attitude on the ice.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Robert Ohlsson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"First of all, it is always fun and educational to meet teams from other countries and leagues. As we have many new players, step one is to get them into the team's playing philosophy and advance to the playoff rounds. Step 2, we will talk about once we are there."

Ohlsson comments about the other teams in the group:

Rouen Dragons: "Rouen are champions who are used to winning a lot. The team contains skilled French players but also many Canadian players, which makes Rouen skilled and strong at both ends of the ice."

HC Davos: "Davos are always a good team and they advanced to the Semi-Finals in the CHL last season. The team has an experienced coach and many skilled players that we need to respect and watch out for."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare



FÄRJESTAD KARLSTAD



SWEDEN

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1932

Glory times:

National titles: 9 – 1981, 1986, 1988, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2011

Nordic Trophy titles: 1 – 2006

Spengler Cup titles: 2 – 1993, 1994

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 3rd in Group B

2015-16: 2nd in Group E, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Löfbergs Arena

Address: Norra Infarten 79, 654 65, Karlstad, Sweden

Capacity: 8,500

Year opened: 2001

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.farjestadbk.se



facebook.com/farjestadbk



twitter.com/farjestad_bk



instagram.com/farjestad_bk



youtube.com/user/studioFBK

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Sture Emanuelsson

CEO: Stefan Larsson

General Manager: Håkan Loob

Sport Director: Håkan Loob

Head Coach: Leif Carlsson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Stefan Eriksson

E-Mail: stefan.eriksson@farjestadsbk.se

Phone number: +46 73 522 28 94

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Send application to Stefan Eriksson (media contact)

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Magnus Nygren: The team captain who also is a modern cult player in Färjestad. He was born in Karlstad and has a huge star status among the fans.

Milan Gulaš: Going in to his fourth season with the club, Milan is a loved character in the dressing room and among fans. A highly skilled professional who is an offensive threat every time he is on the ice.

Johan Ryno: A highly talented player who last season was decimated by injuries. We have high hopes in him as he looks sharper than ever in pre-season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Alexander Johansson, Mikael Wikstrand (almost a new player due to contract conflicts with Ottawa last season; played just a handful of games).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Håkan Loob, Tommy Samuelsson, Thomas Rundqvist, Mathias Johansson, Jörgen Jönsson (all retired numbers).

OTHER

Our former champion Radek Hamr has also played and won a domestic championship with Sparta Prague.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Leif Carlsson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We want to compete and measure ourselves with the top teams in Europe. As always, we want to go as far as possible."

Coach Leif Carlsson comments about the other teams in the group:

Sparta Prague: "A classic Czech hockey club which has produced a lot of good players throughout the years. Always well organized and will be a good match for us."

Comarch Cracovia: "We are looking forward to seeing how Polish hockey has developed. As a team, we do not know too much about Cracovia but it will be a good experience to go there and play. We take nothing for granted."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Straff

Referee = Domare



FRÖLUNDA GOTHENBURG



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1944
 Glory times:
 National titles: 4 – 1965, 2003, 2005, 2016
 CHL titles: 1 – 2016
 CHL runners-up: 1 – 2015
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 2014-15: 1st in Group C, Final
 2015-16: 1st in Group N, CHAMPIONS

ARENA INFO

Name: Frölundaborg
 Address: Mikael Ljungbergs väg 11, Göteborg, Sweden
 Capacity: 6,044
 Year opened: 1969

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.frolundaindians.com
-  facebook.com/frolundahc
-  [@frolunda_hc](https://twitter.com/frolunda_hc)
-  [@frolunda_hc](https://www.instagram.com/frolunda_hc)
-  www.youtube.com/channel/UC6DO-PzFa6qBujO-h6_uRoQ

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Mats Grauers
 CEO: Christian Lechtaler
 General Manager: Christian Lechtaler
 Sport Director: Fredrik Sjöström
 Head Coach: Roger Rönnberg

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Peter Pettersson Kymmer
 E-Mail: peter.kymmer@frolundaindians.com
 Phone number: +46 705 89 40 32

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-Mail to: peter.kymmer@frolundaindians.com

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Joel Lundqvist: The team captain and one of the most prominent players in the club's history, he went through Frölunda's development program and debuted 2000 with the first team as an 18-year-old. Three Swedish championships (2003, 2005, 2016), a two-time World champion (2006, 2013) and three seasons with the NHL club Dallas Stars (2006-2009). Twin brother and world-class goalie Henrik Lundqvist plays for the New York Rangers.

Johan Sundström: A natural leader who eventually will be Frölunda's team captain, he has played for Frölunda from childhood and is the only player who has represented the club his entire career. A very skilled centre with good vision and work ethic. Three seasons in the New York Islanders organization and played for Team Sweden at the 2016 World championships. MVP of the the 2016 SHL playoffs.

Kristian Vesalainen: Played 37 games for Frölunda last season as a 16-year-old. A tall (190 cm) and huge (92 kg) forward with exceptional technical skills. Is expected to have a bright future and is a top prospect for the 2017 NHL Draft. Won two national championships with Frölunda last season (SHL and Under-18). A U18 World champion with Finland in 2016.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Dan Bakala (G, IK Oskarshamn), Johannes Johannesen (D, Stavanger Oilers), Mattias Nörstebö (D, Brynäs Gävle), Oscar Englund (D, IK Oskarshamn), Jonathan Sigalet (D, Luleå Hockey), Carl Grundström (F, Modo Örnsköldsvik), Casey Wellman (F, Spartak Moscow), Erik Nyström (F, IK Pantern), Simon Hjalmarsson (F, CSKA Moscow), Victor Olofsson (F, Modo Örnsköldsvik).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Lars-Erik Lundwall, Jörgen Pettersson, Anders Broström, Patrik Carnbäck, Tomi Kallio, Niklas Andersson, Henrik Lundqvist, Daniel Alfredsson, Erik Karlsson, Joel Lundqvist.

OTHER

The Frölunda Indians have drawn the most spectators in the Swedish Hockey League (SHL) for several years and Gothenburg is well known for its great hockey interest. The club has changed its name two times: originally Västra Frölunda IF (1944), Västra Frölunda Hockey Club (1984) and Frölunda Hockey Club 1994. The first team has over the years been coached by respectable names such as Leif Boork, Lars Falk, Tommy Boustedt and Conny Evensson. The current coach Roger Rönnberg arrived in 2013 and is on a long term contract – it expires in 2019.

In 2016 the Frölunda Indians won the double: SHL and CHL.

STATEMENTS

Assistant Coach Pär Johansson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We take the CHL very seriously and always play to win. As reigning champions we are aware that we are the team to beat, but we will not let go of the Cup easily."

Johansson comments about the other teams in the group:

Grizzlys Wolfsburg: "A well-organized team with a lot of individually skilled players. A top team in the German league and we remember the difficulties we had against another top German team last season, Ingolstadt."

Dynamo Pardubice: "A different team compared with Wolfsburg. Czech teams are always well organized and tactical and we expect them to take advantage of our mistakes."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare



HV71 JÖNKÖPING



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1971

Glory times:

National titles: 4 – 1995, 2004, 2008, 2010

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 3rd in Group I

2015-16: 1st in Group C, Round of 16

ARENA INFO

Name: Kinnarps Arena

Address: Elmiavägen 18, 554 54 Jönköping, Sweden

Capacity: 7,000

Year opened: 2000

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.hv71.se



facebook.com/hv71



twitter.com/hv71



instagram.com/hv71



youtube.com/hv71

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Sten-Åke Karlsson

CEO: Agne Bengtsson

General Manager: Peter Ekelund

Sport Director: Johan Hult

Head Coach: Johan Lindbom

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Johan Freijd

E-Mail: johan@hv71.se

Phone number: +46 362 99 71 15

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Contact Johan Freijd (johan@hv71.se)

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Martin Thörnberg: He is a hardworking winger who possesses a good shot. He started his hockey career in HV71 and has played 10 years and won three championships with the club.

Pär Arlbrandt: A goal-scoring winger with great playmaking ability. Started his hockey career in HV71 but has been away from the club in almost 13 seasons.

Fredrik Pettersson-Wentzel: A skilled goalie with good technique. This will be his second season in the club and was voted as the best player by the fans last season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Christoffer Persson (D, Frölunda), Andreas Borgman (D, VIK Västerås), Linus Söderström (G, Djurgården), Jacob Cederholm (D, HV71 U20), Lias Andersson (HV71 U20).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Retired numbers: #1 Stefan Liv, #7 Per Gustafsson, #14 Fredrik Stillman, #15 Stefan Örnskog, #76 Johan Davidsson.

OTHER

This is the third straight season that we play in the same group as Red Bull Salzburg in the CHL.

STATEMENTS

GM Peter Ekelund comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The CHL is one of our important milestones during the season and we always play to win."

Head Coach Johan Lindbom comments about the other teams in the group:

Red Bull Salzburg: "Red Bull Salzburg is a great hockey team that we have played several times."

