

# USA Rink Hockey Forum



December 22, 2008, 10:16:11 PM

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Author

Topic: team usa (Read 1063 times)

## PJ Mueller

Administrator  
True Contributor



Offline

Posts: 760



## Re: team usa

« **Reply #15 on:** July 29, 2008, 06:56:46 PM »

My goal with this post is to enlighten those out there in the HRH world about how and why Stallman was named a member of the team that will be competing at the 2008 World B Championships. I also can't stress enough how this has nothing to do with the skill level of any of the players involved and if I was picking a team, Brian would be my goalie. His numbers and resume don't lie. He is our best goalie.

The issue is not if Brian is our best goalie, but it is how is he on the team if he did not qualify via the same standards that every other player had to abide by? This issue goes directly to the Head Coach and the Committee.

As a side note, and before I go any further, I would like to thank Ty for being a team player. Brian being appointed to the team meant Ty would not be going, even though Ty did make all the camps and was rated number 2 behind Chad. I will go into why Ty is a team player later, but I just wanted to go on record from the start with that.

And now, to the issue. It's a bit multi-dimensional, so hopefully you all will be able to follow me (I will try not to go off onto too many tangents). So, as I stated in my previous post, I decided to get to the bottom of this while doing my drive home from work yesterday. Prior to leaving from work, I did receive some email replies, but I needed more detail than was provided. So, I made a couple of phone calls. During my first phone call, I was told the Brian made it on the team under two stipulations. The first was that Brian missed the camp because he was overseas. Not 100% true, he was supposedly only home a couple of days prior to the camp (Jan 18th). If that were the case, I could totally except that. I don't think it would be feasible to require a player, who was playing overseas, to move home and 3 days later fly to a camp. Unfortunately, the reality is that Brian was home in early to mid November (I estimate between the 10th and 12th). That being the case, that would be

plenty of time to get settled in at home and then go to the camp.

Reason #1 - No good, not buying it.

Also, according to the email information I was sent, there was only one reason why he made the roster, and that wasn't it. That's the funny part, the first person that I talked to on the phone is on the committee and even this person didn't have the facts straight. I don't blame this person at all. It's the fact that the communication in our sport is horrible. I questioned the first reason to this person and this person agreed that it probably wasn't the case. This was just what this person was told.

And now, on to the real reason and the problem(s) that I have.

Reason #2

While still on the phone with the first person, this person explained to me the second reason. Inline hockey has a rule in effect that allows for the coach, 1 ad-hock committee member, and the hocker Chairman to agree to replace up to 1 floor player and 1 goalie in the event that they feel the teams needs one (or both) of these players to improve the team and their chances of winning. I think I just explained it as simple as possible. Personally, I like the rule. It provides some gray area when unforeseen situations occur. Again, I repeat, I like the rule. However, here comes my problem. Well, maybe not yet. Here comes one of my smaller problems.

If we are to adopt a rule that is already being used by another discipline in our organization, don't you think, at the very least, the committee should have received literature on the matter? Talking with the first person, I asked for the written rule. A lass, none was available. This person had requested a copy to the rule, but has yet to receive it. More on the rule later.

So, I start asking some more questions about how the rule applies since we don't follow it yet. Apparently, it is going to be presented by Billy at the September meeting to the USARS board that we are too going to adopt this rule. Again, I am for the rule. It just makes sense to me. It makes it so if this happens again were an obviously talented player misses one camp, (s)he can still make the team and make it a better team. The issue that I have is this: why is it being enacted now if it won't be officially in place until September? How was this even thought of as a plausible option? Talking a bit more, from what I gathered, it came from Billy and Jimmy. They both agreed that Brian greatly improved our chances of getting out of B's, and that this rule would be adopted in September, that it could be used now. Then, Jimmy went to Ty (again being a stand-up guy) and asked him if he would be willing to step down and allow Brian to take his place. If he said yes, they would use this rule to justify picking Brian (which in all reality they could have just picked him because there were no other goalies who made all of the camps. They would have to pick on that didn't make the camp, naturally it would be Brian). If he said no, then Ty would remain the goalie and Brian would not go.

