

# HOCKEY NOMAD GOES TO RUSSIA

FACTUAL



A far-flung trek to experience hockey in the vast reaches and snowy wasteland.

## SYNOPSIS

Fifteen years ago, the Red Army school was the single hothouse for producing elite players, but that's no longer the case. In HOCKEY NOMAD GOES TO RUSSIA, we'll learn why beating Moscow at its own game is a source of furious pride and vindication for territories once forgotten by the Politburo.

The Nomad will ride the Trans-Siberian Express across the wintery steppe. On the way, he'll talk to Russians about the fading legacy and the future of Russian hockey and of their country.

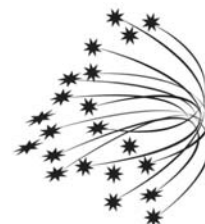
In the Russian hockey world, there are two Russia's - old Russia and new Russia.

Strolling through Moscow's famous GUM department store teeming with new designer wear from around the world, we meet the great Yakushev. Alexander Yakushev-- the Big Yak-- was the Soviets leading scorer in the 1972 Soviet-Canada series. A giant, stone-faced left winger, Yakushev thrived in the slot and was to Team Russia what Phil Esposito was to Team Canada.

The next generation of elite Russian hockey players will fare much better than yesterday's Soviet stars. Alex Ovechkin is one of those players. Alex was drafted first overall in the NHL 2004 draft, but he waits out the NHL lockout while playing for Moscow Dynamo, where he earns around \$500,000 a year,

more money than the Yakushevs will ever see. One day he will be a millionaire NHL superstar, but these days Alex lives with the rest of the players in a modest dorm at the Dynamo sports complex, waiting for the current NHL lockout to end.

A few thousand miles away in central Siberia is Omsk - a city of 1.3 million people and home to the Russian League Champions, the 'Avangard'. Siberia has become a hotbed of hockey talent and teams - as the top training hockey programme in the country. Hockey is serious business in Omsk.



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