

40TH ANNIVERSARY

# Do you BELIEVE in MIRACLES?

Al Michaels - ABC Sports

Forty years ago the U.S. hockey team upset the four-time defending gold medalist Soviets.

In 1980 the U.S. hockey team entered the Olympics with the youngest team in its history. The U.S. was led by coach Herb Brooks and consisted of mostly amateur players, 12 that were born in Minnesota. Team USA's victory over the highly favored Soviet Union became one of the most iconic moments in the history of U.S. sports. Here is a look at the monumental Olympic event:



THE OLYMPICS



- ▶ Lake Placid, N.Y.
- ▶ 37 nations involved
- ▶ 38 events
- ▶ 1,072 athletes
- ▶ OPENED: Feb. 13, 1980
- ▶ CLOSED: Feb. 24, 1980



THE GAME

The Soviets had won five of the last six Olympics and were once again the favorites. Their team featured many players with significant international experience. Many assume the victory over the Soviets was for the gold medal. In reality the U.S. didn't win gold until their victory over Finland two days later.



THE ROSTER



No.	Position	Player	Age	Hometown	College
30	G	Jim Craig	22	North Easton, Mass.	Boston U.
3	D	Ken Morrow	23	Flint, Mich.	Bowling Green
5	D	Mike Ramsey	19	Minneapolis, Minn.	Minnesota
10	C	Mark Johnson	22	Madison, Wis.	Wisconsin
24	LW	Rob McClanahan	22	St. Paul, Minn.	Minnesota
8	RW	Dave Silk	21	Scituate, Mass.	Boston U.
6	D	Bill Baker (A)	22	Grand Rapids, Minn.	Minnesota
9	C	Neal Broten	20	Roseau, Minn.	Minnesota
23	RW	Dave Christian	21	Warroad, Minn.	North Dakota
11	RW	Steve Christoff	25	Richfield, Minn.	Minnesota
21	LW	Mike Eruzione (C)	22	Winthrop, Mass.	Boston U.
28	RW	John Harrington	22	Virginia, Minn.	Minnesota-Duluth
1	G	Steve Janaszak	22	St. Paul, Minn.	Minnesota
17	D	Jack O'Callahan	22	Charlestown, Mass.	Boston U.
16	C	Mark Pavelich	21	Eveleth, Minn.	Minnesota-Duluth
25	LW	Buzz Schneider	25	Grand Rapids, Minn.	Minnesota
19	RW	Eric Strobel	21	Rochester, Minn.	Minnesota
20	D	Bob Suter	22	Madison, Wis.	Wisconsin
27	LW	Phil Verchota	22	Duluth, Minn.	Minnesota
15	C	Mark Wells	21	St. Clair Shores, Mich.	Bowling Green

THE COACH



After winning three national championships as a coach with the University of Minnesota, Brooks was hired as the head coach of the Olympic team. He would go on to coach in the NHL as well as winning a silver medal in the 2002 Olympics. Brooks died in a Minnesota car accident in 2003.

◀ HERB BROOKS

IN POP CULTURE

The Miracle on Ice has been highlighted in many films, books and television series. Here are a few from that list:

- ▶ 2001: A documentary "Do You Believe in Miracles?" premiered on HBO.
- ▶ 2004: Walt Disney Pictures released "Miracle," starring Kurt Russell.
- ▶ 2015: The ESPN 30 for 30 series aired "Miracles and Men."

SCHEDULE OF PLAY

Game	U.S. Record	Date	Opponent	Opponent Record
1	U.S. (0-0-1)	Feb. 12	SWEDEN (0-0-1)	2-2
2	U.S. (1-0-1)	Feb. 14	CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1-1-0)	7-3
3	U.S. (2-0-1)	Feb. 16	NORWAY (0-0-0)	5-1
4	U.S. (3-0-1)	Feb. 18	ROMANIA (1-3-0)	7-2
5	U.S. (4-0-1)	Feb. 20	W.GERMANY (1-4-0)	4-2
6	U.S. (5-0-1)	Feb. 22	SOVIET UNION (5-1-0)	4-3
7	U.S. (6-0-1)	Feb. 24	FINLAND (3-3-1)	4-2

▶ The U.S. scored two goals in the final period to take the lead.

▶ The U.S. scored three goals in the final period to win gold.

Sources: Olympic.org, Hockeydb.com, U.S. Hockey

Troy Becker / Forum News Service

Eveleth native and former Minnesota Duluth player Mark Pavelich competes for the U.S. Olympic hockey team in 1980.

Forum News Service file photo



PAVELICH

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In October, Pavelich was found unfit for trial and a danger to himself and others, and ordered placed in supervised psychiatric care. Saturday will mark the 40th anniversary of the U.S. team's victory over the Soviet Union at Lake Placid, a 4-3 victory in which Pavelich had two assists.

His former teammates remain dedicated to their friend. Buzz Schneider, Billy Baker and Mike Ramsey were among those who visited him this month.

"With us, he's great. He's the same Mark I know," said Schneider, who played alongside center Pavelich and John Harrington on coach Herb

Brooks' famous "Coneheads" line. "But there are some things he's got to take care of. He gave me a big hug."

An All-American at Minnesota-Duluth, Pavelich played briefly overseas before finally getting a chance at the NHL when Brooks was made head coach of the New York Rangers. In his first three NHL seasons, he had 99 goals, 134 assists and was a plus-50.

A fellow Iron Ranger, Schneider said Pavelich was his favorite center to play with.

"I liked all the centers I played with ... but they were more north-south centers," Schneider said. "Mark was creative, going down the ice almost like an artist, and I used to tell me, 'Buzz, don't worry about it, just get in

front of the net and I'll put it on your stick."

"We keyed off what he was doing, so it was easy for us."

Charges against Pavelich would be dismissed three years after the date he was found incompetent, unless the Cook County Attorney's Office files written notice of an intent to prosecute.

Pavelich's family has started a gofundme.com page to establish a foundation to help former hockey players struggling with brain injuries.

"He was a great teammate and a really good person," Eruzione said, "and unfortunately there's been some issues in his mental health and his health in general. We hope he finds what he needs."