

## **Jihlava travel diary**

We had the opportunity to spend eight great days in Jihlava, Czech Republic within the IIHS. The organisation of the whole event was professional, from travelling through the accommodation, food, games and activities to the arrival to Tampere.

The day before the first day was about travelling. Our trip started at 10.am from Helsinki, and we arrived in Jihlava around 9 pm. During the way, we had the chance to get to know the Finnish team, coaches and parents with whom we spent the whole week together.

The whole event started with an opening ceremony, where the participants and organisers were introduced, and after that, we got the schedule. During the entire week, we had a program. We were starting with breakfast and training in the morning. The training helped us to get used to the ice after a long summer break. Then we continued with lunch, free time games in the afternoon, and lastly the dinner.

Hannu Tyry, who is one of the main organisers of these IIHS events did everything to show us the most about the Czech Republic and its culture, architecture and gastronomy. One day we went to Telč (a small city about 30km from Jihlava). It's a beautiful town which's town square is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. We had a free day, so we decided to discover Prague's historical streets and places. During the nights, we had time to get to know each other with our new friends from Jihlava and get some unforgettable memories and make long-lasting friendships.

However, the most important part of the day was the game. These games were great challenges for both the players and referees. In every game, we got new partners as referees to get an insight into their way of officiating, and we could also show them how we do it. The atmosphere was excellent for the whole time. At the end of the games, the best players were awarded by big names like Josef Kořenář, David Rittich, Tomáš Chlubna and the Czech hockey legend Jiří Holík (most games 319 in Team Czech).

We would like to say thank you for the Tampereen Jääkiekkotuomarit ry for the opportunity to participate in this event to represent the Finnish referees and the club and for Hanny Tyry for this week and the perfect organising.

Jaakko Stark, Mark Seres



Photo by Tomas Lysy



Photo by Tomas Lysy