Now, at this point, I don't know if that is how the talk went or not, but if that is how it did, that is BS. Talk about putting Ty is a horrible position. All he wanted to do was tryout for the team. Now, he could be making himself

extremely vulnerable if he decides that since he qualified for the team, he would go. That makes him the instant enemy or bad guy if they fail to make it out of B's. Now, not everybody would feel this way, but you can bet that the powers that be would make note of it. I've been around too long to think any otherwise (which is funny because I am supposed to be one of those powers that be). So, Ty is no dummy. Of course he said he would step aside. Again, being a team player.

Now I am upset because Billy, Jimmy, or both put Ty in this position. Not fair, nor should it be up to him. He is an athlete. He is not the coach or a part of the committee that picks the team. Don't try to save your own butts by saying "well he said we could". Again, of course he did. Now, in the event that another committee member actually reads this, know that if he fought this ruling, he would definitely win. Not that he would, but realize that.

So, I finish up the call and decide that I need to hear the story from another person on the committee. Luckily, my commute home is 45 minutes plus, so I have plenty of time.

I call the second person, do the typical meet and greet, and then get right to the issue at hand, "How did Brian Stallman make the roster for the team?". I have a feeling this came out of left field since this person hadn't checked their email yet today and I have spoken with them in a while. The reason stated (notice that I didn't say reasons, meaning this is already miss-information going around) is.....

Drum role please.....

Because there is a rule that inline uses that we are going to be using. Imagine that. Also, thinking back, I have an email that states something about a rule or waiver that was filed, I have phone call one stating a rule, and now this call stating there is a new rule coming into effect. Sounds like the tri-ecta to me and we have a winner. So, the reason why Brian is on the team is because of this new rule that is coming into place in September, that inline is already using. Unfortunately, I failed to ask just how long inline was using this rule (is it new this year and we are just slow on the uptake, or has it been around for a while and we decided to use it now because we felt we had to. I use the term "we" very loosely).

The good news is that I didn't fail to ask how this decision was made to all of a sudden use the rule. It goes something like this (and this is the short version because the phone call lasted longer than I thought it would, but I did get more info than I thought I would to so it was worth it):

Going into the first camp, it was known that Stallman wasn't going to be there, but it was felt by the coaching staff, and I am assuming Billy, that with Toby being there, they would be fine with taking him and a backup (Chad or Ty). All was well. Then, prior to the second camp, Toby had to back out. Hey, we all have family and personal issues that come before hockey and you can't blame a man for recognizing that he needs to take care of life outside of hockey before anything else. I applaud the guy for making the tough decision. Back to the "story", now there is no Toby, which means the goalie pool is down to Chad, Ty, a 16 year old junior goalie from Decatur, and a non-age-qualifying 15

year freshman from Merced. The coaching staff and Billy no longer had the warm fuzzy feeling in their bellies. It's been replaced with a fear of not getting out of B's and being bitten in the butt for not having a contingency plan that is known, and accepted, by the hockey population. Wow, thinking a head into the future and planning for it. It sure does seem like I have brought this up before and been shot down. Really makes you think.

Anyways, Billy and the coaching staff had to work overtime to figure out this one. Well, maybe they didn't have to work that hard because Billy had the solution. Inline has this rule, and we will adopt it. I will present it to the board in September, they will accept, and all will be right with the world. Billy then has Jimmy go break the news to Ty. Notice I didn't say give him the option, but tell him what was going to happen. See, they were doing the right thing by telling him now, instead of dropping the bomb on him in September. You just keep telling yourselves that.

So, Jimmy told Ty. Again, Ty took the news like a champ, being a team player. He got the consolation prize of being able to travel with the team to Spain for a club tournament that we are involved in. Wow, you gave me a reward for something I already earned. "Ge thanks. You're swell".