Sheffield Steelers: "The Sheffield Steelers are a new opponent for us, but hockey in Great Britain is getting better and better every year so it will be tough for us."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = ishockey

Faceoff = tekning

Offside = offside

Puck = puck

Hockey stick = hockeyklubba

Goal = mål

Penalty = utvisning

Referee = domare



LINKÖPING HC



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1976

Glory times:

National runners-up: 2 – 2007, 2008

Nordic Trophy titles: 1 – 2008

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 1st in Group F, Quarter-Finals

2015-16: 1st in Group A, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Saab Arena

Address: Gumpekullavägen 1, 582 78 Linköping, Sweden

Capacity: 8,500

Year opened: 2004

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.lhc.eu

 facebook.com/lhcofficalpage

 twitter.com/lhchockey

 instagram.com/lhchockey

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Per Magnusson

CEO: Anders Mäki

General Manager: Fredrik Emvall

Head Coach: Dan Tangnes

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Peter "Biffen" Karlsson

E-mail: peter.karlsson@lhc.eu

Phone number: +46 709 29 69 34

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Contact Peter "Biffen" Karlsson
(peter.karlsson@lhc.eu)

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Andrew Gordon: Had a great first season in Linköping last year. Right at his arrival to the club he contributed with hard work, a big physical presence and goal scoring. Can shoot from both sides of the offensive zone and has a huge slap shot. Andrew is one of those guys who always comes to the rink with a smile on his face and that gives his best for the team everyday.

Gustav Forsling: A local guy that started his career in Linköping's youth development program. An offensive defenceman with great vision for the game and a huge offensive capacity. Showed the world what he can do during the 2015 World Junior Championship, where made the tournament's All-Star Team. Drafted by the Vancouver Canucks in 2014 but is now a Chicago Blackhawks prospect after a trade in 2015.

Broc Little: A small, speedy winger with a great offensive mind. Has played four seasons in Sweden during his professional career and has always been one of the top scoring players. Last season he scored 21 goals in 52 games – the second-highest total on the team. At the end of last season he extended his contract for another two years with Linköping.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Kristian Näkyvä, Niclas Lundgren, Mathis Olimb, Niclas Bergfors.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Mike Helber, Stefan Jacobsson, Mats Andersson, Fredrik Emyvall, Magnus Johansson.

OTHER

Linköping HC have their own mascot named Sture! He's a very kind lion but he knows when to get in the fighting spirit. He always appears on the ice just before the home team and gets the crowd pumped up.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Dan Tangnes comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our goal with the Champions Hockey League is to win the tournament."

Tangnes comments about the other teams in the group:

JYP: "JYP is a great team from Finland and as we know the Finnish teams always have great results in the CHL."

Gap: "We don't know so much about the team, but it will be exciting to play them and get to know a little bit more about French ice hockey"

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

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Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare



LULEÅ HOCKEY



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1977
 Glory Times
 National titles: 1 - 1996
 Champions Hockey League titles: 1 - 2015
 European Trophy titles: 1 - 2012
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 2014-15: 2nd in Group K, CHAMPIONS
 2015-16: 1st in Group K, Quarter-Finals

ARENA INFO

Name: Coop Norrbotten Arena
 Address: Gammelstadsvägen 29, 973 34 Luleå, Sweden
 Capacity: 6,300
 Year opened: 1970

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.luleahockey.se
-  facebook.com/LuleaHockey
-  [@LuleaHockey](https://twitter.com/LuleaHockey)
-  [@LuleaHockey](https://instagram.com/LuleaHockey)
-  [LuleaHockey](https://www.google.com/maps/place/LuleaHockey)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Anders Olofsson
 CEO: Stefan Enbom
 General Manager: Lars Bergström
 Head Coach: Stefan Nilsson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Robert Hedlund
 E-Mail: robert.hedlund@luleahockey.se
 Phone number: +46 73 501 25 15

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-mail to robert.hedlund@luleahockey.se with your information – preferably at the latest the day before the game.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Joel Lassinantti, GK: Local-born netminder who has been solid in both the CHL and SHL – voted SHL Goalie of the Year in 2014-15 where he finished the season with a GAA of 1.88, and followed this up with 1.95 the following year. A CHL winner in 2015, he was also part of the national team at the 2016 World Championships.

Jan Sandström, D: Has played the most games in the team's history (total 996 games in SHL and Swedish Championship), and is now out to set a new SHL record for the most games played in the entire league. Will, according to fans score 100,000 goals! Part of the CHL Championship side in 2015, and European Trophy winning team in 2012.

Johan Harju, C/F: Team captain with a quick and heavy shot, he is a true sniper with experience from both the NHL and KHL. Had the second most points on the team last season in the Champions Hockey League with 9 in 10 games, and has two medals from the World Championships.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Julius Junttila (Kärpät), Andreas Falk (Kölner Haie), Gustav Rydahl (Växjö), Viktor Amnér (Leksands), Petter Emanuelsson (San Jose Barracuda), Daine Todd, Tim Kennedy (both Jokerit), Kael Mouillierat (WBS Penguins).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jarmo Myllys – best goalie ever to have played in the SHL, scored twice.

Stefan Nilsson – a genius passer that is now the head coach.

OTHER

- Has had the best intro in Sweden since 1994 when the Bear head was introduced.
- Swedish champion women's team 2016

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Stefan Nilsson on team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We pride ourselves on our European success – winning twice and ending third twice in our five seasons within European club competition. Our goal is first of all to do a good group stage and then advance all the way to a new CHL final."

Nilsson comments about the other teams in the group:

Eisbären Berlin: "We have played Eisbären Berlin before and know that they will be a tough opponent for us. We wish to show that the Swedish bear is stronger than the German bear."

SaiPa: "SaiPa is a good team from Finland that has performed well in their league. It is always fun to play the Finnish teams as there tends to be really exciting games."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

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Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare



SKELLEFTEÅ AIK



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1921 (club), 1943 (hockey team)

Glory times:

National titles: 3 – 1978, 2013, 2014

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 1st in Group J, Semi-Finals

2015-16: 1st in Group D, Quarter-Finals

ARENA INFO

Name: Skellefteå Kraft Arena

Address: Mosskatan 27, 931 85 Skellefteå, Sweden

Capacity: 5,801

Year opened: 1966; re-opened after renovation: 2008.

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.skellefteaaiik.se

 facebook.com/skellefteaaiikhockey

 [@skelleftea_aik](https://twitter.com/skelleftea_aik)

 [@skellefteaaiik](https://www.instagram.com/skellefteaaiik)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Pär Nordlund

CEO: Pea Israelsson

Sport Director: Mikael Lindgren

Coaches: Bert Robertsson, Fredrik Öberg, Stefan Klockare

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Anna Hägglund

E-Mail: anna.hagglund@skellefteaaiik.se

Phone number: +46 70 239 77 55

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Send an e-mail before 10 am on game day (Monday-Friday) or before 3 pm the day before game day (weekends).

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Joakim Lindström has returned to the club after two seasons abroad (NHL and KHL). He is highly skilled with the puck, a winner and team player. During his last and fourth season in Skellefteå AIK he produced 63 points (23 goals, 40 assists) in 55 games.

Jimmie Ericsson: The team captain will now play his 13th season for the club. A skillful and hard working two-way player, important for his team. He played the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, being the only Swedish player from the SHL.

Niclas Burström: A big defenceman despite his small appearance (178 cm/76 kg). He plays with great intelligence, is very mobile and has a good eye for the game. For this he won the award for best defenceman in the SHL last season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Emil Pettersson, Emil Djuse (both MODO Örnsköldsvik), Gustaf Lindvall (AIK Stockholm), Henrik Hetta (Malmö Redhawks), Lindström (SKA St Petersburg), Oscar Möller (Ak Bars Kazan), Jesper Olofsson (Karlskrona), Filip Berglund (junior team), Johan Alm (Milwaukee Admirals).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Pär Mikaelsson, Roland Stoltz, Hardy Nilsson, Hasse Svedberg, Eilert "Garvis" Määttä, Anders "Acka" Andersson, Hasse Svedberg, Göran Lindblom, Göran "Klimpen" Häggroth, Göte Almqvist, Jan "X-et" Erixon.

OTHER

Each year when Skellefteå AIK have their **first practice on ice**, the arena is crowded with fans. The supporters are also able to get an autograph or skate with the players before the practice. In 2015, 5900 people came to the arena.

The club has been focusing hard on its **young talent** and can each year give senior contracts to a few of their own juniors. Gustaf Lindvall, Sebastian Aho, Filip Berglund, Niclas Burström, Marcus Pettersson, Axel Holmström, Anton Öhman, Pär Lindholm, Joakim Lindström, Sebastian Ohlsson, Adam Pettersson and Andreas Wingerli have all played junior hockey for Skellefteå AIK.

Skellefteå AIK have trained many skilled players in recent years that have been given **NHL contracts**. Examples include Adam Larsson, Melker Karlsson, Oscar Lindberg and Oskar Sundqvist.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Fredrik Öberg comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are proud to be a part of the CHL for a third season in a row and have great expectations for this season. Our goal is to always perform at our best and be the winners of this year's CHL. We are in this to win."

Öberg comments about the other teams in the group:

Vienna Capitals: "Vienna is a relatively new hockey club that Tommy Samuelsson used to coach a few years back. They now have a new coach, Serge Aubin, a well merited NHL player. It will be exciting to play against an Austrian team, which is new to us. Last year they reached the quarter-finals in their domestic playoffs."

