

# Cheers Resound Across Nation

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

*New York Times (1857-Current file)*; Feb 23, 1980;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers New York Times (1851-2006) w/ Index (1851-1993)

pg. 16

# Cheers Resound Across Nation

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

Car horns blared, bells jangled, fireworks crackled and shrieks of joy reverberated across the nation last night as Americans responded with unrestrained glee to the United States hockey team's 4-3 triumph over the Soviet Union in the Winter Olympic Games.

From New York to Los Angeles, at sports arenas, in theaters and in barrooms, family rooms and other watering and television-watching spots, hockey fans and Americans who had never before seen a hockey game cheered wildly, hugged one another and groped for superlatives.

The switchboards of newspapers and television studios lit up with avalanches of calls from people bursting with pride, not merely in the team's victory over a seemingly invincible foe, but in a kind of national vindication after years of tensions with the Soviet Union and adversity in Afghanistan, Iran, the Middle East and other world arenas.

Shouting "U-S-A, U-S-A.," thousands of screaming fans poured out of the Olympic Field House at Lake Placid, N. Y., after the stunning upset and, like cheerleaders to the nation, surged through the streets and hollered themselves hoarse as fireworks burst in the skies overhead.

## Telephone Call From President

President Carter telephoned the American team's dressing room to personally congratulate Coach Herb Brooks and the players and to invite them, along with the entire American Olympic team, to the White House "He

said we had made the American people very proud, and reflected the ideals of the country," the coach said.

In New York City, strangers in bars embraced and sang "God Bless America." Bedlam erupted at the Palestra in Philadelphia when the American victory was announced before the start of the Penn-Harvard basketball game. The band struck up the National Anthem and the crowd of 5,000 burst into song.

Amid the eruption of horns, bells and delirium, some people said it was like the Fourth of July, others like the Mardi Gras. Many waved American flags. It was as though America somehow, unaccountably, had won the cold war. "Let them have Afghanistan," one overly optimistic man shouted, "we've got the gold."

"It's super," said Tom Hartig, a Syracuse druggist. "It makes the patriotism in you come out."

## 'A Good Trend'

"It's fantastic, and I'm not even a hockey fan," said Paul Dolan, a Los Angeles business executive. "It's a good trend for the future that the Americans beat the Russians. The win is enough to make me become a hockey fan."

A Los Angeles student, Mike Marinelli, said: "That does more for destroying Russian or Communist supremacy than any Olympic boycott could ever do."

"This is one of the best events since the 1969 New York Mets," said Rob Devinney, a Jay, N. Y., man, referring to the 100-1 shot team that won the World Series.

At the University of Minnesota,

where many of the American team's hockey players attend school, fans were ecstatic. At Bullwinkle's Saloon near the campus, Mike Greenelee, a bartender, said: "The place went up for grabs." And at nearby Sergeant Preston's, Ruta Bruvelis, the night manager, said: "Everyone started screaming. It was something wild. This is hockey country."

In Buffalo, which is also hockey country, James A. BiGiore, a season-ticket holder of the Buffalo Sabres of the National Hockey League, could not resist pointing out that three of the American team's players were draft choices of the Sabres.

## Remembering 1936

A dinner party in Pittsburgh, erupted in cheers. "This is absolutely incredible," said Milton Susman. "The Russians have lost a lot of prestige." A friend, Leo Carlin, remembered 1936 and added: "It's the greatest Olympic victory since Jesse Owens won at Berlin."

At Gallagher's Steak House in midtown Manhattan, a gathering spot of many sports fans, Bret Primack, a 30-year-old playwright, said: "I think it's fantastic that such a young team won. It was like David versus Goliath."

A Gallagher's waiter, Pepe Acosta, said "It's the best thing that could have happened. But especially at this moment, with the situation in Afghanistan if the Afghans were watching they'd be happy."

"Don't forget," said Frank Rivera, a patron at Archie Moore's bar in New Haven "The Russians have got the best team in the world, and we beat the Russians. We're No 1 now."