Ty steps down, Brian steps in, and now we win B's. Wait, I might be a bit a head of myself. Don't get me wrong, we have talent, and I respect all of the players on the team. My comment is not a pop shot at them, but one at those who bend the rules, or break, because they got what they asked for - 8 floor player and 2 goalies that followed the rules they set and qualified for the team.

It's funny, a couple of years ago, when Jimmy took the job as head coach, I really considered trying out for the team. I think I would have made it, but you never know. The fact is I considered Jimmy the only person that would make me want to try again. I was burnt too many times in the past to think otherwise. I am sorry to say it, that Jimmy just lost that credibility. He is a great coach, was a great player, but he sacrificed his integrity and what he "stands for" to maybe get out of B's this year. That does absolutely nothing for our program as we move forward, especially if we don't get out of B's. You just burned another player that was willing to pay thousands of dollars to travel to camps, tryouts, and tournaments because you wanted to give yourself a better chance to win in one tournament.

This is directed toward the coaching staff and the "powers that be": Take a look at our numbers. How many people tried out? How many more people do you think you can afford to burn until there is none left. (And on a side note: I hope you are prepared to lose skaters too. A little birdy told me that there are people on the current roster that may not be making the journey after all.) Our sport is thin already, and it's stunts like this that make more just walk way.


I would like close by saying again, I like the rule. It's a good rule and would really help us send our best team, but this rule should not apply to this year. The rules for making the team were established already, and everybody agreed to play by them or not qualify. Period! Implement this rule, but it will only apply to the next time we go through the process of picking the team, not we need to pick the team, but we don't like the players we have, so let's

implement a rule that let's us change the rules. All in favor? Silence! Know why? Because it was never brought to the attention of the committee nor was it voted on. What's the point of the committee then? So we can all waist our time talking on the phone for 2 hours each month and then let one person make all the real decisions themselves. I guess you could say that was directed right at Billy. Funny, he kind of falls in the same boat as Jimmy. Being a part of the committee, I got to see more of the working of our sport, and how hard Billy works and how much time he devotes to it. He gained a ton of respect from me. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case. For all the great things Billy has done for the sport, it's stunts like this that make people walk away. Sacrifice the future for the not even guaranteed now.

I'm not sure how this will be received, but I wanted to show my hand. I chose not to disclose who I talked to on the phone or via email because it's not my position to speak for others. I just happen to believe that the information I received is valid and truthful. Honestly, I don't think much will happen of this because even though I have repeatedly asked for participation from the committee members in this forum, very few have actually done it. I am guessing that many of you reading this, will agree with me and be of my point of view. Definitely possible that some of you won't. Either way, I think I gave you the facts to the best of my knowledge and that should allow you to form your own opinion.

Now get out there and right your congressman..... wait, never mind. That was a post in another forum I was doing. Who am I kidding, I'm not into politics either. Just trying to make a joke.

Late,  
PJ

 Logged

PJ  
[www.USARinkHockey.com](http://www.USARinkHockey.com)

**mike merkel**

Wow, I've Got  
Something To  
Say



Offline


Posts: 13

playing hockey  
for 30 years i  
own pheasantland  
roller rink



**Re: team usa**

« **Reply #16 on:** July 30, 2008, 03:00:45 PM »

nice post pj you have hit the nail right on the hear i also think go back to who wins nationals and let the comittiechose the rest but the coach should have some say in who gets to go if we are goin gto make tryouts manditory then be it they want you to go to tryouts and also small tournaments out of the country and then to b worlds and then oof to a worlds has anyone sat down and figure out what it will cost one player to go top all the camps and to the tourments and then to both championships oh and also nationals because it is manditory i have it aint cheap plus loseing time from work dont get me wrong we all love this sport and most of us would do whatever it takes but look at ty the money he sent for camps that aint fair ii feel the same as you so what else can we say mabye we need to have a vote on how the wotrld team is chosen mabye i am wrong but what other way is there ??



