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By Jeff Svoboda – May 20, 2026

History was made last spring as the United States won the IIHF World Championship for the first time since 1933, with CBJ defenseman Zach Werenski capturing a gold medal and honoring Johnny Gaudreau along the way.

Now, fresh off an Olympic gold medal, can Team USA keep it going?

Werenski won't be there this time – we'd say he's earned some time off after representing his country at three tournaments in 12 months, including the Olympic triumph – but Blue Jackets forward Mathieu Olivier will wear the red, white and blue.

Meanwhile, Canada's red will also have a blue feel, as CBJ goaltender Jet Greaves and defenseman Denton Mateychuk will represent our neighbors to the north at the tournament. In addition, Columbus native Misha Donskov is serving as head coach for the Canadian squad.

This year's tournament runs from May 15-31 in Zurich and Fribourg, Switzerland. The seven-game round robin portion of the event runs through May 26, with quarterfinals set for May 28, semifinals May 30 and the gold and bronze medal games on the final day of the month. Games can be watched live on NHL Network throughout the tournament.

Follow along here throughout the tournament as we'll post scores, schedules and stats for the CBJ players taking part in this year's World Championships.

CBJ Player Stats

Olivier (United States): 4 GP, 1-2-3, 11 SOG, +1, 14:45 TOI

Greaves (Canada): 2 GP, 2-0-0, 2.00 GAA, .902 SV%

Mateychuk (Canada): 3 GP, 1-1-2, 3 SOG, +3, 10:02 TOI

Schedule and Results

Friday, May 15

Canada 5, Sweden 3

Switzerland 3, United States 1

Saturday, May 16

Canada 6, Italy 0

Sunday, May 17

United States 5, Great Britain 1

Monday, May 18

Canada 5, Denmark 1

Finland 6, United States 2

Wednesday, May 20

United States 4, Germany 3 (SO)

Thursday, May 21

Canada (Greaves, Mateychuk) vs. Norway, 10:20 a.m.

Friday, May 22

Canada (Greaves, Mateychuk) vs. Slovenia, 10:20 a.m.

Saturday, May 23

United States (Olivier) vs. Latvia, 6:20 a.m.

Sunday, May 24

Canada (Greaves, Mateychuk) vs. Slovakia, 2:20 p.m.

Monday, May 25

United States (Olivier) vs. Hungary, 10:20 a.m.

Tuesday, May 26

United States (Olivier) vs. Austria, 10:20 a.m.

Canada (Greaves, Mateychuk) vs. Czechia, 2:20 p.m.

CBJ Player Updates

Wednesday, May 20

The United States had to work extra time but earned a key victory over Germany, capturing a 4-3 final in a shootout. The win moved the squad to five points in four games and fourth place in the group, with the top four moving on to the quarterfinals.

It wasn't always pretty, as the squad was down 3-2 before Tommy Novak's tying goal with 5:47 to go. Ryan Leonard later added the deciding goal in the shootout, while Isaac Howard and Max Sasson scored.

Olivier played a tournament-best 16:05 but finished a minus-2.

Monday, May 18

The CBJ Canadian contingent had a big day as Team Canada improved to 3-0 with a 5-1 win over Denmark. Canada dominated the opening 40 minutes, outshooting Denmark 27-9, before a five-goal third period made Jet Greaves a winner for the second time. Denton Mateychuk had a key hand in the goal explosion, jumping into the play and burying his own rebound off a pass from Sidney Crosby for his first goal of the tournament. Greaves stopped 15 of 16 shots against.

Things weren't as rosy for the United States, as Finland jumped on the red, white and blue early, taking a 5-1 lead on the way to a 6-2 victory. Olivier played 16:27 with six shots on goal and an even plus-minus.

Sunday, May 17

Mathieu Olivier had a huge game, posting a goal and two assists as the United States earned its first win at the tournament, downing Great Britain by a 5-1 score.

The CBJ winger gave Team USA a 3-1 lead in the third period as he scored from in front of the net, putting a rebound past goalie Ben Bowns. Olivier also assisted on tallies by Paul Cotter in the first and Declan Carlile in the third and finished plus-3

Saturday, May 16

Canada eased to its second win of the tournament, taking a 6-0 victory over Italy on Saturday.