KalPa Kuopio: "We have played against other Finnish teams in the CHL, and they all stand for high quality hockey, KalPa being no exception. They have been in the playoffs in six out of the seven last seasons. I am sure they will come out strong."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

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Puck = puck

Hockey stick = hockeyklubba

Goal = mål

Penalty = utvisning

Referee = domare



VÄXJÖ LAKERS



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1997

Glory Times:

National titles: 1 - 2015

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances

2014-15: 2nd in Group G

2015-16: 1st in Group O, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Vida Arena

Address: Storgatan 86, 352 46 Växjö, Sweden

Capacity: 5,750

Year opened: 2011

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.vaxjolakers.se



facebook.com/vaxjolakers



[@vaxjolakers](https://twitter.com/vaxjolakers)



[@vaxjolakers](https://www.instagram.com/vaxjolakers)



[youtube.com/channel/
UCgCHR79injuMuuGpsJfB6Cw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCgCHR79injuMuuGpsJfB6Cw)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Michael Marchal

CEO: Stefan Hörberg

General Manager: Henrik Evertsson

Sport Director: Henrik Evertsson

Head Coach: Sam Hallam

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Carolina Toresson

E-Mail: carolina.toresson@vaxjolakers.se

Phone number: +46 470-32 97 03

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-Mail to press@vaxjolakers.se the latest by the last working day before game day.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Robert Rosén: Robert Rosén is now heading into his 10th season at the club. Since his return to the club he has played five successful seasons and he is one of the offensive leaders on the team. The 29-year old playmaker is a fan favourite with great hockey sense, good hands and an ability to find his teammates all over the ice. The center is key on Växjö's powerplay. Rosén has also found success on Sweden's national team. He played in the World Championships 2016, where he scored 4 points in 8 games.

Geoff Platt: Geoff Platt is a new addition to the team. He comes from nine straight seasons in the KHL, where he produced 245 points in 382 games. The 31-year old is an offensive minded forward with a good scoring touch. He can set up plays as well as finish himself. Although he is not very big he still likes the rougher parts of the game. Platt has played two World Championships for Belarus, delivering 10 points in 15 games and also has 46 NHL games under his belt.

Olli Palola: Olli Palola is another new player on the team. The 28-year old played last season in the KHL and before that in the SM-liiga. The Finnish forward is a good goal scorer. He won the Aarne Honkavaara Trophy for most goals in the SM-liiga two times straight in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons, scoring 27 and 29 goals respectively. In 2014 he won a silver medal with Finland at the World Championships.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Joachim Eriksson, Olli Palola, Geoff Platt, Dennis Everberg, Philip Holm, Oliver Bohm, Adam Brodecki, Pontus Netterberg, Sam Marklund, Arvid Lundberg.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Johan Markusson, Jeremias Augustin, Shjon Podein, Ilkka Heikkinen.

OTHER

The team's mascot is a lion called Lacke. He can be seen during games in Vida Arena.

STATEMENTS

General Manager Henrik Evertsson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our first goal is to make the playoffs in the CHL, and from there of course we want to go on and win the competition!"

Evertsson comments about the other teams in the group

BK Mladá Boleslav: "Boleslav reached the semi-finals in the Czech league last season. Teams from the Czech Republic are always very well structured so it will be an interesting matchup."

Yunost Minsk: "Minsk has ambitions to become the second team from Belarus in the KHL down the line and they are some what the project of the entire nation."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare



EV ZUG

 SWITZERLAND

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1967

Glory times:

National titles: 1 – 1998

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 2nd in Group H

2015-16: 3rd in Group B

ARENA INFO

Name: BOSSARD Arena

Address: General-Guisan-Strasse 4, 6303 Zug, Switzerland

Capacity: 7,015

Year opened: 2010

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.evz.ch

 facebook.com/EVZ-76183810176

 twitter.com/Eissportverein

 instagram.com/eissportverein_zug

 youtube.com/channel/UCAia28ikXDn5Rwd2eJMQTHg

Other: EVZ App (Google play, App Store)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Hans-Peter Strebel

CEO: Patrick Lengwiler

General Manager: Reto Kläy

Sport Director: Reto Kläy

Head Coach: Harold Kreis

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Marisa Hürlimann

E-Mail: m.huerlimann@evz.ch

Phone number: +41 41 725 31 91

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Requests for accreditation for EV Zug home games are to be submitted either via the accreditation form or using the online form on our website. All information, the accreditation and online form can be found on www.evz.ch/en/about-us/media/.

Please note that the deadline for such applications is at 12:00 on the day prior to the match and for weekend games at 12:00 on the Friday before. Late applications for accreditation or requests by telephone cannot be accepted.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Raphael Diaz made it into the first team of EVZ in 2003 at the age of 17 and wore the EVZ uniform until the end of the 2010-11 season. In 2011 he left Switzerland to play in the NHL. He has made 214 appearances in the NHL for the Montreal Canadiens, Vancouver Canucks, New York Rangers and Calgary Flames and recorded 50 points. The Zug-native NHL defender has now returned home and has signed a five-year contract with EVZ as from the 2016-17 season.

Tobias Stephan: For years, Stephan has been one of the best and most constant of all Swiss goalkeepers. The 31-year-old from Zurich started his NLA career in Kloten in 2000. He moved to the USA in 2006, where until his return in 2008 he played 11 games for the Dallas Stars in the NHL and 92 games for the Iowa Stars and the Bridgeport Sound Tigers in the AHL.

Jarkko Immonen: The 34-year-old forward comes with the track record of an extraordinary athlete: a Finnish champion with JYP Jyväskylä (2009), a Russian champion with Ak Bars Kazan (2010), a regular player for the Finnish national team since 2009, with which he was a World Champion in 2011, silver-medalist in 2014 and bronze-medallist in 2014. For six seasons, Immonen played in the KHL, recording 249 points in 396 games for Kazan (2009-2013) and Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod (2013-2015). The physically strong playmaker is a two-way centre who works hard in all three zones and plays at a high level.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Raphael Diaz (SUI, defence), David McIntyre (CAN, forward), Timo Helbling (SUI, defence).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Philipp Neuenschwander: 15 Seasons at EVZ, top scorer in 1983. The dangerous winger scored 222 goals for EVZ in 546 games. The former EVZ junior spent two years at HC Davos (1986-88) and got into the Swiss team for which he played 51 international games. Between 2001 and 2004 the long-time captain was sports manager for EVZ.

Patrick Fischer: 11 Seasons at EVZ, two-time top scorer. The international player (181 games) was an EVZ junior and became champion with Lugano (1999) and Davos (2002) but is still an EVZ legend. He came back to EVZ at the same time as Sean Simpson (from Hamburg) in 2003,

twice led the team in scoring and was the first EVZ player to make it into the NHL (Phoenix Coyotes, 2006) and the KHL (SKA St. Petersburg, 2007). Currently he is the head coach of the Swiss national team.

André Künzi: 7 Seasons at EVZ (1992-1999), Swiss champion with EVZ in 1998. After winning three championships with SC Bern (1989, 1991, 1992), Künzi transferred to Zug in 1992, where he won his third title with EVZ six years later. As opposed to his cousin, André, his role on the EVZ defence was more physical. His hard checks were feared by opponents. He transferred to Ambri in 1999 and ended his NLA career in Langnau in 2004.

OTHER

The Hockey Academy – Education Concept:

The Hockey Academy is a new education concept in Switzerland, which gives players an ideal combination of sport, education and profession and can be compared to an apprenticeship in business customized to a sportsman's requirements. The focus lies in the best training in sport with top trainers and mentors, a perfect training structure, optimal round-the-clock care as well as a solid basic education for a future profession. Alongside sporting, professional and educational skills, social skills are also to be encouraged, in order to give athletes the best possible basis for their future. Depending on their age and performance standard, The Hockey Academy athletes – as with all EVZ junior players – will have the chance to play either with the Novice Elites, the Elite Juniors A, EVZ Academy (NLB) or in the 1st team.

Further information to the training concept and the athletes can be found here - www.thehockeyacademy.ch/startseite/.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Harold Kreis comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"This season we would like to qualify for the next round and stay in the race for the Cup."

Kreis comments about the other teams in the group:

IFK Helsinki: "Obviously a very good team as runner-up to the champion in the Finnish league. Helsinki is a team that plays a more aggressive game in moving the puck forward and perhaps not as 'structured' as most other teams in the Finnish league. Certainly a team that is not that predictable."

Esbjerg Energy: "As Danish champions they will be more than motivated to make their mark in the CHL. They are structured and a very hardworking team with excellent home fan support."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeystick

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



FRIBOURG-GOTTÉRON

 SWITZERLAND

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1937-38

Glory Times:

National runners-up: 5 - 1983, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2013

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances

2014-15: 1st in Group D, Round of 16

2015-16: 3rd in Group K

ARENA INFO

Name: BCF-Arena

Address: St-Leonard 5, CP 551, Fribourg 1701, Switzerland

Capacity: 6,500

Year opened: 1982

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.fribourg-gotteron.ch

 facebook.com/FrGotteron

 twitter.com/FrGotteron

 youtube.com/channel/UCVexT4Br1kt1ALKlyBJEn3w

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Michel Volet

CEO: Raphaël Berger

General Manager: Christian Dubé

Head Coach: Gerd Zenhäusern

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Stéphane Decorvet

E-Mail: stephane.decorvet@fribourg-gotteron.ch

Phone number: +41 79 746 61 69

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please e-mail Pierre Reynaud (pierre.reynaud@bluewin.ch) until latest 12:00 on the day before a game, or by 12:00 on Friday for weekend games.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Julien Sprunger: A local guy and captain of the team, Julien Sprunger is a true leader. Apart from short-term loans, Sprunger never really left Fribourg-Gottéron and became the team's captain prior to last season. The 194cm tall winger has impressive goal-scoring skills – he netted 25 goals during the last season and it wasn't even his best! Five times in his career he has scored 40 or more points in the regular league season. In 2007-2008, he was named the league's MVP and was the best goal-scorer in the 2011-2012 season.

