



SUPERSTARS OF THE ICE RETURN DOWN UNDER FOR CANADA vs USA

Tickets are selling fast with the International Ice Hockey Tour returning to Australia this July. As fans brush up on their anthems, teams from Canada and the USA are announcing their all star line up for this year's faceoff down under**. This first round of players from the NHL, AHL, ECHL and CHL will not disappoint, as five sensational players join the Captains of teams from Canada and the USA, along with Ryan Ginand (USA) and Australia's own Nathan Walker (USA).

USA Captain Zenon Konopka leads the charge as he confirms two new players to take on Canada – **Michael Forney** and **Louis Liotti**.

Michael Forney is a dynamic offensive ice hockey player. Everywhere he plays he puts up numbers - very good numbers. Currently playing in the CHL for Arizona Sundogs, Forney has been rewarded for his skill with two ECHL All-Star selections. This is not Forney's first time to Australia, having joined the Perth Thunder in the Australian Ice Hockey League on a short-term contract where he amassed a very impressive 11 goals, 36 assists for 47 points. He cut the season short in Australia, playing in Austria and Norway, before returning to North America for the CHL playoffs.

Louis Liotti is a perfect addition to the USA team, considered a solid stay at home defenceman with good offensive skills. Last year the Canadians outscored the USA, so a better defensive scheme will be crucial to this year's tour. Liotti gives USA coach Keith Primeau exactly that, utilising his size and skill to showcase the fastest game on the planet. Currently playing in the Elite European hockey league Italy Serie A with 33 games, 4 goals, 17 assists and 21 points, Liotti previously played in the AHL and ECHL.

Canada has hit back with their own announcement to heat up the ice, with hard-hitter **Kevin Harvey**, solid combatant **Josh Brittain** and offensive blueliner **Jordan Southorn**.

Kevin Harvey, assistant captain for the team from Canada, is known for his hard-hitting tenor and control of the game - despite spending 200+ minutes in the penalty box last year, he still scored 31 points in 53 games. "Harvey is a tough kid and can control the ice like no other player on my team but what is even more important he is a quality person and a true leader. He plays like a warrior and leaves everything on the ice, he will help Canada once again bring the cup home!", coach Wayne Primeau states.

Josh Brittain is a returning member for the Canadian Team as a willing combatant and solid teammate. He is currently playing with the Reading Royals of the ECHL on loan from the Hershey Bears of the American Hockey League. Brittain has 12 goals and 12 assists so far for the Royals and is considered a valuable asset to the power play.

Jordan Southorn is joining Canada as an offensive bluelining defenceman. He is currently playing for the Fort Wayne Comets of the ECHL and has put up great numbers as a defenceman with 12 goals, 20 assists for 32 points in just 51 games. He is big but electric and will be a pillar of force on the blue line for the Canadians.

The players announced to date are certainly set to showcase the passion and rivalry of a real North American Ice Hockey experience, undoubtedly bringing big games, big hits and big entertainment.

Expect to hear fans shouting for their heroes amongst the deafening roar of O' Canada and The Star Spangled Banner with even more announcements in the coming weeks as players join the tour to support a very important cause Stopconcussions.com

Get in now to purchase your tickets through www.ticketek.com.au to see the Canadian team battle it out with USA in a game that is more than just sports, it's pure entertainment. With ticket prices starting at \$79, don't miss out on this opportunity to experience the athleticism and brutality right before your eyes.

So far the teams are:

CANADA – CAPTAIN

Kyle Quincey (C) - NHL

Defense

Born Aug 12 1985 -- Kitchener, ONT

Height 6.02 -- Weight 206 -- Shoots L

CANADA – FORWARDS

Kevin Harvey - CHL

Wing

Born Sep 14 1984 -- Sheffield, ONT

Height 6.02 -- Weight 197 -- Shoots L

Selected by Calgary Flames round 9 #270 overall 2003 NHL Entry Draft

Harvey is one tough guy and talented hockey player. He will entertain the crowd and will score and fight for Canada. He will also make sure the offensive players for Canada will have space to show their skills.

Josh Brittain - ECHL

Left Wing

Born Jan 3 1990 -- Milton, ONT

Height 6.05 -- Weight 230 -- Shoots L

Selected by Anaheim Ducks round 3 #71 overall 2008 NHL Entry Draft

Brittain's dominating size and skill allows him to play hard, gritty hockey as he imposes himself physically in offense. Currently playing with the Reading Royals of the ECHL, Brittain is on loan from the Hershey Bears of the AHL and has 12 goals and 12 assists so far over the 2 months. He is considered a valuable asset to the power play of the team.

