The Anaheim Ducks have seven players on their current roster who were given the honor of representing their countries at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia. Scott Niedermayer, Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry will put on the Team Canada jersey, Team Finland has Teemu Selanne and Saku Koivu. Jonas Hiller will represent Team Switzerland and Bobby Ryan rounds out the bunch, representing Team USA. Add in Ducks prospect Luca Sbisa, who will join Hiller on Team Switzerland, and you have eight Olympians in the Ducks organization.

Beyond the Boards recently sat down with the Olympians to talk about this exciting opportunity. Check out the Beyond the Boards Olympic trading cards and see what the guys had to say about going to Vancouver.

**Scott Niedermayer**

*Team Canada*

_Hometown:_ Cranbrook, British Columbia

_Olympic History:_ Second Olympic appearance; won gold medal in 2002

**What was your reaction when you found out you made the Olympic team?**

“You’re always excited when they ask you to play for your country. Being a part of the Olympics is a thrill for any athlete.”

**What are you looking forward to most about playing in the Olympics?**

“The competition is the big thing, but I guess the other side is just to be part of the Olympics, to see the other athletes, to be in the village and see the whole atmosphere of the event is a neat thing as well.”

**Corey Perry**

*Team Canada*

_Hometown:_ Peterborough, Ontario

_Olympic History:_ First Olympic appearance

**What was your reaction when you found out you made the Olympic team?**

“I was pretty excited. It’s always an honor when you get named to the Olympic team like that. Every time you put on your country’s jersey it’s a special thing, especially being in front of your home country.”

**What are you looking forward to most about playing in the Olympics?**

“The experience. I’ve never been to the Olympics and I’ve always watched it on TV and seen what happens and gone on there. It’s going to be an exciting time and we’re all going to have a lot of fun.”

**Ryan Getzlaf**

*Team Canada*

_Hometown:_ Regina, Saskatchewan

_Olympic History:_ First Olympic appearance

**What was your reaction when you found out you made the Olympic team?**

“It was an exciting day. It was something I was looking forward to for the last little while. It was a big honor for me to be named to that team.”

**What are you looking forward to most about playing in the Olympics?**

“The overall experience. It’s the Olympics, it’s nothing little or anything like that. It’s something you’ve watched growing up and the whole experience is going to be awesome.”

**Jonas Hiller**

*Team Switzerland*

_Hometown:_ Felbin, Switzerland

_Olympic History:_ First Olympic appearance

**What was your reaction when you found out you made the Olympic team?**

“It was something I was really hoping for. I knew I had a good chance to make the team, but to get the call was great. It was definitely something I was really hoping for. I was really happy about it. I’ve been in the Olympics three times before and it’s been a great experience. It’s always a different kind of feeling and you’re proud to represent your country at the Olympic Games.”

**Bobby Ryan**

*Team USA*

_Hometown:_ Cherry Hill, New Jersey

_Olympic History:_ First Olympic appearance

**What was your reaction when you found out you made the Olympic team?**

“I was still in bed last night when I talked to Burke (Brian Burke, Team USA GM). I certainly was awake then and didn’t go back to sleep. I called my parents and everybody back east. It’s a very surreal feeling.”

**Teemu Selanne**

*Team Finland*

_Hometown:_ Helsinki, Finland

_Olympic History:_ Fifth Olympic appearance; won silver and bronze medals

**What was your reaction when you found out you made the Olympic team?**

“It was nice. I kind of knew I was going to make the team, but it’s always a big honor.”

**What are you looking forward to most about playing in the Olympics?**

“As a hockey player, the Olympics in Canada are huge. I think it’s going to be the best hockey tournament ever. I’m very happy to be a part of that.”

**Saku Koivu**

*Team Finland*

**What was your reaction when you found out you made the Olympic team?**

“It was something I was waiting on for a long time and I was really happy about it. I’ve been in the Olympics three times before and it’s been a great experience. It’s always a different kind of feeling and you’re proud to represent your country at the Olympic Games.”

**What are you looking forward to most about playing in the Olympics?**

“I think just winning a lot of games and doing well. The Olympics are about more than just hockey. You get to meet the other athletes and feel the Olympic atmosphere of the village. It’s a lot of fun.”

