



Olympic camp notebook



CALGARY – News and notes from the Canadian men's Olympic hockey orientation camp in Calgary.

Of the 46 players invited to take part in the four-day orientation camp Thunder Bay leads the way when it comes to cities who are represented the most.

The trio of Staal brothers in Eric, Marc and Jordan as well as Patrick Sharp are the four from the city topping that list. Montreal, Edmonton, Calgary and Sorel, Que., are all next boasting two players each involved in the festivities.

Provincially, Ontario boasts the most athletes taking to the ice with over a third of the roster falling in that category as 17 players hail from the province.

WE'RE BIG: Judging by the rosters of Olympic hopefuls Canada will have plenty of size at the 2010 games in Vancouver. A total of 26 of the 46 invitees stand six-foot-two or taller led by Dryden's Chris Pronger who is six-foot-six. 11 more of the players here are also six feet tall or over.



Chris Pronger, the third oldest player at the Olympic orientation camp in Calgary.
Photo: Bruce Rakoczy

YOUNG AND OLD: Looking to earn his fourth Olympic berth Chris Pronger is certainly one of the veterans competing. The Philadelphia Flyers defenceman is the third oldest player attending behind Martin Brodeur and Scott Niedermayer.

On the other end of the scale Jordan Staal is the second youngest player here.

Only Los Angeles Kings blueliner Drew Doughty has an earlier birth date.

Another one of the younger prospects in Marc Staal has been paired with veteran defenceman Niedermayer through the first few days of practices.



Thunder Bay's Jordan Staal was the second youngest player invited to camp.
Photo: Bruce Rakoczy

ANOTHER OLYMPIAN: There is yet another Olympian from Northwestern Ontario to add to the list of area athletes who represented Canada at the games.

Kenora product Victor Lindquist was part of the Winnipeg side that played for Canada at the 1932 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. That team went on to capture a gold medal.

FIRST TASTE: Looking at the roster of players only one has never suited up for Canada on the international stage at any level.

Newly signed Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Francois Beauchemin has yet to don the red and white of Canada, but should receive some serious consideration this go around for his ability as a shut-down D-man.

OUT OF THE LINE-UP: Two players for sure won't be taking part in that contest. Anaheim Ducks forward Ryan Getzlaf is in Calgary, but is still recovering from off-season surgery. The other is Simon Gagne of the Philadelphia Flyers who suffered a groin strain in opening day action. He has since returned to Philadelphia for further evaluations by the Flyers team doctors.