

1980 U.S. Hockey Team



The defining sports moment of the 20th Century actually began with careful consideration 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. The evaluations took place during the 1978 and 1979 National Sports Festivals in Colorado Springs.

Immediately following the 1979 Festival, Brooks selected the original 26-person roster and began a rigorous, six-month training and competition schedule that would culminate with one of the greatest achievements in the history of Olympic sport.

Unheralded and relatively unknown, the United States skated to a 2-2 tie with Sweden in its opening game at the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. Team USA then reeled off victories against Czechoslovakia, Norway, Romania and West Germany, setting the stage for a medal-round match up against a heavily-favored team from the Soviet Union. On the strength of a third period goal from team captain Mike Eruzione, 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.