

## 2002 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

### 1980 U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey Team

The foundation for an accomplishment that Sports Illustrated magazine selected as the greatest sports moment of the 20th Century actually began at the National Sports Festivals in Colorado Springs.

Under the direction of head coach Herb Brooks, more than 80 players were evaluated for possible inclusion on the roster of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey Team during the 1978 and 1979 National Sports Festivals. Immediately following the 1979 National Sports Festival, Brooks selected the original 26-person roster - a roster that included players such as Mike Eruzione, Jim Craig, Dave Christian, Jack O'Callahan and Mark Johnson.

Following a rigorous, six-month training and competition schedule, the unheralded 1980 U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey Team traveled to Lake Placid, New York and, against a Cold War backdrop of international uncertainty, crafted one of the most enduring moments in Olympic history.

Following a 2-2 tie with Sweden in its opening game, the United States reeled off victories against Czechoslovakia, Norway, Romania and West Germany, setting up a medal-round match with the legendary team from the Soviet Union. On the strength of a third period goal from Eruzione, the team's captain, the United States shocked not only the Soviets, but the entire sports world by registering an improbable, 4-3 victory. The triumph over the Soviet Union garnered worldwide attention, and two days later, the United States upset Finland, 4-2, to capture the gold medal and complete the Miracle On Ice.