With the team on a back-to-back, Greaves was given the night off, with Cam Talbot taking the net. Denton Mateychuk played 12:51, posting a plus-2 rating and notching his first assist of the tournament.

Friday, May 15

Canada's tournament got off to a good start as Greaves backstopped the squad to an opening win vs. Sweden, while Team USA's title defense began with a setback against the home Swiss squad.

Greaves got the nod in net for Canada in the opener and overcame a rough middle frame in the country's 5-3 win over Sweden. The CBJ goalie gave up three goals in the second as Sweden rallied to tie the game, but Greaves shut the door in the third and Canada got the win.

Greaves did make a highlight reel stop on a one-timer by Albert Johansson, moving to his left and getting his outstretched arm on the shot.

Mateychuk dressed as Canada's seventh defenseman and played nine shifts in the game.

Meanwhile, Team USA couldn't get much going in its 3-1 loss to the hosts, as Switzerland took a 2-0 lead in the first and weathered the Americans' push in the third that included Alex Steeves' goal. Olivier played 13:26 and wore an alternate captain's "A", while the Swiss team featured former Jackets Dean Kukan, Calvin Thurkauf and Tim Berni.

[The Athletic / 'A giant in Ohio hockey': Blue Jackets mourn death of scout, broadcaster Bill Davidge](#)

By Aaron Portzline – May 20, 2026

Bill Davidge, who helped establish Division I hockey at Miami University and later became the program's second coach, and then had a second career as a longtime TV and radio analyst with the Columbus Blue Jackets, died on Tuesday. He was 72.

His son, Rob, confirmed his passing to *The Athletic*.

Davidge, one of the Blue Jackets' earliest employees, was a pro and amateur scout for the club in the late 1990s as Columbus prepared to enter the NHL as an expansion franchise in 2000. He then switched to the broadcast booth, where he was ever-present on the airwaves, both locally and nationally.

Along with his radio sidekick George Matthews, the Blue Jackets' first play-by-play voice, Davidge reached near folk-hero status with fans in Columbus.

His perfectly coiffed white hair, power suits and infectious energy were ever-present — earning him the nickname “Dapper” — as were his homespun tails of life growing up in Dunnville, Ontario, a tiny village of 6,000 on the north shore of Lake Erie. In Dunnville, Davidge created his own Lake Wobegon.

Matthews, in a text exchange on Wednesday morning with *The Athletic*, said “nobody breathed the Blue Jackets' brand more than Billy.”

“Nobody enjoyed their time on this Earth more than Billy D,” Matthews wrote. “He lived each day tip to tip. He made the world a more enjoyable place, and he'll be sadly missed by anyone whose life he touched.”

Davidge's positive attitude, even as he battled cancer and the effects of a stroke in recent years, never seemed to fade. “Any day at the rink,” he used to say, with a big smile, “is a heck of a day, ain't it?”

“Bill was a true ambassador, not just for the Blue Jackets but for the game of hockey throughout Ohio,” said Dave Maetzold, who worked side-by-side with Davidge on Blue Jackets TV broadcasts through the years. “He was always positive, always prepared, and, of course, always impeccably dressed. He set the standard for the broadcast.

“Personally, he was so helpful to be in my first few years on the broadcast team. A true mentor to so many of us learning the intricacies of being a part of an NHL broadcasts. A giant in Ohio hockey ... I'll miss him dearly.”

Davidge played four seasons at Ohio State in the mid-1970s, serving as the Buckeyes' captain for the 1976-77 season. Two seasons later, he joined Miami's inaugural staff as an assistant under head coach Steve Cady.

After seven seasons as an assistant, he replaced Cady atop the program for a four-year run beginning in 1985. He went on to coach Miami's men's golf program for several seasons before returning to his first love, hockey.

When the Blue Jackets were granted an expansion franchise in the late 1990s, then-general manager Doug MacLean hired Davidge as an amateur and pro scout for the two seasons leading up to the franchise's arrival.

Once the franchise was up and running, Davidge moved to the radio booth, where he and Matthews brought the franchise to life for many first-time hockey fans.

While Matthews was the rapid-fire play-by-play voice, with the cadence of a caffeinated auctioneer, Davidge was the perfect counterbalance. He took time to explain to what was happening and why, though the lens of a coach.

Davidge retired from the Blue Jackets and broadcasting following the 2018-19 season amid continuing health challenges. He was thrilled, that year, to have witnessed and broadcasted the Blue Jackets' first playoff series win, a first-round sweep of Tampa Bay.

