

Volume 15

Number 065

Olympics 1980: Miracle on Ice

Lead: One of the twentieth century's most exhilarating moments in sports transformed the closing moments of the 1980 Winter Olympics ice hockey championship into a "Miracle on Ice."

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: The "Miracle on Ice" of course refers to the United States ice hockey team victory over the Soviet Union in Lake Placid, New York. When the two teams met on February 22nd, the U.S. team was the clear underdog. The Soviet Union had

blown the U.S. team away at an exhibition game earlier in the month at Madison Square Garden and had dominated ice hockey in the Olympics since 1964. It was considered the world's most formidable hockey machine – routinely winning international competitions.

As they squared off in the Olympics, it was obvious that the Soviet team was government sponsored, almost professional while the U.S. team was made up of amateur collegiate athletes and alumni – mostly from University of Minnesota and Boston University. The edge was clearly with the Soviets. U.S. coach, Herb Brooks, who coached at the University of

Minnesota knew his team could not match the skills of the Soviets so he drove his team with a strict routine of aerobic, flexibility and strengthening exercises intending to gain an edge with stamina and endurance.

In the medal round the U.S. team shocked the world with a 4-3 victory over the Soviets and they earned a shot at the gold by beating Finland 4-2. In the showdown sportscaster Al Michaels posed the famous question during the last unforgettable 15 seconds:

“Do you believe in miracles?”

Research by Ann Johnson, at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

**Allen, Kevin. *USA Hockey: A Celebration of a Great Tradition: The Official Commemorative Book*.
Chicago: Triumph Books, 1997.**

**Anderson, David Poole, “When All of America Skated on Golden Pond: US Hockey Team Defeated Russia at 1980 Winter Olympics.”
New York Times, 20 Feb. 2000:
Sports Pages.**

**Fitzpatrick, Jamie. “Miracle on Ice: The Legacy.”
About.com. 5 June 2009
<http://proicehockey.about.com/cs/miracleonice/a/miracle_legacy.htm>.**

**Swift, E.M., “A Reminder of What We Can Be.”
<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/features/cover/news/2000/02/17/a_reminder_of_what_we_can_be/#more>.**

**Wallechinsky, David. *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics*. Woodstock, NY: The
Overlook Press, 2001.**

Copyright by Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.