Roman Cervenka: Czech forward Roman Cervenka is one of the newest additions to the team and comes with a reputation as a skillful and experienced player. After a breakthrough in the 2009-2010 season, during which he scored an unbelievable 73 points in 50 games of the regular season in the Czech Extraliga, he moved on to the KHL where he again impressed, this time with Omsk. After a short spell with the Calgary Flames, during the lockout season he joined SKA St. Petersburg and won the Gagarin Trophy in 2015. Being a crucial part of the Czech national team, Cervenka returned to the Czech Extraliga last season to end up as the best scoring player for the 2nd time.

Yannick Rathgeb: Yannick Rathgeb is still only 20 years old but already made a name for himself even outside of the Swiss NLA. The offensive-minded defenseman scored breathtaking 27 (9+18) points in 50 games with Fribourg-Gottéron last season, which was his first after coming back from OHL team Plymouth Whalers. Rathgeb has been part of the Swiss national teams since U16 level, having captained the U20 team at the 2014-2015 U20 Worlds, and collected his first 6 caps for the senior national team already.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Roman Cervenka, Dennis Saikkonen, Mattias Ritola, Benjamin Chavaillaz, Lorenz Kienzle, Larri Leeger, Ralph Stalder, Anton Gustafsson.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Christian Hofstetter, Mario Rottaris, Philippe Marquis, Gil Montandon, Vyacheslav Bykov, Andrei Khomutov.

OTHER

Fribourg-Gottéron has been playing in Switzerland's top league, the NLA, continuously since March 1980.

The legend says that, once upon a time, a dragon raged in the Gotteron valley close to the city of Fribourg. That's where the dragon in the club logo comes from. Before every game the players skate out of the throat of a huge dragon. The sculpture was designed 1998 by the artist Hubert Audriaz.

STATEMENTS

General Manager Christian Dubé comments about the other teams in the group

"I think it is a good group – hopefully for us. We have the champion of Germany and the finalist of the EBEL-league in Austria, so it will be two good teams to play against. But if we play our game we have a good chance of getting to the next round."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Hockey sur Glace/Eishockey

Faceoff = Mise en jeu/Bully

Offside = Hors-jeu/Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Canne de Hockey/Eishockeystock

Goal = But/Tor

Penalty = Pénalité/Strafe

Referee = Arbitre/Schiedsrichter



HC DAVOS

 SWITZERLAND

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1921

Glory times:

National titles: 31 – 1926, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1950, 1958, 1960, 1984, 1985, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015.

Spengler Cup titles: 15 – 1927, 1933, 1936, 1938, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1951, 1957, 1958, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2011.

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2015-16: 1st in Group E, Semi-Finals

ARENA INFO

Name: Vaillant Arena

Address: Talstrasse 41, 7270 Davos Platz, Switzerland

Capacity: 6,800

Year opened: 1979

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.hcd.ch

 facebook.com/hockeyclubdavos

 twitter.com/Hockeysince1921

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Gaudenz F. Domenig

CEO: Bill B. Mistura

Head Coach: Arno Del Curto

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Markus Glarner

E-Mail: m.glarner@hcd.ch

Phone number: +41 81 410 04 63

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-Mail to mediaservice@hcd.ch

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Andres Ambühl, Félicien Du Bois,
Perttu Lindgren

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Joren van Pottelberghe, Daniel Rahimi, Robert
Kousal.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Ron Wilson, Jaques Soguel, Reto von Arx, Jan von
Arx.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Arno Del Curto comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The games, travel and experiences in the CHL will make us a better team and certainly develop our hockey."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafzeit

Referee = Schiedsrichter



HC LUGANO

 SWITZERLAND

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1941

Glory times:

National titles: 7 – 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1999, 2003, 2006.

Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: Resega

Address: Via Chiosso 9, 6948 Porza, Switzerland

Capacity: 7,800

Year opened: 1995

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Vicky Mantegazza

CEO: Jean-Jacques Aeschlimann

General Manager: Roland Habisreutinger

Head Coach: Doug Shedden

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Luca Righetti

E-Mail: luca.righetti@hclugano.ch

Phone number: +41 79 337 56 47

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-mail to: luca.righetti@hclugano.ch

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.hclugano.ch

 [Hockey Club Lugano Official](#)

 [@OfficialHCL](#)

 [@hclugano_official](#)

 [Hockey Club Lugano Official Channel](#)

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Tony Martensson: 36-year-old centre from Sweden, a two-time KHL Gagarin Cup champion with SKA St Petersburg and World Championship gold-medalist in 2006.

Linus Klasen: 30-year-old winger from Sweden, a World Championship bronze-medalist in 2014.

Damien Brunner: 30-year-old winger from Switzerland, a former NHL player with the Detroit Red Wings and New Jersey Devils.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Daniel Sondell, Patrik Zackrisson (both Swedish), Dario Bürgler (Swiss), Ryan Gardner (Canadian-Swiss).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Alfio Molina, Sandro Bertaggia, Pat Schafhauser, Petteri Nummelin, Flavien Conne, Andi Näser, Jörg Eberle, Jean-Jacques Aeschlimann.

OTHER

Mascot: Giazzy.

Famous Fans: Leo Leoni (Gotthard), Valon Behrami (Swiss National Team football player), Mattia Bottani (Swiss Super League football player)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Doug Shedden comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our goal will be to try to win the CHL. We will do everything to give players a chance to play, but we will play to win. We lost two finals last season so we need to experience the ultimate goal of winning."

Shedden comments about the other teams in the group:

Tappara Tampere: "Tappara have always been a top team in Finland, well coached and with strong discipline."

Adler Mannheim: "They will be coached by Sean Simpson. Mannheim have always been a winning organization and they prid themselves in winning the DEL. After a poor season last year, they will be much better, so we have a though draw, but for me that's good".

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = hockey su ghiaccio

Faceoff = ingaggio

Offside = fuorigioco

Puck = disco

Hockey stick = bastone

Goal = rete

Penalty = rigore

Referee = arbitro



SC BERN

 SWITZERLAND

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1931

Glory times:

National titles: 14 – 1959, 1965, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1997, 2004, 2010, 2013, 2016

Swiss Cup titles: 1965, 2015

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 4th in Group E

2015-16: 3rd in Group A

ARENA INFO

Name: PostFinance-Arena

Address: Mingerstrasse 12B, 3014 Bern, Switzerland

Capacity: 17,031

Year opened: 1967

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.scb.ch



facebook.com/SCBern



twitter.com/scbern_news



instagram.com/scb_official



youtube.com/SCBernChannel

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Walter Born

CEO: Marc Lüthi

COO: Rolf Bachmann

General Manager: Alex Chatelain

Head Coach: Kari Jalonen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Christian Dick

E-Mail: christian.dick@scb.ch

Phone number: +41 79 607 25 50

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation by e-mail to christian.dick@scb.ch until the day before the game, latest at 11.00 a.m.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Eric Blum is a highly valuable player on the team. The quick defender with Japanese roots came in 2014 from Kloten to Bern. He integrated very fast into the team and became one of the big leaders, defensively as well as offensively. With his creativity he plays also an important role on the power play. His strong value was also seen in the regular season last winter, when the team was without him for 10 weeks due to injury. Blum is also a core player on the Swiss national team.

Cory Conacher came in the summer of 2015 to SCB. In his first season in the NLA he fulfilled all expectations. With his enormous speed and scoring ability, Conacher was one of the top players in the league. In 62 games with SCB he scored 61 points (27 goals, 34 assists) and was the top scorer on the championship team.

Martin Plüss, who started his career in Kloten, came in 2008 after four years in Frölunda (SWE) back to Switzerland and joined SC Bern. Plüss, who is now 39 years old, was captain of the championship teams of 2010, 2013 and 2016 and is a long-time leader on and off the ice. Plüss retired from the national team in 2015 after 236 games, in which he played 12 World Championships and four Winter Olympics.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Goaltender: Leonardo Genoni, defencemen: Jérémie Kamerzin, Maxim Noreau (CAN), forward: Mark Arcobello (USA).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Roland Dellsperger, Alan Haworth, Patrick Howald, René Kiener, Gaetano Orlando, Reijo Ruotsalainen, Ivo Rüthemann, Renato Tosio.

OTHER

Rostislav Cada, head coach of Košice, knows Swiss hockey very well. He was head and assistant coach in Ambri for several years. **Brett McLean**, centre of Linz, played from 2009 until 2011 with SCB and was one of the key players and a big leader in the championship team of 2009.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kari Jalonen comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are looking forward to playing in the Champions Hockey League, where we will meet teams from the top European leagues. They play different styles than we are used to in the NLA. This is a challenge and will improve our team. The goal is to advance from the group stage to the playoffs."