CANADA – DEFENSE

Jordan Southorn - ECHL

Defense

Born May 15 1990 -- Montreal, PQ

Height 6.03 -- Weight 200 -- Shoots L

Selected by Buffalo Sabres in round 4 #104 overall 2008 NHL Entry Draft.

Southorn joins Canada as an offensive defenceman. He is currently playing for the Fort Wayne Comets of the ECHL. He has put up great numbers as a defenceman with 12 goals, 20 assists for

32 points in just 51 games. He is big but electric and will be a pillar of force on the blue line for the Canadians.

USA – CAPTAIN

Zenon Konopka (C) - NHL

Defense

Born Jan 2 1981 -- Niagara-on-the-Lake, ONT

Height 6.00 -- Weight 213 -- Shoots L

USA – FORWARDS

Nathan Walker - AHL

Forward

Born Apr 7 1994 -- Sydney, Australia

Height 5.10 -- Weight 185 -- Shoots L

Australian ice hockey export Walker will add some local flavor to the infamous and deep-seated rivalry between USA and Canada. He is a rising star and is making headlines across the globe – playing six seasons in the Czech Republic and now the first Australian ever to make the AHL.

Ryan Ginand - EIHL

Centre

Born Apr 1 1986 -- Milford, MA

Height 5.10 -- Weight 185 -- Shoots L

Ginand currently plays for Coevntry Blaze, honing his skills in the EIHL. Previously playing in the ECHL and AHL, he is fast and very skilled as a creative offensive player and a responsible defensive player.

Michael Forney - CHL

Right Wing

Born May 14 1988 -- Thief River Falls, MN

Height 6.02 -- Weight 204 -- Shoots R

Selected by Atlanta Thrashers round 3 #80 overall 2006 NHL Entry Draft

Forney is a dynamic offensive ice hockey player. Everywhere he plays he puts up numbers - very good numbers. Currently playing in the CHL for Arizona Sundogs, Forney has been rewarded for his skill with two ECHL All-Star selections. The tour will see him return to Australia after a short-term contract with Perth Thunder in the Australian Ice Hockey League 2013.

USA – DEFENSE

Louis Liotti - Italy-A

Defense

Born May 25 1985 -- Westbury, NY

Height 6.01 -- Weight 195 - Shoots R

Liotti is a perfect addition to the USA team, considered a solid stay at home defenceman with good offensive skills. Last year the USA defence had a tough time stopping the pressure of the Canadians and he will certainly give Coach Primeau a solid wall on his blue line. Liotti will utilise his size and skill to showcase the fastest game on the planet, ensuring entertainment for the crowd.

**Players attendances are subject to change due to family emergencies or injuries

***About Kerry Goulet and www.stopconcussions.com**

Kerry Goulet, the co-founder of Stopconcussions.com, retired from professional ice hockey in 2001 and is considered one of the most revered non-medical experts on concussion in North America. In 2003 he had his jersey retired in Timmendorfer Strand where he returned in 2012 to score 3 points in a pro game at 52 to end his professional career at 2000 points. This helped have his jersey placed in the Hall of Fame.

In his career, Kerry suffered three documented concussions, knowing first hand the effects of post concussion syndrome. With shocking statistics such as 10% of all athletes in contact sports suffer a concussion and 19% of these are unreported, Kerry and co-founder, Keith Primeau, former captain of the Philadelphia Flyers and a 15 year NHL veteran, saw the importance of driving awareness of concussions and the damage they can cause long term in order to protect not only professional sportspersons but children too. They co-authored a book, CONCUSSED, that has been used by associations all across North America to help educate on the injury.

Brain injury kills more children than all other causes combined and is the greatest cause of disability under the age of 44. Concussions don't just happen in sport but can happen from something as simple as your child falling over in a playground. Stopconcussions.com is about educating parents and athletes on the symptoms of concussions and to ensure that if they have suffered one to ensure that they allow the brain to heal before returning to activity to avoid a second concussion, known as second impact syndrome. A second blow to the head can result in a loss of control of the brain's supply, resulting in the increase of pressure inside the skull that can lead to herniation of the brain.

**INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY
USA VS. CANADA**

www.ticketek.com.au/

Perth – Friday 11 July & Saturday 12 July, 2014
Perth Arena

Brisbane – Saturday 19 July, 2014
Brisbane Entertainment Centre

Melbourne – Friday 25 July, 2014
Rod Laver Arena

Sydney – Saturday 26 July, 2014
Allphones Arena

