

HAVE PADS.
WILL TRAVEL.
LITERALLY.

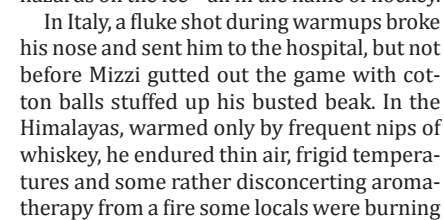


For more than decade now, Mizzi has resided at the intersection of hockey and travel,

Mizzi had been a goaltender all through public school, idolizing the likes of Pelle Lindbergh and Grant Fuhr, but he lost touch with the game in his late 20s after his best friend, Chris Brzezicki, died in a freak accident while working on a construction site. By his account, Mizzi fell into depression afterward, and his life

spiralled out of control, hitting its nadir in Amsterdam after getting caught up with the wrong crowd. He had no money to his name and was living with relatives in the U.K. after some rather large unsavory characters in the Netherlands offered him a choice between leaving the country and being gifted a new orifice. That's when Mizzi, a Canadian of Maltese heritage who holds dual citizenship, took to Google. "In my lonely state, I looked up ice hockey in Malta," Mizzi said. "That's when I got in touch with the Maltese national hockey team, I guess you could call them. They were the only hockey guys in Malta. I saw an article that they had just played a tournament in Dubai. I sent them an email, and one of the guys wrote back to me."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADRIAN MIZZI



THE TRAVELLING GOALIE

Country: **Italy**
City: **Cortina D'ampezzo**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Fussen**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Finland**
City: **Tampere**
Team: **Ilves Old Timers**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Czech Republic**
City: **Tachov**
Team: **Waldkraiburg Die Lowen**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **England**
City: **Basingstoke**
Team: **Ice Hawks**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Canada**
City: **Victoriaville**
Team: **Stingers**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Memmingen**
Team: **Memmingen Indians**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Czech Republic**
City: **Tachov**
Team: **HC Tachov**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Iceland**
City: **Reykjavik**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Switzerland**
City: **Grusch**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Exhibition game**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Konigsbrunn**
Team: **Ice Schlampen**
Event: **Rec-league game**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Senden**
Team: **Tussa Ice Eagles**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Serbia**
City: **Novi Sad**
Team: **HK Gentlemens**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Greece**
City: **Athens**
Event: **Skate**

Country: **Macedonia**
City: **Skopje**
Team: **Iraklis (Greek club)**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Wales**
City: **Cardiff**
Team: **Cardiff Titans**
Event: **Pickup hockey**

Country: **Hungary**
City: **Budapest**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars/Slovakian Bulldogs**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Scotland**
City: **Ayr**
Team: **North Ayrshire Wild**
Event: **Tryout**

Country: **England**
City: **Sheffield**
Team: **Island Monkeys**
Event: **Pickup hockey**

Country: **Andorra**
City: **Canilo**
Team: **IIHF**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Portugal**
City: **Lisbon**
Team: **IIHF**
Event: **Practise (national team)**

Country: **Spain**
City: **Benalmadena**
Team: **Costa del Sol league**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Senden**
Team: **Gorillas**
Event: **Pickup hockey**

Country: **Denmark**
City: **Fredrikshavn**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Aalen**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Pickup hockey**

Country: **India**
City: **Ladakh/Tangtse**
Team: **The Hockey Foundation**
Event: **World-record game**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Fussen**
Team: **Footwarmers Hockey**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **England**
City: **Solihull**
Team: **Birmingham Rockets/Solihull Grizzlies**
Event: **Training**

Country: **Bulgaria**
City: **Sofia**
Team: **Ice Devils/NSA/Slavia**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Transylvania**
City: **Csikszereda**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Romania**
City: **Bucharest**
Team: **Torpedos**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Egypt**
City: **Cairo**
Team: **Anubis Hockey Club**
Event: **Training**

Country: **Liechtenstein**
City: **Malbun**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Morning skate**

Country: **Morocco**
City: **Rabat**
Team: **National team**
Event: **Guest of IIHF**

Country: **South Africa**
City: **Johannesburg**
Team: **National team**
Event: **Camp**

Country: **Spain**
City: **Barcelona**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **England**
City: **Sheffield**
Team: **Island Monkeys**
Event: **Pickup hockey**

Country: **Brazil**
City: **Rio de Janeiro**
Team: **Mad Parrots**
Event: **Teaching/Practise**

Country: **Chile**
City: **Punta Arenas**
Team: **Ghetto Blasters**
Event: **Tournament**

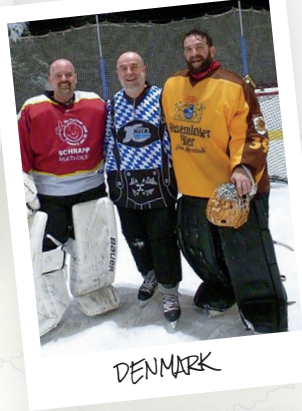
Country: **Argentina**
City: **Ushuaia**
Team: **Nordicos**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Estonia**
City: **Tallinn**
Team: **Rainman All-Stars**
Event: **Tournament**

Country: **Latvia**
City: **Riga**
Event: **Pickup hockey**

Country: **Sweden**
City: **Torvallavagen**
Event: **Practise**

Country: **Germany**
City: **Regensburg**
Team: **Regensburg Spiders**
Event: **Practise**



2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

at one end of the rink – just to be a part of the Guinness World Record for the highest-altitude hockey game ever played. “I was 100-percent certain it was diesel, but after the second period I was told it was yak s---,” Mizzi said. “That’s when it came to me: I’m fully inhaling particles of yak s---. I’m eating s--- while I’m playing hockey. I’m gasping for air and I’m eating s---. Like, what the heck?”