Jalonen comments about the other teams in the group:

"HC Košice and the Black Wings Linz are among the most traditional teams in their countries and they finished at the top of their leagues in the regular season last year, so we will face a good challenge right at the beginning of the season."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Faceoff/Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck/Scheibe

Hockey stick = Stock

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



ZSC LIONS ZÜRICH

 SWITZERLAND

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1930

Glory times:

National titles: 8 – 1936, 1949, 1961, 2000, 2001, 2008, 2012, 2014

Swiss Cup titles: 4 – 1960, 1961, 1966, 2016

CHL titles: 1 – 2009

Victoria Cup titles: 1 – 2009

Continental Cup titles: 2 – 2001, 2002

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2015-16: 1st in Group P, Round of 32

2014-15: 3rd in Group B

ARENA INFO

Name: Hallenstadion

Address: Wallisellenstrasse 45, 8050 Zürich, Switzerland

Capacity: 11,200

Year opened: 1939, renovated: 2005

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.zsclions.ch

 facebook.com/zsclions

 twitter.com/zsclions

 instagram.com/zsclions

 <http://tv.zsclions.ch>

CLUB STAFF

Chairman: Walter Frey

CEO: Peter Zahner

General Manager: Edgar Salis

Marketing/Comm Mgr: Roger Gemperle

Team Manager: André Reinhard

Head Coach: Hans Wallson

Assistant Coach: Lars Johansson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Roger Gemperle

E-Mail: roger.gemperle@zsclions.ch

Phone number: +41 44 317 20 84

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists can fill in the online form for accreditation for our home games. Direct link: www.zsclions.ch/club/medien/akkreditierungen.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Robert Nilsson: Has played for the ZSC Lions since 2003 and was the top scorer of the team last season.

Patrick Thoresen: New import from Norway, played for the Swedish team Djurgården Stockholm before.

Patrick Geering: The 26-year-old defenceman is entering his ninth season as a pro for Zurich.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Inti Pestoni, Patrick Thoresen, Mattias Sjögren, Samuel Guerra, Christian Marti.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Mathias Seger, Ari Sulander, Michel Zeiter, Claudio Micheli, Andri Stoffel, Martin Kout, Daniel Schnyder, Auston Matthews.

STATEMENTS

GM Edgar Salis comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"On the one hand we want to represent our club as well as possible; on the other hand we would like to compete more successfully than last season, when we made the Round of 32. All in all we want to stay as long as possible in the competition."

Salis comments about the other teams in the group:

ERC Ingolstadt: "A top team from Germany with great success in recent DEL seasons. We expect tight games."

Lukko Rauma: "Playing an important role in the Finnish league does mean something. To beat Rauma will be an excellent challenge for us."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Anspiel

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Scheibe

Hockey stick = Hockeystock

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



YUNOST MINSK



CLUB INFO

Founded: 2003

Glory times:

National titles: 7 – 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016

Belarus Cup titles: 5 – 2004, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2016

Continental Cup titles: 2 – 2007, 2011

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: Chizhovka-arena

Address: Minsk Tashkentskaya street 19, Belarus

Capacity: 8,807

Year opened: 2013

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.junost.org

 facebook.com/hcjunost

 twitter.com/HCJUNOST

 instagram.com/hc_junost_minsk

 youtube.com/channel/UCdeozfERKG2W_3O73r1cfkQ

VK: vk.com/hcjunost

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Alexei Prokopovich

General Manager:

Sport Director: Alexei Torbin

Head Coach: Mikhail Zakharov

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Liubov Kudelko

E-Mail: pr@junost.org

Phone number: +37 529 541 11 26 or +37 517 330 07 76

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Send contact details to pr@junost.org.

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Andrei Mikhnov is a tall man from Ukraine, one of the most successful forwards of the Belarusian Extraliga in recent years. In his first season with Yunost Minsk he became a national champion.

Alexander Tryanichev joined the team during the 2015-16 season. His best games were in the playoffs, which earned him the playoff MVP award. He is a reliable goalkeeper with excellent reaction.

Maxim Parfeyevets is a small and very fast winger. At the end of the regular season and in the playoffs he showed a bright and productive game, scoring a number of important goals.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Ivan Usenko, Kelmen Pretnar.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Mikhail Grabovski, Alexei Kalyuzhny, Andrei Rasolko, Sergei Shitkovsky, Ruslan Salei, Vladimir Kopat.

OTHER

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko congratulated Yunost Minsk after winning the championship at the end of the 2015-16 season.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Mikhail Zakharov comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"It is our first time competing in the CHL. In any case, we will try to do our best and gain valuable experience."

Zakharov comments about the other teams in the group:

Växjö Lakers: "The Swedish league is the strongest in Europe. The Växjö team has very experienced players who have played in the KHL. This is the one of strongest teams in the CHL."

BK Mladá Boleslav: "This team plays in a strong league, where the competition is high. That experience might be advantageous for the Czech team."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = hakey

Faceoff = ukidvanne

Offside = afsaid/stanovishcha pa-za gul'nej

Puck = shayba

Hockey stick = (kliushka)

Goal = gol

Penalty = vudalenne

Referee = referi/sudzya



ESBJERG ENERGY



CLUB INFO

Founded: 2013

Glory times:

National titles: 6 – 1969, 1988, 1993, 1996, 2004, 2016

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: Granly Hockey Arena

Address: Gl Vardevej 82, 6700 Esbjerg, Denmark

Capacity: 4,150

Year opened: 1974

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.esbjergenergy.dk

 facebook.com/EsbjergEnergy

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Christian Roelmer Christensen

CEO: Peder Krogsgaard

Head Coach: Mark Pederson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Christian R Christensen

E-Mail: info@esbjergenergy.dk

Phone number: +45 21 72 73 53

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-Mail to: info@esbjergenergy.dk

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Sune Hjulmand: 27 years old, played his whole life in Esbjerg. This will be his 12th season on the pro team.

Esben Nielsen: 30 years old. Another Esbjerg-born player. Esben made his debut in 2004 and has since played for some of the Copenhagen teams and 1 year in France.

Nicolaj Henriksen: 20 years old. Nicolaj has been a backup goalie for some time in Esbjerg. But with the progress he has shown in his game he will be the starting goalie for the team this season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Phillip Bruggisser, Kodie Curran, Tyler Fiddler, Jared Knight.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Retired numbers: #14 Oleg Starkov, #15 Søren Jensen, #16 Andreas Andreasen.

Danish Hall of Fame: Keld Bjerrum.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Mark Pederson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our first goal is to enjoy the experience of playing two top clubs from two top leagues. Getting a chance to travel is also part of it as we don't play outside of Denmark and don't even have overnight trips, so it will be great for the boys to get together on the road. Secondly is to do our best, work hard and to get better as a hockey club and as individuals."

Pederson comments about the other teams in the group:

EV Zug: "The Swiss league is very fast and skilled, so we wouldn't expect anything less from Zug. We have watched some game film from last year so we can take a little from that even though it is a new season."

IFK Helsinki: "We expect Helsinki to be fairly physical as well as a skilled team as a whole. Again we have watched some game film from last season to help us with our game plan. We will have to execute at a high level and keep things simple versus both these teams."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = ishockey

Faceoff = faceoff

Offside = offside

Puck = puck

Hockey stick = Ishockey stav

Goal = mål

Penalty = straffe

Referee = dommer



GAP RAPACES



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1937

Glory times:

National titles: 3 – 1977, 1978, 2015

French League Cup titles: 1 – 2016

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2015-16: 3rd in Group P

ARENA INFO

Name: Alp'Arena

Address: Rue de Narvik 05000 GAP, France

Capacity: 2,900

Year opened: 2012

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.lesrapacesdegap.fr

 [Les Rapaces de Gap](https://www.facebook.com/LesRapacesdeGap)

 [@lesrapacesdegap](https://twitter.com/lesrapacesdegap)

 [@rapacesgap05](https://www.instagram.com/apacesgap05)

 [youtube.com/user/RapacesdeGapOfficiel/featured](https://www.youtube.com/user/RapacesdeGapOfficiel/featured)

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jérôme Escallier

General Manager/Sport Director: Sébastien Oprandi

Head Coach: Luciano Basile

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Kevin Esmieu

E-Mail: communication@lesrapacesdegap.fr

Phone number: + 33 6 33 41 48 12

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists have to send an e-mail to: communication@lesrapacesdegap.fr

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Marc-André Bernier: Bernier is a powerful forward from Canada with a right-handed shot. He was our top scorer in the CHL last year with two goals and three assists in four games. In 2014-15 he also played in the CHL with the Briançon Diables Rouges, where he was captain. Marc-André was drafted in 2003 by the Vancouver Canucks (Round 2 #60 overall).

Clément Fouquierel: Clément is our No. 1 goalie. He won the French championship with us in 2015 but missed the CHL due to a shoulder injury (he only played few minutes in Berlin). He came back in February 2016, for the French League Cup Final, and was a big part of our success. Despite his young age (25), he has already played with the French national team.

Dave Labrecque: Dave is a Canadian forward, recognized among the best in France. In 2013-14 he won the Ligue Magnus with Briançon and had the most assists in the championship. Then he played in the CHL with Briançon the next season and had three points in six games. Last year with Grenoble he also appeared in the CHL, with five points in four games. After 92 regular-season games in France, he has an impressive point per game average of 1.38!

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Brett Ferguson (ECHL), Labrecque (Ligue Magnus), Jesse Craige (Asia League).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Roland Cloutier: Canadian forward, played in the NHL with the Detroit Red Wings and the Québec Nordiques before playing five seasons in Gap (161 games and 355 points).