### hardballhock

Now I'm Making A Difference



Offline

Posts: 21



**Re: team usa ; Player of the Year 2008 Worlds nomination Ty Potter**  
 « **Reply #17 on:** August 01, 2008, 04:32:53 PM »

I nominate **Ty Potter** as Team USA Player of the Year - 2008 Worlds.

Nomination:

Team USA - Mens: Player of the Year - 2008 Worlds

**Ty Potter - Goalie**

*"Ty Potter truly is an entitled but unassuming athlete"* -2008 Worlds

Hardballhock

« Last Edit: August 01, 2008, 06:52:32 PM by hardballhock »



### PJ Mueller

Administrator  
True Contributor



Offline

Posts: 760



**Re: team usa**  
 « **Reply #18 on:** August 01, 2008, 05:03:53 PM »

I would like to add this about Ty too, he had absolutely zero knowledge about my posting. I never contacted him about it, nor did I collect any info from him. Again, he is just an athlete that wants to compete.



PJ  
[www.USARinkHockey.com](http://www.USARinkHockey.com)

### Ty\_Potters\_w

Hey, Nice To See You



Offline

Posts: 1

**Re: team usa**  
 « **Reply #19 on:** August 01, 2008, 05:25:51 PM »

I want to thank everybody who has my husband's back . He is so very dedicated to the sport of Hardball Roller Hockey and wants to be a part of bringing home a win for the USA team.

Please I am pleading too everyone to back my husband up. He plays the sport because he loves it!

Honey I am so very proud of you and I have your back! Thank you PJ for seeking the truth and also I still don't know the dates for Spain nobody has gotten back to us on the subject (go figure)

Your Wife  
 Carmen Santiago-Potter



### PJ Mueller

Administrator  
True Contributor



**Re: team usa**  
 « **Reply #20 on:** August 01, 2008, 06:16:32 PM »


 Offline

Posts: 760

Here are the dates of the actual tournament (that I know of):  
2nd International Club Tournament - Reus, Spain - September 22nd through 28th, 2008



Check your email though. Send you a message asking for some info so I can help speed up the process.



Logged

PJ

[www.USARinkHockey.com](http://www.USARinkHockey.com)

### Gwen

Hey, Nice To See You


 Offline

Posts: 2



### Re: team usa

« Reply #21 on: August 05, 2008, 11:23:34 PM »

I would personal like to see somemore information on the Women's world team!! Everything seems to be focused around the Men here!! Show us some support as we are heading to a World Championship too!!

Logged

### sprintmechan

Hey, Nice To See You


 Offline

Posts: 1



### Re: team usa

« Reply #22 on: August 06, 2008, 03:45:31 AM »

WHOOOOO HOOOOOO!!!!!! GO LADYS!!! Bring home the gold!  
Hope to see you soon when you start up tue. night practices. I'm itching to play more short stick we've only had one practice since nationals. Give me a call!

(Sorry to get everything so off topic)

Troy

Logged

### PJ Mueller

 Administrator  
True Contributor

 Offline

Posts: 760



### Re: team usa

« Reply #23 on: August 06, 2008, 11:11:53 AM »

Gwen,

It's not done intentionally. The fact of the matter is that I receive more information to post about the men than I do the women, or U20's.

As soon as I receive info for any of the teams, I post it immediately (well, most of the time anyways).

One of the reasons why there is more men's info is because Jimmy sends out info and memos to the the hockey community via email and includes me on the email. Franky and Pat don't. (Franky being the women's head coach and Pat being the U20's head coach.)

I would be more than happy to post more info about the women's team, but I need the info first before I can post it.

Logged

PJ  
[www.USARinkHockey.com](http://www.USARinkHockey.com)

### raider03

Hey, Nice To See You



Offline

Posts: 3



### Re: team usa

« Reply #24 on: August 07, 2008, 12:31:29 PM »

my question is this, we are all talking about stallman making the team, well he is the best golie and he will give us a good chance to win b world but, what i want to know is where is the defensives man? we have all front man. we are going to need someone to save are butt at b world's because we have no defensive man. are we going to just score 10 or 15 points ever game because we are going to need to with no defense, maybe i'm off truck but from the names that i see, it is alot of offense and no defense. maybe we should have planed to have another back man and one less goal scorer. i know stallman is a great golie and all but he will not stop everthing, i hope the team is working on there defensives skills because they will need them. that is why i think they wanted him on the team. good luck to the man, lady and juniors, make us all pride.