By his own admission, Mizzi frequently puts the “beer” in beer-leaguer wherever he travels, never more so than one night in Austria when he played a game fully corked, using the crossbar for balance. Surprisingly, Mizzi was able to keep the contents of his stomach from making an appearance, and he even led his team to victory. But he did have a Glenn Hall moment one evening in Romania – unfortunately, it came during the game instead of before it after eating a heavy meal too close to start time. “It was gross, really gross,” Mizzi said. “I kind of lifted my mask up and made it look like I was just spitting, but really I was spitting mouthfuls of puke right into the blue area of my crease...The play would come into our end and I wouldn’t puke again, but then the puck would leave the zone and I’d lift up my mask and throw up again. This went on for about 15 minutes. I must’ve puked four or five times.”

Another stinky situation came when Mizzi and a few of his beer-league buddies all piled into a campervan to travel around Europe for three weeks, looking for a place to happen upon some hockey. The camper came

completely equipped, with beds, a kitchen and a bathroom, which even had a fully functioning shower – if only they had read the vehicle’s operating manual. “We’d stop in a town, and we’d beg to play hockey,” Mizzi said. “We’d just show up at a rink and say, ‘Hey, let us play hockey! Can you let us play hockey?’ And the reason was so that we could shower, because we couldn’t figure out that the stupid switch for the shower was under the passenger seat.”

One of Mizzi’s personal highlights came during a tournament in Hungary, where

he met Attila Ambrus, a.k.a. ‘The Whiskey Robber,’ a former goalie/janitor for Ujpesti Torna Egylet in the Hungarian League who committed a string of robberies in and around Budapest during the 1990s, sometimes while wearing elaborate disguises. With help from a local IIHF referee, Mizzi was able to track down Ambrus working at a nearby mall. “I went out there, got to the mall, came out of the elevator, had my GoPro, turned it on as soon as the elevator door opened and lo and behold there’s the Whiskey Robber,” Mizzi said. “He’s got a little kiosk where he’s selling

I’M PROBABLY GOING TO BE THE FIRST GOALIE TO PLAY ON EVERY CONTINENT
– MIZZI

porcelain. He learned how to make porcelain while he was in jail. We were talking and he asked, ‘Where are you from?’ I said, ‘Toronto’ and he was like, ‘When I was robbing banks, one of my trips was to Toronto.’ I said, ‘Did you rob any banks there?’ And he was like, ‘No, I was on holiday.’”

Mizzi, 44, travels about two or three times a year (most often with the Rainman All-Stars out of Germany) whether for tournaments, pickup games, charity events, hockey camps, you name it. Along the way, he’s played with and against a bevy of former European pros,

including ex-NHLers Jyrki Lumme and Michal Sivek, who was part of the Jaromir Jagr trade to the Washington Capitals in 2001. Even in Toronto, where Mizzi gets his hockey fix running his beer-league team, the Ghetto Blasters, he faces ex-pros often as a fill-in goalie for games with NHL alumni featuring the likes of Marcel Dionne, Wendel Clark and Brad May. “Somehow I always end up playing with these guys that are like, you know, they played really, really good hockey, and I’m just a beer-league dude,” Mizzi said. “It’s always a pleasure to be on the ice with former

professional hockey players, but it’s an even bigger honor to get to talk to them and get a grasp of how it was to be in ‘The Show.’”

When he’s not playing the role of The Travelling Goalie, Mizzi funds his travels with work behind the scenes in film production, whether driving a food stylist truck or working as a production assistant for commercials or TV shows. He’s even been in a couple commercials himself – as a goalie, of course – including one for Budweiser.

With no kids and blessed with a patient and supportive longtime girlfriend, Mizzi is able to dump all his disposable income into his Bedouin backstopping lifestyle. He’s also garnered a handful of sponsorships, including Goalie Heaven in Toronto, which provides him with free gear and sticks. “That’s something that, to this day, people can’t grasp, that some guy is coming all the way from Canada with his goalie equipment just to play hockey,” Mizzi said. “They can’t grasp this. It’s like, ‘What do you mean? Why are you coming all the way here?’”

It may not be the NHL, but Mizzi feels like he’s living the dream – travelling the world and playing hockey. He names Kenya, Turkmenistan and Iran as upcoming destinations in 2019, but his next stop will be extra special, when he rings in the New Year Down Under. “Australia is the last inhabited continent for me,” Mizzi said. “I guess I could go on record and say I’m probably going to be the first goalie to play on every continent.” **H**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADRIAN MIZZI