

Mr. Peter Andersson´s Report from two fantastic weeks on The Brothers Hiti's Hockey Camp in Bled, Slovenia, July 4 to 17.

First of all, thank you for your confidence and ability to get out and represent the Swedish Ice Hockey which is very honorable.

Sweden as a hockey nation has a very high status in the world. When you get to meet internationally experienced coaches and players from both Europe and North America you realize that our education in terms of both players as leaders is high in rank.

Going to one of my new country was both exciting and nervous and my knowledge of Slovenian hockey was limited. From past experience I know that it is good to be prepared for confusion of language and not assume that everyone in the world understands English. Some Slovenian polite phrases and hockey goalie terms were collected. I quickly got a good impression of the organization when the information was clear and came in good time. Already at check-in at the Arlanda airport so I sensed that this would be good, it has probably never been so painless to check-in suitcase, trunk, and goalie sticks

Upon arrival on Sunday evening to Ljubljana Airport met Alenka and Rudi Hiti up for direct transport to the Hotel Krim only 2 min walk from the arena. Before bedtime I received a short briefing on the situation and the schedule for Monday and the start of camp. The first week there were about 100 players from six nationalities of which 14 were goalies

Monday started with a meeting where all the leaders present, and then something completely new to me. During an hour was all the players on the ice in four groups (one zone each) which drove skating, stick and fit exercises, they constantly moved players between groups depending on their technical skills. This was done to get the most regular groups as possible during the week.

Then I had all the goalies on the ice and had an ice theory of "box control", movements and positions. We also did a lot of skating drills to find the right level and group for the goalies. It was much more on knowledge than the age group division. It surprised them that I wore equipment on the ice. I explained that it is purely educational reasons when I know it can sometimes be difficult to explain the details but you can view them realistically as a complement.

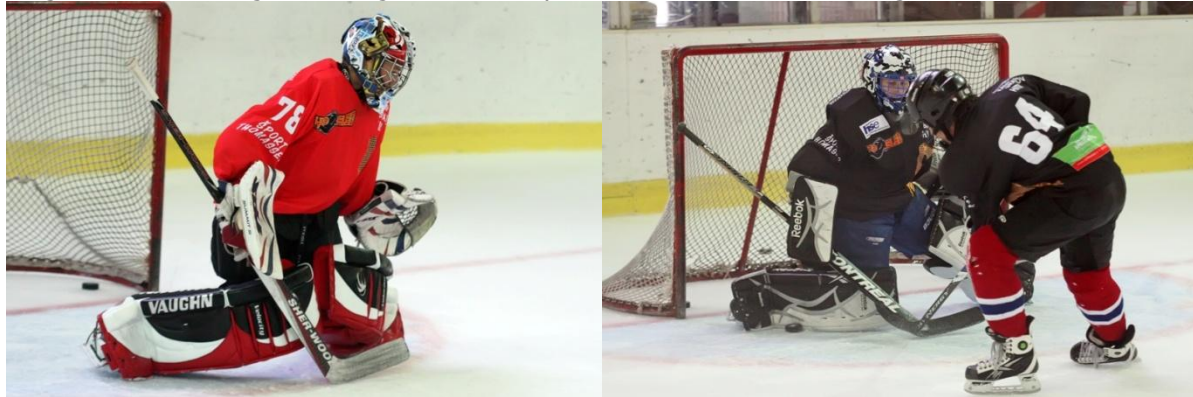


Now we were running, I had 5 ice sessions a day. In the normal group ice sessions I co-drove specially for goalies when it got gaps, or gave feedback at the exercises. Cooperation with other coaches in the planning of exercises and dialogue on the ice was good from the start. I was very impressed with the level of training frequency of structure, exercises and leaders gentle and calm way to get their message across. Great emphasis is put on skating technique and passing

On Goalie practices we worked with a review of a case and then we ran drills with the same theme in all four nets (for those who were a little further in its development I added different moves before the shot) and then we get together with feedback/reinforcement

At one net, I had a rigged video camera and so I rotated goalies around so that all were filmed each session. It helped me in my feedback and in planning for the next day. In our trainings, it was always at least one exercise with the theme of "race" and to play the puck until its done.

I felt that, despite language difficulties worked well, both the shooters and the leaders who attended the goalie drills were good in English and interpreted on the need for briefings o feedback



In the afternoon, it was games, I watched 2-3 each / group during the week, supported the goalies and gave them feedback.

The second week was similar to the first except that it was a bit fewer students, pleasing to both me and my brothers Hiti was that some goalies decided to also attend the second week, although they have not thought that from the beginning,

When I took off my skates on Saturday lunch after my 50th ice sessions of 2 weeks it was completely flat out in both body and mind, but I also felt a great proudness over my job

The service around the ice was **5 stars** for us leaders and the hospitality that particular the manager of the camp Alenka Hiti, shown us was almost embarrassing at times. Should we rent bikes so she arranged it, we talked to go on a sight-seeing as she tweaked somebody who was driving And when we wanted to go by ourselves they lent us their car.



The country of Slovenia was a big surprise, especially how clean it is everywhere and how open and friendly people were. The city of Bled was a real paradise with its surroundings and its lake that was bathing both the temperature and purity. Although a large number of tourists daily invaded the city, it was a quiet and relaxing environment where you felt a real pleasure to stay.

The hotel was totally ok and the food served during the camp simple good and varied. The players was served water with vitamins during the days, 3 course lunch at the plate with white tablecloths, that invites to calm at mealtimes. Logistics at short distances was another good factor

During my two weeks I met many coaches and players including

- Rudi Hiti Slovenian hockey players / coaches and leaders elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame.
- Gorazh Hiti legendary player and coach from former Yugoslavia, Italy, Slovenia's national team etc. now working in HD Bled
- Ron Flock Hard former NHL pro who played in Philadelphia (along with the famous Swedish goalie Pelle Lindbergh) Pittsburg, St. Louis, and Bolzano in Italy
- Scott Jackson, 24 years back, who played a few games for Tampa Bay and still in their organization for next season.
- Janecz Finzgar, Slovenian coach with experienced teams from Sweden, Germany, Italy and Austria



I meet some Slovenian Federation representatives and leaders from other clubs who had the ice sessions. At the beginning I felt pretty small in this celebration company, but during my stay I grew both by their respect for the Swedish Ice Hockey and my own contribution on the ice.

Thanks to all in Bled, coaches, helpers, youth leaders, shooters and cafe staff for your hospitality both on and off the ice.

Specially thanks to Rudi and Gorazh Hiti for inviting me to their camp and Slovenian hockey, The moments in the café sharing a coffee or a beer was always a great time of the day.

A large flower to Alenka Hiti for great service off the ice, order o find out, understanding for me and my wishes for planning, shooting, pucks, cages, lists and more



Peter Andersson 18 of July 2011