

Obverse

The obverse depicts a moment of goalmouth action from an ice hockey match played in Starý Smokovec during the 1925 Ice Hockey European Championship, featuring the goaltender on the left and a skater on the right. To the right of the image is the Slovak coat of arms. To the left of the goaltender's legs is the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies; to the right are the stylised initials 'KL' of the designer, Karol Ličko. Inscribed along the bottom edge of the design are the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' and the year of issuance '2025'.

Reverse

The reverse shows an ice hockey player in action, wearing a style of uniform typical of the 1920s. He is set against a stylised panorama of the High Tatras. The inscription 'MAJSTROVSTVÁ EURÓPY V HOKEJI' (Ice Hockey European Championship) appears with the first word along the top edge of the design and the rest along the bottom edge, followed by the year '1925'. Above the lower part of the inscription, between the player's stick and legs, are the coin's denomination '10' and currency 'EURO', one above the other.

Action from the match between Czechoslovakia and Austria

Coin details

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| Denomination | €10 |
| Composition: | .900 silver, .100 copper |
| Weight: | 18 g |
| Diameter: | 34 mm |
| Edge lettering: | • MAJSTROVSTVÁ EURÓPY V KANADSKOM HOKEJI 1925 (1925 European Championship in ice ('Canadian') hockey) |
| Issuing volume: | limited to a maximum of 20,000 coins in either brilliant uncirculated or proof quality |
| Designer: | Karol Ličko |
| Engraver: | Dalibor Schmidt |
| Producer: | Kremnica Mint (Slovakia) |



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100th anniversary of the first international sports tournament in the territory of the Slovak Republic – the Ice Hockey European Championship

SILVER COLLECTOR EURO COIN

In 1925 the Ice Hockey European Championship was organised by the Czechoslovak Hockey Union (Československý Svaz Hockeyový) for the first time. It was originally scheduled to be held from 3 to 6 January at the ice rink of the SK Slavia Prague sports club, with the first and second backup venues designated as the Jordán fishpond in the South Bohemian town of Tábor and the natural ice rink at Štrbské Pleso in Slovakia's High Tatra Mountains.

The Union approached selected government ministries for financial assistance in organising the championship and invited ministers Edvard Beneš, Ladislav Novák and Jan Šrámek to be honorary patrons of the event and the preceding Congress of the Ligue International de Hockey sur Glace (LIHG), the then name of the International Ice Hockey Federation. At the request of the LIHG President, the championship was postponed until 6–11 January 1925.

Due to the weather conditions at both the first and second choice venues, it was decided to



Half-time in the match between Czechoslovakia and Austria at Štrbské Pleso



View of Starý Smokovec, where the 1925 European Championship was completed (with an ice rink set up on the local tennis courts)

hold the tournament at Štrbské Pleso. In the end, teams from Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Austria and Switzerland participated in the championship, while the Swedish and French teams withdrew beforehand.

The weather was not favourable for the organisers. The first setback came on 8 January, when the participants arrived at Štrba railway station. The cog-wheel railway to Štrbské Pleso was not running, so they continued by train to Poprad and then to Štrbské Pleso via the Tatra electric railway. At Štrbské Pleso, the participants were met by gales that had left the natural ice rink covered with snow. Even with the help of the army, the rink could not be prepared in time.

The weather only calmed down on 9 January. The executive committee met in the morning to set the schedule for the day. The matches were played in the afternoon as head-to-head contests consisting of two 20-minute halves.

Another unpleasant surprise came on 10 January. With the ice rink unable to bear the

weight of the heavy snow that fell during the night, water had seeped onto its surface. The executive committee was on the verge of abandoning the event when Major Holub from SK Slavia Prague saved the day by suggesting moving the championship to Starý Smokovec, also in the High Tatras, where the weather was better.

A rink was set up on the tennis courts at Starý Smokovec, with soldiers transporting the rink boards there just before midday on 10 January. The arrival of the teams was delayed, so the match between Switzerland and Austria did not start until 3.30 p.m. The match had to be abandoned when it became too dark to continue playing. The weather finally cleared on 11 January, allowing the remaining matches to be played. Czechoslovakia won its fourth European title, remaining undefeated and not conceding a single goal.

The hosting of the Ice Hockey European Championship in the Tatras marked the official debut of this sport—then widely referred to in Europe as 'Canadian hockey'—in Slovakia.



Maleček (in the back seat), the tournament's top scorer, in the Tatras in 1929

