

Ice Fernz

New Zealand Women's Ice Hockey Team



28 March 2019

6.00 pm

Ice Fernz Coach pleased with progress at pre-tournament training camp

With three days of intense training under their belt at the Sports Zentrum facility in St. Pölten, Austria, Ice Fernz Head Coach Rachel Park says it's been a positive start to the team's preparation for the IIHF Tournament in Romania next week.

"Yeah, I'm really encouraged by the team's performance, and commitment to training" she said.

As well as twice-daily ice time practices, the team has spent a lot of time discussing tactics and engaging in exercises to help build team cohesion.

"I'm thrilled with how the team is starting to gel. Despite the intensity of the training, there's a positive vibe amongst the players. There have been some really good inciteful and honest discussions" she said.

The first three days of training culminated in a practice game against a local Austrian team, which allowed Park to assess player development and try out a number of different line combinations.

"It was good for us. They were a great team; they were very fast, they were agile and they skated the puck down the ice, and they could shoot. Their shooting was hard and accurate, which disrupted our defence zone".

"I think we experienced some first period jitters, we were down 4-1 after the first 20 minutes. But we won the second period 2-0. We scored a couple of nice goals and shut them down".

"I don't think the final score of 6-3 did us justice, it didn't indicate the closeness of the third period. We played well but we tired in the third period, which I guess you would expect after three days of hard training. As it was our first practice game, I wanted to try different line combinations and different systems, so I wasn't worried about the final score line".

"Our powerplay was solid, but our penalty kill could do with a bit more improvement, especially our forechecking. I think we need to do some more work on shooting from inside the blue line, and more emphasis on our defence zone structure".

"From an offensive perspective, I want to focus more on triangulation in our attack and certainly putting more pucks in front of the net will help".

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The Ice Fernz second training game against the local invitation team will take place on Thursday night Austrian time.

“Certainly, the results from the Thursday game will determine the structure and focus of training on Friday” said Park.

The team depart Vienna on Saturday morning to fly to Bucharest, followed by a three-hour bus ride north to the tournament venue in Brasov.

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Background information

The games can be viewed in New Zealand at the following hours

April 1: NZ v Chinese Taipei at 11pm NZ Time

April 3: NZ v Iceland at 2:30am NZ Time

April 5: NZ v Turkey at 2:30am NZ Time

April 6: NZ v Romania at 6am NZ Time

April 7: NZ v Croatia at 10pm NZ Time

The full squad is:

NZ Ice Fernz team List		21-Mar-19
Name	Province	Position
Terryn Bruce	Auckland	Defence
Hannah Cross	Southern	Defence
Harriet Fuller	Auckland	Forward
Kirstin Gerken	Southern	Forward
Hope Gregory	Queenstown	Forward
Grace Harrison	Auckland	Goalie
Abbey Heale	Southern	Forward
Caitlin Heale	Southern	Forward
Jasmine Horner-Pascoe	Auckland	Forward
Lochlyn Hyde	Auckland	Goalie
Jaimie Jones	Auckland	Defence
Rebecca Lilly	Southern	Defence
Rikki-Lee McLean	Queenstown	Defence
Helen Murray	Auckland	Forward
Rachael Neville-Lamb	Auckland	Defence
Caitlin Orr	Southern	Forward
Jemma Read	Auckland	Forward
Ashley Richmond	Auckland	Defence
Reagyn Shattock	Auckland	Forward
Hannah Shields	Auckland	Forward
Danielle Strayer	Queenstown	Defence
Krystie Woodyear-Smith	Canterbury	Defence

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Links to further information

Information on the tournament can be found at

<https://www.iihf.com/en/events/2019/wwiib>

Follow the Ice Fernz on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/IceFernz/>

and on Puck Yeah NZ <https://www.facebook.com/puckyeahnz/>

For more information please contact:

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