**Peterborough, Ontario**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Regina, Saskatchewan**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Helsinki, Finland**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance; won silver and bronze medals

**New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Cranbrook, British Columbia**

_Olympic History:_

- Second Olympic appearance; won gold medal in 2002

**Helsinki, Finland**

_Olympic History:_

- Fifth Olympic appearance; won silver and bronze medals

**New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Helsinki, Finland**

_Olympic History:_

- Fifth Olympic appearance; won silver and bronze medals

**New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Cranbrook, British Columbia**

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- Second Olympic appearance; won gold medal in 2002

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- First Olympic appearance

**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

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**Helsinki, Finland**

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- First Olympic appearance

**Cranbrook, British Columbia**

_Olympic History:_

- Second Olympic appearance; won gold medal in 2002

**New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance

**Helsinki, Finland**

_Olympic History:_

- Fifth Olympic appearance; won silver and bronze medals

**New Jersey**

_Olympic History:_

- First Olympic appearance
The United States has only won gold twice in hockey, in 1960 and 1980.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**OLYMPIC HOCKEY FACTS**

- **Miracle**
  - The Disney movie, Miracle, was inspired by the journey of the 1980 United States Men’s Olympic Hockey Team.
  - Teemu Selanne has made the most Olympic appearances out of the Ducks players with the 2010 Games being his fifth.

- **Disney Hockey Night**
  - NHL teams are not allowed to participate in the Olympics until at least one player representing his country at the Olympics.
  - There were no Olympic Games in 1916, 1940 or 1944 because of World Wars I and II.

- **Olympic Hockey**
  - All 30 NHL teams have at least one player with an Olympic Gold medal.
  - The 2010 Winter Olympics marks the third time that Canada has hosted the Games.
  - Canada dominated men’s Olympic hockey in the beginning, winning the first four Olympic gold medals from 1920-1932.

**Ducks in the Community**

- **Orange County Ronald McDonald House Night**
  - On Wednesday, February 3, as the Anaheim Ducks take on the Detroit Red Wings, the Ducks organization will be holding Orange County Ronald McDonald House (OCRMH) Night at Honda Center. The game night will recognize OCRMH for their commitment to the community and help raise awareness for the upcoming Walk for Kids, a 5K (3.1 mile) walk which will be held on Sunday, April 11, at Honda Center to raise funds for the services and programs provided by the Ronald McDonald House. The Walk for Kids will be a fun-filled day perfect for families, companies, schools, churches, individuals and anyone who is interested in supporting the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House.

- **CHOC Night Bears**
  - Anaheim Ducks fans and Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) supporters, mark your calendars because the CHOC Night Bear sale is just around the corner. The Anaheim Ducks and Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) will be hosting CHOC Night at Honda Center on Sunday, March 14, as the Anaheim Ducks play the San Jose Sharks. Prior to the game CHOC volunteers will be selling 1,000 of the fan favorite stuffed CHOCO bears (the CHOC mascot), outfitted in an Anaheim Ducks replica home jersey autographed by an Anaheim Ducks player, for $60 per bear. CHOCO Bears are expected to sell-out fast and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so make sure not to miss your chance to get this season’s CHOCO Bear. All proceeds from the annual CHOC Night bear sale will benefit CHOC and CHOC at Mission.

- **Anaheim Ducks Surprise Puck Sale**
  - To help raise funds to support the Anaheim Ducks Foundation, the Anaheim Lady Ducks will be selling “Surprise Pucks” at the upcoming Walk for Kids, a 5K (3.1 mile) walk which will be held on Sunday, April 11, at Honda Center to raise funds for the services and programs provided by the Ronald McDonald House. The Walk for Kids will be a fun-filled day perfect for families, companies, schools, churches, individuals and anyone who is interested in supporting the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House.

The Evening will honor OCRMH Board of Trustee, Isabelle Villasenor, with the Anaheim Ducks Community Hero Award for her dedicated service to the cause. In addition, OCRMH will be selling Walk for the Kids paper foot for $1 at Section 212 with all proceeds benefiting OCRMH. Fans that purchase a Walk for the Kids paper foot will be entered to win a 2009-10 Anaheim Ducks Team Autographed Jersey. Winner need not be present to win. Don’t miss your chance to win an amazing piece of Anaheim Ducks memorabilia while supporting a wonderful charity!

The Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room programs provide a sanctuary near or in children’s hospitals in Orange County for children and their families. Since 1989, more than 10,000 families from all over California, the U.S. and other countries, have found a comfortable place to stay for several hours, days, weeks, months, and in some cases, even years. This peaceful environment of a Ronald McDonald House or Ronald McDonald Family Room rejuvenates family members, which helps them to better care for and assist their children during treatment.