Philippe Combe: French defenceman, holds the record for the most games played (391) but also is the player with the most points (384).

Jiří Rambousek: Czech forward, played eight years in Gap and helped the team get back to the Ligue Magnus in 2009. He played 260 games with the Rapaces and scored 187 goals and 188 assists.

Charles Libermann: "Charlot" is the club's legend. Born in 1945, he played his entire career with the Rapaces, but was also selected many times to the French national team. He is still involved in the club alongside young players.

OTHER

We have a famous fan, born in Gap: **Sébastien Ogier**. He is a rally driver for Volkswagen, with three World Championship titles (2013, 2014 and 2015), 34 rally wins, 436 stage wins and 50 podiums.

STATEMENTS

GM Sébastien Oprandi comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Playing in the Champions Hockey League is a way to gain experience at a strong level by comparing ourselves with the best teams in Europe. We will do our best to 'rock the boat' against the two logical favourite teams of the group. On an organizational level it is interesting to be able to interact with big European structures."

Oprandi comments about the other teams in the group:

JYP Jyväskylä: "Finnish hockey is one of the very best in Europe and it's gonna be very challenging to face a team with a playing philosophy based on movement and speed."

Linköping HC: "Swedish teams have won the first two editions and Linköping HC is a serious outsider. We are excited to play against this team, full of key players."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Hockey sur glace

Faceoff = Engagement

Offside = Hors-jeu

Puck = Palet

Hockey stick = Crosse de Hockey

Goal = Gardien

Penalty = Pénalité

Referee = Arbitre



ROUEN DRAGONS



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1982

Glory times:

National titles: 14 – 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016

National Cup titles: 6 – 2002, 2004, 2005, 2011, 2015, 2016

League Cup titles: 4 – 2008, 2010, 2013, 2014

Continental Cup titles: 2 – 2012, 2016

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: L'île Lacroix

Address: Centre Sportif Guy Boissière, Avenue Jacques-Chastellain 76 100, Rouen, France

Capacity: 2,747

Year opened: 1992

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.rhe76.com

 [Rouen Hockey Elite 76 \(RHE\)](#)

 [@DragonsdeRouen](#)

Dailymotion: [DragonsdeRouen;](#)
www.dailymotion.com/DragonsdeRouen

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Thierry Chaix

General Manager: Guy Fournier

Head Coach: Fabrice Lhenry

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Thibault Lalouette

E-Mail: tlalouette@kamelecom.fr

Phone number: +33 6 31 70 79 96

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Dany Sabourin: Arriving in 2015 from the Graz 99ers of the EBEL, he is probably the most experienced player of the Dragons. He played in the NHL for the Pittsburgh Penguins, Vancouver Canucks, Boston Bruins and Washington Capitals. This is a keeper that is always present in big moments, and the Dragons will be counting on him in the CHL.

Sacha Treille: He arrived in Rouen in 2015 from the Straubing Tigers. He's a strong winger who skates well and is hard to handle when he picks up speed. He works hard and is very ambitious. He plays with the French national team and played this year at the World Championship in Russia along with older brother Yorick Treille and four other Dragons players.

Marc André Thinel: He joined the team for the 2005-06 season. With the Dragons, he knows the dedication it takes to win, and has won all possible titles in France: the Magnus Cup, League Cup, French Cup and the Game of Champions. He also won the Continental Cup in 2012 and 2016 and has twice been the scoring champion in the Ligue Magnus. He is currently ranked fifth in all-time points for the club.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Patrick Koudys (D, ECHL, CAN), Joris Bedin (F, Chamonix, FRA), Jordann Perret (F, Grenoble, FRA), Chad Langlais (D, Gap, FRA).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Franck Pajonkowski, Guy Fournier, Eric Doucet, Claude Verret.

OTHER

Mascot : BODY-BUDDY.

Famous Fans : Génération Dragons, Le 7ème Dragons et les Dragons Noirs.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Fabrice Lhenry comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"These are two very good teams. It will be very interesting, we will certainly learn against such teams. All the groups are difficult, though some destinations were perhaps less attractive than others. We've got structured clubs with beautiful rinks. It will be very rewarding."

Lhenry comments about the other teams in the group:

HC Davos: "Davos is a little Mecca of hockey, one of the last mountain clubs that withstands city clubs in Switzerland they've been champions of the national league six times since 2002 and they're always near the top of the standings. This is a very fast team with a great coach who's been there for nearly 20 years, Arno Del Curto. An institution in Switzerland."

Djurgården Stockholm: "Djurgården is also a very good team that does well in the Swedish league and plays in the beautiful Globe Arena."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Hockey sur glace

Faceoff = mise en jeu

Offside = Hors-jeu

Puck = Palet

Hockey stick = Crosse de hockey

Goal = But

Penalty = Penalty

Referee = Arbitre



SHEFFIELD STEELERS

 GREAT BRITIAN

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1991

Glory times:

National league titles: 9 – 1995, 1996, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2016

National play-off titles: 8 – 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2014

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

2015-16: 3rd in Group N

ARENA INFO

Name: Sheffield Arena

Address: Broughton Lane, Sheffield, England, S9 2DF

Capacity: 9300

Year opened: 1991

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.sheffieldsteelers.co.uk
-  facebook.com/steelershockey
-  [@steelershockey](https://twitter.com/steelershockey)
-  [officialsteelers](https://www.instagram.com/officialsteelers)
-  youtube.com/channel/UckROPc1dZwX75lukXesiAsg
-  periscope.tv/steelershockey/1OwxWprwrAeKQ

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Tony Smith

CEO: Tony Smith

General Manager: Shaun Smith

Sport Director: Paul Thompson

Head Coach: Paul Thomson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: David Simms

E-Mail: david@sheffieldsteelers.co.uk

Phone number: +44 7973 116185

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please contact office@sheffieldsteelers.co.uk or call Shaun Smith at +44 1142 354242

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Mathieu Roy: Forward. Third year with the Steelers and the club's top goal-scorer. Former ECHL captain and league top scorer when with Florida.

Robert Dowd: Forward. The best British forward in the Elite League, two spells with the Steelers. Dynamic forward, great shot and very important player to the Steelers.

Ben O'Connor: Defence. The national team's top defenceman now in his third year with the Steelers. Experience in France and Kazakhstan. Very talented and offensively-minded player. Key on the power play.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Goalie: Ervins Mustukovs. Defencemen: Anders Franzon, Mike Ratchuk, David Phillips, Christoffer Bjorklund. Forwards: John Armstrong, Markus Nilsson, Jesse Schultz, Cole Shudra, Liam Kirk.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Ron Shudra – retired #26, Tim Cranston – retired #4, Tommy Plommer – retired #9, Ken Priestlay – retired #9.

OTHER

Steeler Dan has been the club's mascot since 1991. He lives under the arena and only comes out on game nights. Famous fan – **Elliott Kennedy**, a songwriter who has written over 10 No. 1 hits in the UK charts.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Paul Thompson comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our experience last season in the CHL was amazing. We want more and we want it every year. It's what drives us all year in our league over here in Britain. In fact, during our title run in last season we kept going back and talking about the CHL and how if we wanted that again we just had to find a little more and win our championship again. Every coach wants to coach against the best. Every player wants to play against the best. That's the Champions League."

"Did we find it tough last year? Yes, but we

competed in every game and we got better in every game. We will be better this year and we are going to die trying to make the next round of the competition. We respect the competition very much and love being a part of it. Now we have tasted it, though we don't just want to participate, we want to compete and win games."

Thompson comments about the other teams in the group:

HV71 Jönköping: "I have coached in Sweden, my assistant Jerry Andersson has coached and been a General Manager in Sweden, so we both know a lot about HV71. What a fantastic organization and club they are. We have nothing but respect for them and what they have achieved. We will arrive there as prepared as we can be and give it our all. We understand we are playing one of the best teams in Sweden and we respect that. However, if we stand back and admire them too much that won't do us any good at all."

Red Bull Salzburg: "I've coached against them before when with Coventry a few years back. We beat them as well. Again, like HV71 we are taking on one of the best organizations in European hockey. A fantastic club with the ability of attracting some of the best players. Another tough ask for our club but one we relish and look forward to. We expect hundreds of our fans to make to Salzburg and support us. It's a night we look forward to very much."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Ice hockey

Faceoff = Faceoff

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockey stick

Goal = Goal

Penalty = Penalty

Referee = Referee



LØRENSKOG IK



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1963

Glory times:

National runners-up: 2 – 2012, 2016.

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: Lørenskog Ishall

Address: Boecks Gate 5, 1472 Lørenskog, Norway

Capacity: 2,500

Year opened: 1988

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.lik.no

 [Lørenskog Ishockeyklubb Elite](https://www.facebook.com/LorenskogIshockeyklubbElite)

 [@lorenskogik](https://twitter.com/lorenskogik)

 [@lorenskogik](https://www.instagram.com/lorenskogik)

 [LIK TV](https://www.youtube.com/liktv)

CLUB STAFF

President/CEO: Stig Atle Johnsen

General Manager: Tore Haugum

Head Coach: Kenneth Larsen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jonas Bariås

E-Mail: jonas@lik.no

Phone number: +47 936 84 908

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Apply to jonas@lik.no

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jeff Jakaitis: Jakaitis joined Lørenskog before the 2015-16 season and was a very important piece on Kenneth Larsen's roster, especially in the playoffs. The goalie was at his best in Lørenskog's quest for the championship, which ended with a final loss to the Stavanger Oilers after six hard-fought games. Jakaitis is not big in size, but compensates with a big heart, great work ethic, cat-like reflexes and good positioning.