Logged

### PJ Mueller

Administrator  
 True Contributor



Offline

Posts: 760



### Re: team usa

« Reply #25 on: August 07, 2008, 12:50:33 PM »

As much as I want to agree with you raider03, I can't whole heartedly do that.

Going back a step, Brian is the best goalie. I said it before, and I will say it again. That's not the issue. It's the process in which he made the team. Don't make rules and then change them because you didn't get the outcome you wanted.

As for the "lack" of defense men on the team, it's not as important as it once was. I fully believe you need a strong defense man to "run" the show and get everybody involved offensively. Moyer does that. Jeremy provided that ability as well. Josh can do that too. On the defensive side, again you only need one person to anchor it. Again, Moyer does that. Jeremy provided that. Josh can do that too. After that, you just need skaters who commit themselves to playing defense on the entire floor. I think that initially, the team lacked that commitment, but Jimmy has done a good job in getting that commitment out of the players. Remember, the defense isn't a nice tight box defense on half of the floor. It's a full floor press. In order to do that, you need skaters. Turns out that most of the time, your skaters are also goal scorers. If you can get your goal scorers to commit time and effort to the defensive side of the ball, then you are all good. I think Jimmy has been able to get this out of the players so I don't think they will lack there, but if the goal scores decide to focus too much on goal scoring and not the full floor defense, then yes, they will need to score 10-15 goals a game to compete.

Logged

PJ  
[www.USARinkHockey.com](http://www.USARinkHockey.com)

**raider03**

Hey, Nice To See You

 Offline

Posts: 3

**Re: team usa**« **Reply #26 on:** August 07, 2008, 02:14:08 PM »

yes, the subject was on stallman and i think you need to goto the tryout to make the team and he don't. i wasn't thinking a box or a half court defense. yes, you need to have players that can run and we have that for the most part. i know brian and josh will lead the team. i have alot of respect for both of them. all i wanted to do was throw that out there that, the players are not defense first thinking and that is something that i would be worry about. i hope that we win at b worlds just like everyone else. it just worry me when, i seen the players of the team. i will tell you this, a boxs defense can win games at worlds (A worlds). it was andorra that played a boxs defense at a worlds last year and get 10th place and had no problem beating team usa 4-1. i was not trying to change the subject, just to tell the players on the team to practice and play hard. we have not getting 10th place in how many years? like i said good luck to all the players that are going to travel this winter and i hope we win alot of games. go all team usa.

Logged

**Chris Gibson**

Hey, Nice To See You

 Offline

Posts: 4

**Re: team usa**« **Reply #27 on:** August 07, 2008, 06:52:38 PM »

You know funny thing about defense is its more about attitude than anything else. Look at the top two teams from nationals this year, Decatur and Olympia. Now you wouldnt say that our teams our defensive minded seeing as how we like to get up and down the floor all game. But look at the final goalie stats, Stallman one and Chad White two in goals against. Why that is is because our teams challenge you to beat us man to man, its attitude and desire that make a great defense, not back guys and front guys.

Another thing, the back guy front guy thing is dead in international hockey. Its about having skaters. Because i dont care how many "defensive minded players" you have, if you cant out skate and out hustle the other team than your not going to win.

Logged

**raider03**

Hey, Nice To See You

 Offline

Posts: 3

**Re: team usa**« **Reply #28 on:** August 09, 2008, 10:59:27 PM »

i think you are right about the best gologies at nationals. i think that if you out hustle and skate the other team you will win also, i agree with that. i just think in that big of a stage you need a player that will talk with you team and run the defense and i think that josh and brian can both do that. i hope team usa kicks butt and came back with first. good luck team usa.

