

U.S. WINS HOCKEY IN OLYMPICS FINALE

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Los Angeles Times (1886-Current File); Feb 29, 1960;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (1881 - 1986)

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HELPING HAND—Nikolai Sologubov, right, captain of Russian ice hockey team, who suggested the use of oxygen to help U.S. team, congratulates U.S. captain, John Kirrane, at the victory ceremony.
Times photo via (P) Wirephoto

America's Comeback Victory Over Czechs Assisted by Russian

BY CHARLES CURTIS, Times Staff Representative

SQUAW VALLEY, Feb. 28—Given a friendly assist by the captain of the Russian team, the United States stormed back in the final period to crush Czechoslovakia and win its first Olympic Games ice hockey championship today.

The score was 9-4 with the U.S. scoring six goals in the last period. Roger Christian of Waiproad, Minn., tallied four goals.

Canada beat Russia, 8-5, for second place. The Russians finished third, Czechoslovakia fourth, Sweden fifth and Germany sixth.

Nikolai Sologubov, 25-year-old defense stalwart of the Russians, bridged the gulf of international rivalry with one of the most heart-warming gestures of these Olympic Games.

Our forces, weary after the two fierce victories over Russia and Canada, went into this morning's contest with the Czechs at low ebb, physically and mentally.

U.S. Outplayed

And for two periods we were out hustled, outskated, and what's more important, outscored, by the Czechs, who led by 4-3.

After the second period Sologubov came to the U.S. dressing room and through gestures, and a couple of words in interpretation indicated the Americans should try to pick themselves up with oxygen, which the Russ had used in some of their games.

Sologubov, known as "Solly" to the American players, accompanied the U.S. trainer to the nearby medical room, helped him to carry the oxygen equipment back. The players each took a whiff, stormed back with an overwhelming attack and concluded their Olympics campaign unbeaten and untied.

Czechs Score First

And one of the first visitors to the dressing room after the game was Sologubov, with congratulations all around.

Less than 200 fans were in the stands when the teams took the ice at 8 a.m. and the game start had to be held up while officials searched for a puck.

And the Czechs scored on goalie John McCartan before he was wide awake, after just eight seconds to be exact.

But then we squared it, went ahead at 2-1, and were tied at 2 all when the Czechs, short two men on penalties, stole the puck and went all the way. It was tied again at 3-all ending the first period.

Our early goals had been by Weldon Olson, Bob McVey and Roger Christian.

But the Czechs went ahead at 4-3 early in the second period when our forwards and wings were completely outskated and there seemed no hope of improvement as our players seemed to be

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OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS—Jubilant American hockey players send up exuberant yell at Squaw Valley

following 9-4 victory over Czech team yesterday. Victory left team undefeated, brought a gold medal.
(P) Wirephoto

Thrilling Rally Gives America Hockey Crown

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growing steadily more tired and disorganized.

But then came the magic third.

Just over five minutes into the period Roger Christian tied it up on a fine pass from his brother Bill and for the first time the crowd, now grown to 2,500 fans, rose to its feet and roared with enthusiasm. A tie with the Czechs would have clinched the title for the U.S. despite what Canada and Russia did later.

Tide Turns

The tide of battle turned completely when Bob Cleary put us ahead at 5-4 on a rebound of John Mayasich's long slap shot.

Then the Czechs drew a two-minute penalty and in that time our forces pumped home three more goals—Bob Cleary, Roger Christian and Bill Cleary. And two minutes before the finish Roger tallied his fourth goal, assisted (for the third time) by his brother who had scored both goals against Russia.

The after-game celebration didn't reach the intensity of the dramatic moments at the close of the Russian and Canadian conquests. But there was a pile-up, a throwing of sticks in the air, a pounding of shoulders and a magnificent feeling of triumph.

Bill Cleary's 12 points on six goals and six assists led all nations in scoring. The Christian brothers, Bill and Roger, had nine points and Roger's seven goals were tops on our squad.

In the final game today Canada got away to a flying 3-0 start. Russia drew up to 4-3 after two periods but never could tie it up. In the second game Sweden routed Germany, 8-2.

FIRST PERIOD

1. Czechoslovakia—Vlach (Tikal, Golonka), :08.
 2. U.S.—Olson (Johnson), 4:19.
 3. U.S.—McVey (R. Cleary), 9:22.
 4. Czechoslovakia—Bubnik (Guf), 11:30.
 5. U.S.—R. Christian (W. Christian, Williams), 13:33.
 6. Czechoslovakia—Vanek (Guf, Cerny), 14:40.
- Penalties—Paavola, 9:16; Kasper, 9:51; Tikal, 11:11.
- SAVES—McCartan, 8; Nadrchal, 14.

SECOND PERIOD

7. Czechoslovakia—Vlach (Kasper), 6:58.
- PENALTIES—Cerny, 10:26; Johnson, 16:36; Kirrara, 19:25.
- SAVES—McCartan, 8; Nadrchal, 9.

THIRD PERIOD

8. U.S.—R. Christian (W. Christian), 5:59.
 9. U.S.—R. Cleary (Mayasich), 7:40.
 10. U.S.—R. Cleary (W. Cleary, Kirrara), 11:36.
 11. U.S.—R. Christian (Mayasich, W. Cleary), 12:04.
 12. U.S.—W. Cleary (unassisted), 12:43.
 13. U.S.—R. Christian (W. Christian), 17:55.
- PENALTIES—McVey, 7:53; Patsch, 11:01.
- SAVES—McCartan, 10; Palmer, 0; Nadrchal, 22.
- TOTAL SAVES—McCartan, 26; Nadrchal, 45.

SCORE BY PERIODS

United States	3	0	4-9
Czechoslovakia	3	1	0-4