Mats Trygg: Trygg is one of Norwegian hockey's all time greats and is the captain of the Lørenskog squad. The veteran defenceman, who celebrated his 40th birthday in June, is a true leader and has played a key role on the team's defence since he joined the Lørenskog in 2013. He made his elite hockey debut in Norway 22 years ago, in 1994, and has played professionally in Sweden for Färjestad and HV71, and in Germany for Kölner Haie, Iserlohn Roosters and Hamburg Freezers. He has played in 18 World Championships and two Olympic Games for Norway.

Robin Dahlstrøm: Dahlstrøm, stepbrother of New York Rangers star player Mats Zuccarello, is as close to a modern viking as they come. The 28-year-old Oslo native is 100 kilos of pure muscle and rawness and creates good space for his teammates with his physical approach. But he is also a big offensive threat for his opponents, and after spending four years in Sweden, Dahlstrøm instantly became one of Lørenskog's offensive assets. In the GET-ligaen he was the team's top goal-scorer with 20 goals in 41 games.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

As per July 4th we're still missing some pieces in the roster.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Tommy Jakobsen, Kenny Corupe, Knut Henrik Spets, Mats Frøshaug.

OTHER

Peter Messa is the only player on the Lørenskog squad with experience from either the Finnish Liiga or the Czech Extraliga. The veteran defenceman played 14 games for Ilves in Finland in 2004.

Did you know Lørenskog is home of the former Norwegian football star John Carew, who played for Valencia, Roma, Besiktas, Lyon, Aston Villa

and West Ham United? Lørenskog is also the home of the famous speed skater and national hero **Johann Olav Koss**, who claimed three gold medals at the Olympic games in Lillehammer in 1994.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kenneth Larsen comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"It's a true honour for Lørenskog to be a part of the CHL. It's a great opportunity for our club to continue our development and take further steps, and we are looking forward to the games and our visits to Liberec and Turku. We are the underdog in the group, but it will be interesting to see how we can match up against two such great teams and we are ready to do what it takes to compete."

Larsen comments about the other teams in the group:

Bilí Tygři Liberec: "They took the double last season and were ranked third among the 48 teams, behind Frölunda and Tappara, so there's no doubt we are facing a great team with a lot of experience from one of the best leagues in the world. But we Norwegians have accomplished great things in Liberec with cross-country skis on our feet before, so who says we cannot do the same with skates and sticks?"

TPS Turku: "It's a great club with a proud history and one of the really great ones from Finland. We saw last year what level they can play at when they came from behind and beat Storhamar, so the games against TPS will as well be a huge test for us. They have a good mixture of youth and veteran players in their squad, with a lot of experience from the best leagues in the world."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Dropp

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeykølle

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Dommer



STAVANGER OILERS



CLUB INFO

Founded: June 7th 2000

Glory Times:

National titles: 5 - 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Continental Cup titles: 1 - 2014

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances

2014-15: 2nd in Group E

2015-16: 1st in Group L, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: DNB Arena

Address: Ishockeyveien 1, 4021 Stavanger, Norway

Capacity: 4,250

Year opened: 2012

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



www.oilers.no



facebook.com/StavangerOilers



[@StavangerOilers](https://twitter.com/StavangerOilers)



[@stavangeroilers](https://instagram.com/stavangeroilers)



youtube.com/user/stvgoilers

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Tore Christiansen

CEO: Kjetil Bøe

General Manager: Pål Haukali Higson

Sport Director: Pål Haukali Higson

Head Coach: Pål Gulbrandsen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Kjetil Garvik

E-Mail: kjetil.garvik@oilers.no

Phone number: +47 926 21 987

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Applications for accreditation should be sent to to Media and Public Relation Manager Kjetil Garvik: kjetil.garvik@oilers.no

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

#28 Kristian Forsberg: Oilers' Team Captain. Joined the club in 2014, after five years with MODO in the Swedish Hockey League. Has been an international player for Norway since 2006, which has seen him play at the World Championships ten times and the Olympics twice.

#55 Josh Soares: 34 year old Italian/Canadian forward, born in Ontario. Former clubs in Europe, among others, include: Vaxjö (Swedish Hockey League) and Vienna (EBEL/Austria). He has been top Scorer in the Norwegian League for the two last seasons. Josh was also the scorer of the first ever CHL-goal, putting the Oilers a goal up versus Tappara Tampere on 21 August 2014 (04:05 1. period).

#10 Christian Dahl-Andersen: A true club veteran. Has been with the Oilers since the elite promotion in 2003. Has 680 appearances for the club, and total points tally of 598 (241 + 357).

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Spencer Humphries (D), Mark Van Guilder (C), Scott Macaulay (D).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jari Kesti and **Tomi Suoniemi:** Finnish forwards who played a leading role on the Oilers' journey from Norwegian third level to the top of Get-ligaen. Both jerseys (#7 and #22) are retired in DNB Arena.

Juha Kaunismäki: Helsinki-born defender, who came to Stavanger in 2004. He also changed citizenship and played five World Cups and one Olympic Tournament for the Norwegian National Team. He was the Oilers' captain during the first three championships, and is now the Head Coach for the Oilers' junior academy.

Martin Strandfeldt: Stockholm-born forward, who played seven seasons in Stavanger. Total of 403 games/508 points in the Oilers-jersey.

OTHER

No current or previous players from Oilers have played for either HC Pilsen or HK Nitra (Stavanger's opponents in group J).

In fact there has been only one Czech player for the Oilers since the club was founded. Back

in 2004-05, **Zdenek Nedved** played 29 games in the Oilers jersey. No Slovaks players have played for the Oilers.

Our mascots name is **Oily**. A happy dinosaur, living in DNB Arena. He is really looking forward to the new CHL-season!

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Pål Gulbrandsens comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Last season the Oilers advanced from the group stage. I think this will be our goal for this season as well."

Gulbrandsens comments about the other teams in the group:

HK Nitra: "This will be our first experience in Slovakia. We're looking forward to meeting the team and their supporters. From the Slovak National Team we know that they are playing hockey on a high level. This will be a great challenge for Oilers."

HC Pilsen: "The Oilers have faced Ocelari Trinec in the CHL twice. Pilsen will be a new Czech experience for us. We expect highly-skilled players as always from the Czech league. We have to perform at our very best to compete with them."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Dropp

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeykølle

Goal = Scoring

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Dommer



COMARCH CRACOVIA



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1906

Glory times:

National titles – 11: 1937, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2016

Polish Cup titles – 2: 2013, 2015

Polish Super Cup titles – 1: 2014

Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:

None.

ARENA INFO

Name: TAURON Arena Kraków

Address: 7 Stanisława Lema Street, Kraków, 31-571, Poland

Capacity: 15,000

Year opened: 2014

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.cracovia.pl/hokej
www.en.cracovia.pl/hockey

 **Club:**
facebook.com/mkscracovia
Team:
facebook.pl/comarchcracovia

 twitter.com/MKSCracoviaSSA
twitter.com/Cracovia_EN

 [@mkscracovia](https://www.instagram.com/mkscracovia)

 youtube.com/mkscracoviatv

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: prof. Janusz Filipiak

CEO: Jakub Tabisz

Sport Director: Tomasz Baldys

Head Coach: Rudolf Rohaček

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Dariusz Guzik

E-Mail: dariusz.guzik@cracovia.pl

Phone number: +48 694 464 711

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Application via www.cracovia.eakredytacje.pl

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Rafał Radziszewski: The 34-year-old player nicknamed "Radzik" is a living legend of modern-age Comarch Cracovia. He has been on the team since 2004 and over this period of time has won six national championships, two silver and bronze medals, 2 Polish Cups and one Polish Supercup. Many a time he has been part of the Polish squad at IIHF World Championships Division I Group A.

Petr Šinagl: He started his hockey career at HC Karlovy Vary where he made his debut in the Czech Extraliga. In his home country he also played for HC Pilsen and HC Kladno. Ahead of the 2013-14 season he moved to Polish club STS Sanok, with whom he won the Polish championship. Now he is one of Comarch Cracovia's key players. He helped the team win the Polish Cup and the league championship, scoring 20 goals (including a deciding goal in the finals) and adding 42 assists.

Damian Staboń: The 37-year-old player has been at Comarch Cracovia for the past 12 years contributing to the club winning six league titles in the 21st century. He has spent his whole career in the Polish league having broken many records – on 891 appearances he scored 386 goals and added 549 assists. He definitely is a fans' favourite.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Michael Kolarz, Richard Jenčík.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Czesław Marchewczyk, Adam "Roch" Kowalski and Andrzej Wołkowski – a legendary pre-war trio that played for Cracovia and the Polish national team. They were national champions three times and took part in the Olympics in 1932, 1936 and 1948.

Roman Steblecki played for Cracovia during these periods of time: 1974–1990, 1993–1994, 1996–1998 and 2003–2004. He made 398 appearances in the Polish league, scoring 315 goals. What is more, he netted 35 goals for the Polish national team in 125 games. He played in the 1988 Olympics and in nine World Championships (1986, 1987, 1989–1995). His son Sebastian is on Cracovia's football team.

