



AHIHA - Stan Mikita Hockey School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Founded in 1973
A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization
EIN: 23-7380537

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Delaney
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USA National Deaf Ice Hockey Announces Team for 2019 Winter Deaflympics

EVANSTON, IL – July 8, 2019 – The American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) is pleased to release the 23-man roster that will represent the U.S. and compete in the 19th Winter Deaflympics. Hosted under the purview of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, the Deaflympics will take place December 12 – 21, 2019, in Valtellina Valchiavenna, Italy.

“We’re excited about our team and their pride in representing the United States at the Deaflympics,” said head coach Joe Gotfryd. “The team is prepared for the high level of competition that we will face in this tournament. We will be competing in Italy with one goal, winning a gold medal.”

Of the 23 players rostered, 16 are returnees from previous international competitions, including the U.S. teams that won a bronze medal at the 2015 Deaflympics held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, and a gold medal at the 2017 World Championships in Amherst, New York. This year’s team ranges in age from 16 to 34 and hail from 14 states.

19th Winter Deaflympics - USA Ice Hockey Team

Name	Height	Weight	Age	Position	Hometown
Curran Allison*	6 – 1	160	22	Goalie	Laguna Niguel, CA
Tyler Balcerak	5 – 10	200	18	Defense	Elgin, IL
Troy Benson*	6 – 3	196	29	Forward	Henderson, NC
Christian Buczek*	5 – 10	170	22	Defense	Hamburg, NY
Max Finley*	6 – 1	180	25	Forward	Peoria, IL
Henry Fusco*	5 – 9	140	18	Forward	White Bear Lake, MN
Miles Gates*	6 – 2	218	30	Defense	Erie, PA
Garrett Gintoli*	6 – 2	160	22	Forward	Shelton, CT
Peter Gintoli*	5 – 8	175	27	Forward	Shelton, CT
William “Bill” Holtzer	5 – 10	160	16	Forward	Akron, OH
Sam Holzrichter*	5 – 10	150	22	Forward	Sioux City, IA
Scott Humes*	6 – 3	215	23	Forward	Columbus, OH
Grant Isenbarger*	6 – 2	180	25	Forward	Ft. Wayne, IN
Ryne Krueger*	6 – 2	165	21	Defense	Barrington, IL
Danny Kurchena*	6 – 2	195	22	Forward	Rutland, VT
Anders Lindgren	5 – 11	170	20	Forward	Saint Anne, IL
Jeff Mansfield*	6 – 1	190	34	Goalie	Rochester, NY
Trevor McHugh	6 – 2	150	18	Goalie	Montclair, VA
T.J. Oricchio*	5 – 11	160	22	Defense	Plattsburgh, NY
Luke Peinado	5 – 7	140	16	Defense	Winnetka, IL
Jake Schlereth	5 – 9	175	18	Forward	Fenton, MO
Max Stephens	5 – 10	155	17	Defense	Medford, MA
Derek Struwing*	5 – 9	165	21	Forward	Bartlett, IL

*Previous international team experience



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Team Staff	Position	Hometown
Mike Bracko Ed.D.	Skating & Conditioning	Calgary, Alberta
Weylan Deboard	Video/ Equipment	San Antonio, TX
Kevin Delaney	AHIHA President	Evanston, IL
Richard Dumas	General Manager	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Brad Finley	General Manager	Peoria, IL
Joe Gotfryd	Head Coach	Brookfield, IL
Ben Johnson	Assistant Coach	Ely, MN
James Leonard, MD	Team Physician	Western Springs, IL
Rob Malnory	Equipment Manager	Madison, WI
Jennifer Maulding	Interpreter	Naperville, IL
Tony McGaughey	Assistant Coach	Holbrook, MA
Larry Sterczek	Assistant Coach	Wheeling, IL
Brian Swatek	Equipment Manager	Prospect Heights, IL
Jana Swenson	Interpreter	Minneapolis, MN
Dave Zimmerman	Assistant Coach	Devils Lake, ND

The team operates under the guidelines of USA Hockey and the USA Deaf Sports Federation. To qualify, athletes must have a hearing loss of at least 55 dB in their "better ear." Hearing aids, cochlear implants and the like are not allowed during competition to ensure all athletes play on the same level.

AHIHA funds the team through private donations as well as support from the USA Hockey Foundation. Donations to help team expenses can be made at www.ahiha.org or mailed to the organization at 9345 Harding Ave., Evanston, IL 60203-1320.

About the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA):

AHIHA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is one of the leading sports organizations in the U.S. serving deaf and hard of hearing athletes. Founded in 1973 by National Hockey League Hall of Fame member Stan Mikita and businessman Irv Tiahnybik, AHIHA supports deaf and hard of hearing athletes to develop confidence and self-esteem while building life skills through the game of hockey. To learn more about AHIHA, please visit www.ahiha.org.

For information about the 2019 Winter Deaflympics

<http://www.2019deaflympics.com/>

For information on the USA Deaf Sports Federation:

www.usdeafsports.org

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