"When you were in a conversation with Billy, he made you feel like you were the only person in the room," said Minnesota Wild forward Nick Foligno, who spent nine seasons in Columbus and was the Blue Jackets' captain for six seasons. "He understood the game like a coach, but he also understood the people in it, and I always appreciated our chats on hockey, but also life. The encouragement and insight he provided me were always deep appreciated.

"He went through a lot with his health, and he battled hard. I admired how he stayed faithful and strong during what surely were his most difficult times. He will be deeply missed, but never forgotten, and that's a great testament to his life."

Longtime Blue Jackets player and broadcaster Jody Shelley told *The Athletic* in a text message: "Such a positive impact on everybody. He heard me one time ask about a skating coach (early in my career), and 48 hours later, after practice, he was on there — ON THE ICE — in a track suit helping me with my edges and my knee-bends. His passion to help in anyway was evident every second you were around him.

"He lived by the golden rule, treated everybody with the utmost kindness. It was amazing to watch him with people. Always time and energy for everyone and anyone, truly the gentleman we all aspire to be."

Funeral services are pending.

"The Columbus Blue Jackets are deeply saddened by the passing of Bill Davidge," a club statement read. "Our organization has never known a greater advocate or ambassador for our team and sport than Bill. If the Blue Jackets were somewhere in the community, there was a good chance Bill was there, and he was making an impact. There were no strangers in his world, only friends.

"Hockey. The Blue Jackets. Ohio State. Miami University. Golf. People. Bill had many passions in life, but none stronger than family. We send our sincerest condolences to his wife, Jayna, his children, grandchildren and many, many friends and fans. All that knew him are better for it."

The Columbus Dispatch / Bill Davidge, former Columbus Blue Jackets TV and radio analyst, dies

By Dan Aulbach – May 20, 2026

Former Blue Jackets radio and TV color analyst Bill Davidge passed away, according to a team social media post May 20. He was 72.

A native of Dunnville, Ontario, Davidge began his career with the Blue Jackets as a team scout in 1999 and later transitioned into the radio booth in 2000, working with play-by-play man George Matthews until 2009. He then moved to the Fox Sports Ohio TV broadcast until his retirement in 2019. He was 64 when he retired.

David also coined the phrase, "You better believe it!" as his signature call in the booth.

"Our organization has never known a greater advocate or ambassador for our team and sport than Bill. If the Blue Jackets were somewhere in the community, there was a good chance Bill was there. And he was making an impact. There were no strangers in his world, only friends," the Blue Jackets statement read.

Davidge's hockey career in Columbus began long before his Blue Jackets tenure. He played collegiately at Ohio State and was a captain for the Buckeyes in the mid-1970s. He also coached the Miami University hockey program, spending 23 years total in Oxford as a coach and teacher.

Davidge had a public health battle with myeloma, an incurable form of blood cancer, and was diagnosed in 2014.

"There are few people that come along in one's life that make you say, 'I wish I could be more like him. I need to enjoy life like him. I need to treat people like him.' That was Bill Davidge," wrote MLB broadcaster Jim Day on social media. "This is a tough day upon learning of his passing. There's not a person that he touched that doesn't have a broken heart today. RIP my friend. Condolences to your family and many friends."

The Blue Jackets sent condolences to Davidge's wife, Jayna, along with his children and grandchildren.

The Hockey Writers / Hockey World Mourns Loss of Beloved Blue Jackets Broadcaster Bill Davidge

By Mark Scheig – May 21, 2026

The story of the Columbus Blue Jackets cannot be told without mentioning the impact Bill Davidge had. The story of hockey in Ohio cannot be told without mentioning the impact he had.

“Oh baby! You better believe it!” That was Davidge’s signature call in the broadcast booth. For five decades, he left an indelible mark on hockey through everything he was able to accomplish. He usually had a big smile on his face too.

On Wednesday, the Blue Jackets announced through a social media post that Davidge passed away. He was 72. As soon as the news came out, tributes started pouring in.

Davidge’s Career

Davidge’s ties to Ohio began in the mid 1970’s. He came to the United States from Ontario to play hockey at Ohio State University. He served as the Buckeyes team captain in the 1976-77 season.