OTHER

Cracovia are the oldest active sports club in Poland. Founded on 13 June 1906 in Krakow, the club has won many league championships in football and ice hockey. The club's iconic white and red stripe design is known all over Poland and is used both on football and hockey uniforms – hence the club's nickname "**Pasy**", which is Polish for "stripes".

Cracovia's mascot is **Lajkonik**, which is also one of the symbols of Krakow. It is a man on a hobby-horse dressed as a Tatar warrior – the story says that in the 13th century the citizens of Krakow repelled the Mongol invasion of Poland and dressed up in the Tatar leader's clothing to celebrate the victory.

There are many notable Cracovia fans who are famous worldwide. Probably the most prominent of all Cracovia supporters was **John Paul II**, who was a big Cracovia fan from a young age. He used to attend the team's games as a priest and

even after he was elected Pope he still cared about his beloved club. In January 2005 he met with Cracovia players and officials during a general and a private audience in the Vatican.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Rudolf Rohaček's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Nobody sees us as the favourite but every game starts with a 0–0 score and I can assure you we will fight until the final buzzer. We have nothing to lose and so much to gain. We will treat all of our rivals with respect but also a great deal of enthusiasm, which is also reflected in how early we have started preparing for the new season. We will not approach the games thinking we're destined to lose. We want to do everything we can to show our best side."

Rohaček's comments about the other teams in the group:

Sparta Prague: "I get the feeling everything about this club has already been said – they are a great team known all over the world. I come from the Czech Republic so it will be quite special to me to coach Comarch Cracovia in the games against Sparta."

Färjestad Karlstad: "One of the best teams in Sweden, who have already won many titles both at home and abroad. They have a lot of great players on the team. They are probably the Group O favourites."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = Hokej na lodzie

Faceoff = Wznowienie

Offside = Spalony

Puck = Krażek

Hockey stick = Kij hokejowy

Goal = Gol

Penalty = Kara

Referee = Sędzia



HC KOŠICE



CLUB INFO

Founded: 1962

Glory times:

National titles: 10 – 1986, 1988 (Czechoslovakia), 1995, 1996, 1999, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015 (Slovakia)

Continental Cup titles: 1 – 1998

European Cup runners-up: 2 – 1987, 1989

Champions Hockey League appearances:

2014-15: 3rd in Group A

2015-16: 2nd in Group H, Round of 32

ARENA INFO

Name: Steel Arena

Address: Nerudova 12, Košice, Slovakia

Capacity: 8,347

Year opened: 2006

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.hckosice.sk

 facebook.com/hckosice.sk

 twitter.com/HC_Kosice

 instagram.com/hckosiceofficial

 youtube.com/user/hckosicesk

CLUB STAFF

President: Juraj Mondík

General Manager: Juraj Bakoš

Sport Director: Pavol Zúbek

Head Coach: Rostislav Čada

Assistant Coach: Marcel Šimurda

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Vojtech Petty

E-Mail: pr@hckosice.sk

Phone number: +42 190 390 04 44

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Contact Mr. Vojtech Petty via e-mail (pr@hckosice.sk)

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Ladislav Nagy: Košice native and one of the most successful Košice hockey players. Drafted by the St. Louis Blues (NHL) in 1997. Also played for the Phoenix Coyotes (top scoring leader), Dallas Stars and Los Angeles Kings. Played 453 games in 8 NHL seasons and earned 315 points on 117 goals and 198 assists. In Europe, "Laco" has played for Mora IK and MoDo Örnsköldsvik in Sweden, Jokerit Helsinki in Finland and Severstal Cherepovets, Lev Poprad, Dinamo Minsk and Slovan Bratislava in the KHL. In the 2002 and 2003 IIHF world championships, Laco won the gold and bronze medals respectively.

Jiří Bicek: 2003 Stanley Cup winner (New Jersey Devils), 1996 & 2014 & 2015 – Slovakian champion (all with Kosice), played in Sweden – Leksand, Brynäs, Sodertälje, in Finland – KalPa. Jiří is a Košice native loved by Kosice fans.

Marek Bartánus: Slovakian national team member, played in the 2016 IIHF World Championship, three time Slovakian national champion, top goal-scorer in the 2009-10 season. Marek has also played for Sparta Prague, HC Karlovy Vary and Vítkovice Ostrava in the Czech Republic.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Ladislav Nagy (Slovan Bratislava), Miroslav Kopřiva, Marek Hovorka (both Piráti Chomutov), Vladislav Habal (HC Karlovy Vary), Jiří Vašíček (HK Hradec Králové), Lukáš Matejka (MHC Martin), Radim Hruška (BK Mladá Boleslav), Ondřej Šmach (HC 05 Banská Bystrica).

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jiří Holeček, Vincent Lukač, Igor Liba, Peter Bondra – all of them world champions.

OTHER

Our players are also known as the "**Steelers**" and that is why our fanclub adopted the same name. In spite of that, our mascot is **Vranka** – a crow. The explanation is pretty simple as this is a nickname of people living in Kosice is "the crow people" ("Vraňare" in the Eastern Slovakian dialect). It is the most common bird to see in Kosice, especially near the Gothic cathedral in the centre of the city.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Rostislav Čada comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our goal is to advance from the Group Stage into the CHL playoffs."

Čada comments about the other teams in the group:

SC Bern: "One of the most successful clubs in Switzerland in the long term with top-quality players. In order to advance to the playoffs, we will have to earn some points in the games against this opponent."

Black Wings Linz: "We know that there are many Canadian players on the team and therefore their play will be influenced by this fact. We will prepare thoroughly for these games and we will want to succeed."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice hockey = hokej

Faceoff = buly

Offside = ofsajd

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = vylúčenie

Referee = rozhodca



HK NITRA
 **SLOVAKIA**

CLUB INFO

Founded: 1926
 Glory Times
 National titles: 1 - 2016
 Previous Champions Hockey League appearances:
 2015-16: 3rd in Group D

ARENA INFO

Name: Nitra Arena
 Address: Jesenskeho 2, Nitra 94901, Slovakia
 Capacity: 3,600
 Year opened: 1966

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

-  www.hockeynitra.com
-  facebook.com/hknitra
-  youtube.com/channel/UCep0FeQSX04d_yUG32EWovA

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Miroslav Kovacik
 General Manager: Tomas Chrenko
 Sport Director: Robert Panis
 Head Coach: Andrej Kmec

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Pavol Rajtar
 E-Mail: rajtar@sportportal.sk
 Phone number: +42 191 743 34 92

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

E-mail to: rajtar@sportportal.sk

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

David Laliberté: The Canadian forward came to Nitra during last season and was the most productive player of the team. During his career he has played for NHL team Philadelphia Flyers. David is well known for his excellent shot and his great ability to turn scoring opportunities into goals.

Judd Blackwater: Judd Blackwater together with David Laliberte are part of the elite first line in Nitra. Judd scored 6 goals during the playoff's final series and he has a great share on Nitra's last season victory. He is a well-balanced player who plays very well in offense as well as defense. Judd is a grinder type of player as he always dedicates a lot of effort to the team's victory.

Michal Valent: The Slovakian goalkeeper is very popular among the fans. His performance is often the key to the team's successful results. Thanks to his excellent performance during last season he was called up as part of the Slovak national team.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2016-17

Michal Krištof: This young Slovak player comes from Nitra, and returned home after four years in Finland. Kristof is very nimble and a creative type of forward player.

Lukáš Paukovček: Nitra's new player is considered to be one of the leading face-off players in the Slovak league. Lukas has been acquired by Nitra from Poprad just before this upcoming season. Thanks to his excellent performance during the last season he also became part of the Slovak national team.

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Zigmund Palffy, Jozef Stümpel, Jozef Dano, Dusan Milo, Robert Kristan, Jan Laco.

OTHER

Nitra's **fans** are considered to be the best in Slovakia. Around 4000 fans came to support and celebrate last season's victory in front of Nitra Arena where they were waiting for player's arrival until 2 a.m.

In the club logo is one **antique statue** that you can find on Nitra castle. His name is Corgon and he was a smith, a big strong guy. The legend says that in the time when Turkish soldiers

wanted to conquer Nitra castle he came to help, straight from his forge, dirty from dust and coal. He started to rip stones from the rock and was throwing them down from the castle hill towards Turkish soldiers. They were scared because he was very big and dirty from dust, and so looked like a devil. The soldiers ran away and the castle was defended. In the honor of Corgon as the brave man there is a statue close to the Nitra castle. The team's nickname is also – **"Corgoni"**

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Andrej Kmec comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The competition of the teams on international level is definitely very attractive for the fans. We are very pleased that we will be part of the CHL for two years in a row and it has been a great experience for our team. Our aim is to qualify from the group."

Kmec comments about the other teams in the group:

HC Pilsen: "Pilsen is a very attractive Czech club and the confrontation with Czech ice hockey will be definitely a great attraction for our fans as well. We are looking forward to both of these games against this opponent."

Stavanger Oilers: "It does not happen very often that we can see a Norwegian team in real action. This will be definitely a great opportunity to experience Norwegian ice hockey for us and our fans as well. We have respect for Stavanger and we are very well aware of the great achievements the club has made during the last CHL season."

HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ľadový hokej

Faceoff = Vhadzovanie

Offside = Postavenie mimo hry

Puck = Puk

Hockey stick = Hokejka

Goal = Gól

Penalty = Vylúčenie

Referee = Rozhodca