Logged

**sk82day**

Now I'm Making A Difference

**Re: team usa**« **Reply #29 on:** August 11, 2008, 03:07:35 AM »



Posts: 16



PJ is right on on this subject. If you set guidelines you stick with them. I agree that a rule should be implemented for this type of situation in the future, but not necessarily how Bill wants it worded.(more on that later) Just as PJ said, TY really didnt have much of a choice did he?

TY, dont know you personally, but you got put in a no win situation that was not fair to you. Knowing what people in control of this sport here in the US have done in the past to people/clubs, I know what has happened to these people/clubs. They stop playing. The difference is now compared to 10-15-20 years ago there is a place(internet) that people can voice concerns and opinions on the problems that have plagued this sport for decades. If it wasnt for the internet and PJ/hardballrollerhockey.com nobody, other than a few committee members, Bill, Jimmy and Ty what happened. As in the past, (that its been told to me that we shouldnt talk about, just focus on the future) the team would have been announced in the usars mag, players across the country would see it, but not know specifics on how they made the team, or followed guidelines that were set up prior. Then when you get to nationals teams/clubs arent there. Players see it, but dont even question why they are not there. People on here have told me that the reason clubs are down is because rinks are closing, I have agreed that some club participation has dropped because of closing rinks, but situations, just like TY's is why more clubs have quit playing. So TY hang in there, you have gained alot of respect from myself and alot of other people on this site.

Some of these next comments probally should be on start your own thread, but since they are related to this topic I will put them here.

This move by Bill, Jimmy and some other committee member may have just set in motion the destruction of this sport here in the US.(I am hoping not) Lets say they set up the camps like people on here have stated, 1 in each region, or it stays the same, doesnt matter. Will, maybe not a top player but an up and coming player maybe not top 8 maybe 9/10/11 risk spending thousnds of dollars to make it to all the camps knowing theres a chance they make top 8 but be knocked out by a player that didnt not make all camps or put the effort in??? Or will a top player now think they dont have to travel to a camp since the team will need them and pick em up??? This move just shows all the players that the camps just dont matter.

As I said earliar, I do like the rule, but there needs to be stipulations to protect players that are following the guidlines. If the sport would plan more in advance, (lol) players would have to have certain circumstances that prevented them from attending, death in family, in the hospital, playing overseas. I do not think an injury should prevent them from being there. But anything that prevents them from being there should be verifiable, (and verified) by the whole committtee. And it should be sent to the committee before or at the same time the camp is occuring. That way players attending would know whats going on. You do not attend without a verifiable excuse your ineligible.

Bill wants the rule put before usars board for approval in Sept. We have all seen rules get changed to fit the needs at the time way to often. Rules need to be more thought out before changing or added, we have all seen this way to often. Like PJ said why is there a 2 hr phone call with the committee every month if 1 person is going to make decisions? When the whole committee and coach is to decide on world team, which is currently 7, 6 committee 1 coach, why is a minority, chairmen, 1 com. member and coach going to be able to make this decision? This needs to be thought of for the future. Meaning, who knows how long ahead, if Bill is gone, should the sport ever let 1 person have

this much control? Right now rules are easy to get changed, what if down the road they are not as easy does the sport want to be stuck with 2 or 3 people controlling the sport? I know Bill has selected who is on the committee, theyll pretty much go along with what he wants to do. But I still think the rule for adding a player should be voted on by the whole committee with majority agreeing. Since maybe in the future we will have a whole committee with some integrity and follow the guidelines that were set, by them regarding world team qualifications, and do what is right and protect the members who support the sport.

My next question is, since the committee hasnt posted any minutes in 4 months (wink wink nudge nudge) what are the plans when we win "B" worlds? (see I stay positive) Are there camps set up for tryouts? Or is the same team staying together?

If its staying together, since theres only like 9 months between them, TY not only got screwed this year, but he got screwed for 2 years. "THATS BS"

 Logged

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