After graduating from Ohio State, Davidge joined Miami (Ohio) University as a graduate assistant coach. For the next decade plus, he helped to build the hockey program for the RedHawks including becoming the team’s head coach in 1985.

Davidge took his talents to the NHL during the 1990’s. He was a scout for multiple teams including the Detroit Red Wings and Florida Panthers. Then as the Blue Jackets were preparing to enter the NHL, GM Doug MacLean hired Davidge both a pro and amateur scout in 1999.

But it was Davidge’s next role within the Blue Jackets that a generation of fans will always remember about him. For the next 20 years, he became one of the soundtracks of the team.

Davidge joined George Matthews in the radio booth as a color analyst during the team’s first decade of existence. In 2009, Davidge moved to the TV side on Fox Sports Ohio and called games next to Jeff Rimer.

During his final years with the team, Davidge served as a studio host and analyst pregame, in-game and postgame. When he was off camera, he did everything possible to promote the Blue Jackets in an ambassador role. His influence was felt everywhere but particularly in the state of Ohio.

Davidge announced he would retire after the 2018-19 season was over so he could spend more time with his family. He previously announced he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Blue Jackets fans will vividly remember the scene postgame after the sweep of the Lightning. Davidge shared his emotions after seeing his team win a playoff series for the first time.

Even in retirement, Davidge still made it a point to visit the Blue Jackets when the opportunity presented itself. He made a visit to Nationwide Arena during the 2025-26 season sporting his usual smile and infectious personality. It was easy to see why he was so beloved by so many people.

Jeff Rimer & John Davidson Remember Davidge

The Hockey Writers reached out and spoke to Jeff Rimer and John Davidson to remember Davidge's legacy. For Rimer, there were a couple things that he will always admire and remember about his broadcast partner.

"Such a proud guy," Rimer said of Davidge. "Even though he was having a tough time, he found a way to show that he had the strength as far as dealing with the multiple myeloma and then later with the stroke. Always had a smile on his face. It didn't matter. I really admired that with Bill. He always found a way to be positive. He was always regardless of the situation, he was always proud and positive in any way he could be."

"What he was most proud of is when he always visualized himself as a coach. (He) always talked about it when he was analyzing games his perspective from being a coach. He was so proud of that. He was one in a million. He really was."

Davidson served as the Blue Jackets' President of Hockey Operations during the end of Davidge's career. Like Rimer, Davidson remembered the positivity Davidge brought no matter the situation.

"The one thing about Bill over the years, the attitude is so strong and so positive. He's always been a positive fighter," Davidson said. "It's sad to hear. It really is because the personality of the man and the spirit that he had and the energy that he had. He was always on the up and up. Always in a wonderful mood. Great to be around. He was a special guy because of his love for the game."

'It was a win for the Blue Jackets because you had such a positive, wonderful person out there spreading the gospel of the game. You look at someone like Bill and you say 'thanks.' You helped make the game better with your positive attitude towards the organization, towards the game, towards the players. Every single time you saw him it was all positive, positive, positive."

In Davidson's view, one thing stood out above all that made Davidge a great broadcaster.

"The biggest thing is the respect that he had for the game and the love that he had for the game," Davidson said. "It comes through when you listen to him. He had good knowledge too. I think there was a great package there. A man that loved the game and it came through the broadcast all the time. You never had to worry about Bill. He always showed up in a good mood. He always worked hard. And there's love. Love for the Blue Jackets, love for the game, love for the fans, love for the Fifth Line. That's a nice way to go through life."

Closing Thoughts

Davidge's legacy will be forever remembered thanks to his personality and everything he did to invest in hockey in Ohio. No matter what kind of mood you were in, being around him always lifted your spirits.

Davidge had an off-camera catch phrase too. Every time we saw each other at the rink, I would say "great seeing you." Then with the biggest smile on his face, his reply would be the same. "It's great to be seen."

No truer words could be spoken. Davidge was seen throughout his five-decade hockey career making a lasting impact in so many places. Based on the outpouring of support, it was clear he touched many lives.

A team captain. A coach. A scout. A broadcaster. A husband. A father. Davidge lived a full and complete life. But it was his personality that stood above all. His smile will continue to resonate with everyone that knew him.

Davidge will be sorely missed. Hockey in Ohio wouldn't be where it is today if it wasn't for his countless contributions. Rest easy, Dapper.