Scott Niedermayer is the only current Duck to have won an Olympic gold medal.
North vs. South: California High School Ice Hockey Teams to Face-Off.

By Rick Zacharias, JSerra Hockey Game Coordinator

NorCal vs. SoCal. Sharks vs. Ducks. For years we’ve heard the chatter within the US, but now it will happen for the first time at a high school level.

Orange County’s JSerra Catholic High School varsity Ice Lions hockey team will face off against San Jose’s Bellarmine College Preparatory High School on February 14, 2010 at the Oakland Ice Center in Oakland, California.

Lead by retired NHL veteran/Head coach Dave Keane, the Ice Lions are supported by the Anaheim Ducks where the Ice Lions home rink is at the Ducks’ training facility, Anaheim Ice. The Bellarmine Bells are affiliated with the San Jose Sharks with their home rink being the Sharks’ training facility at Sharks Ice.

Founded in 2008, the Ice Lions are one of two varsity teams in the Anaheim Ducks High School Hockey League. In their second season, the majority of the varsity players are now sophomores that have been part of the program since its inception. Lead by head coach Mike Yost, Bellarmine currently has one varsity and two JV teams, totaling 60 players.

As per the program, JSerra added a JV hockey team this season expanding the program to 33 players. Long term, JSerra wishes to grow into a hockey academy fulfilling their system under the Anaheim Hockey Academy in British Columbia, Canada.

The upcoming game in Oakland will help promote the continued growth of high school hockey throughout Southern California and Northern California.

As the Ice Lions travel not too far from the San Jose Valley, the Valancourt’s Dale Ehlers between these two teams will be a first, but hopefully not the last. Long term, both programs are focused on growing in attempting to make high school ice hockey a major California Interscholastic Federation™ (CIF) sport and provide motivation for the first-ever California State high school ice hockey tournament.

2009-10 Anaheim Ducks Player Rink Tour & Speaking Series

As part of the Anaheim Ducks Future Ducks Rink Program, the Ducks will be visiting several rinks in the Southern California area this January. Players will visit all of the program’s rinks, where they will interact with a youth hockey team by visiting the Ducks’ rink. The Ducks are not only going to be teaching them the game of hockey, they are also going to be putting on the Team Finland jersey for the Olympics. This month in Vancouver will mark Selanne’s fifth time putting on the Team Finland jersey for the Olympics.

Patrons will be invited to see the Sharks vs. Ducks game and meet Anaheim Ducks alumni forward Teemu Selanne, who will participate in a panel discussion about playing in the Olympics. This month in Vancouver will mark Selanne’s fifth time putting on the Team Finland jersey for the Olympics.

Before the panel, a youth hockey team practicing on the ice received a surprise visit when Selanne stepped onto the bench to offer high fives and a few words of encouragement. The event concluded with Selanne sticking around to sign autographs and take photos with every single one of the more than 100 fans in attendance.

The last weekend in January also marked the Anaheim Ducks’ involvement in USA Hockey’s Hockey Weekend Across America. Friday, January 29 was Wear Your Jersey Day, where kids were encouraged to wear their favorite hockey jerseys. Saturday January 30 was Bring a Friend to the Rink Day, where kids were encouraged to bring a friend or piece of hockey equipment to the Rink. Both days were part of the Anaheim Ducks Learn to Skate Program.

During the panel, Selanne came back to Connecticut, where he began his career, after winning the 1984 World Junior Championship and making his NHL debut with the Bulldogs. Selanne has said that the 1984 World Junior Championship was a big moment, but he wasn’t sure if the other three have been better.

The winner will be honored at the Ducks game on February 10, where they will be presented with a USA Hockey Olympic Jersey and meet some of the Ducks’ own Olympians after the game. This month also marks the inaugural Anaheim Ducks High Five Skills Competition, which takes place on February 6 at Anaheim ICE and Aliso Viejo Ice Palace. The competition, open to Squirts and Peewees who play Travel or In-House, costs level IV in five different areas: skating, shooting, accuracy, passing, and agility. Ducks players will be on hand at both locations to give participants advice and take part in the festivities. The winners receive a special Anaheim Ducks commemorative gift and two tickets to a Ducks game.

Upcoming events in February include the First Flight Field Trip on February 11, where Honda Center is transformed into a classroom as over 16,000 elementary school students learn about math and science through interactive hockey lessons. As well as a Rink Tour stop with Ducks players on February 25 at Ontario Ice Skating Center and Riverside Ice Town. For more information, visit www.anaheimducks.com/youthhockey.
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