

U.S. SURPRISES RUSSIA—AND WORLD—3-2

YANKS STEP FROM FIRST HOCKEY TITLE

Make History in Defeat of Reds

THE GREATEST MOMENTS IN U. S. AMATEUR HOCKEY HISTORY



This is the goal that gave the United States its first victory in history over a Russian hockey squad. Bill Christian (dark jersey) drives puck (dotted line) past Russian Goalie Nikolai Puchkov in final period as U. S. won, 3 to 2. (UPI Telephoto)



An explosion of emotion rocked the ice arena after U. S. beat Russia. Players and fans joined together in merriment as America reached a new plateau—needing a victory or tie against Czechoslovakia for first U. S. gold medal in hockey. (AP Wirephoto)

Hockey Standings

| | W | L | T | Pts | G | G |
|----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|
| U. S. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 20 | 7 |
| Canada | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 23 | 7 |
| Russia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 19 | 11 |
| Czechoslovakia | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 11 |
| Sweden | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 17 |
| Germany | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 37 |

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

U. S., 3; Russia, 2.
 Canada, 6; Sweden, 5.
 Czechoslovakia, 9; Germany, 1.

GAMES SUNDAY

U. S. vs. Czechoslovakia.
 Sweden vs. Germany.
 Canada vs. Russia.

Squaw Valley, Cal., Feb. 27 (UPI)—An embattled band of Yankee youngsters bounced off the ice Saturday to win the cold war of the Olympics by beating Russia, 3 to 2, to move within one game of the winter games ice hockey championship.

Bill Christian, a 5 foot 9 inch tiger from Warroad, Minn., fired home the winning goal with 5 minutes left to keep the Stars and Stripes at the head of the parade with an unsullied record in four games.

The scrappy Americans now need only to beat or tie Czechoslovakia Sunday for the first Olympic gold medal ever won by a United States hockey team. The Yanks whipped the Czechs in the preliminary round.

Canada Beats Sweden

Canada kept its championship hopes alive by rallying to beat Sweden, 6 to 5, Saturday night. The Swedes piled up a 4 to 1 lead in the first period, but the Canadians scored four goals in the final period for the triumph.

Canada would have to defeat Russia Sunday and have Czechoslovakia whip the United States to have a chance. In the event of a tie in the standings the title is decided on the spread between goals scored and goals against. In four games, Canada has tallied three more goals and allowed the same number as the U. S.

A First for U. S.

This also marked the first time a United States hockey team had ever beaten a Russian squad. The Soviets won the Olympic title four years ago in Cortina, Italy.

There were heroes galore for the United States in this grim, savage game which was more a combination of wrestling and football than ice hockey before an overflow crowd of 10,000 in the ice arena.

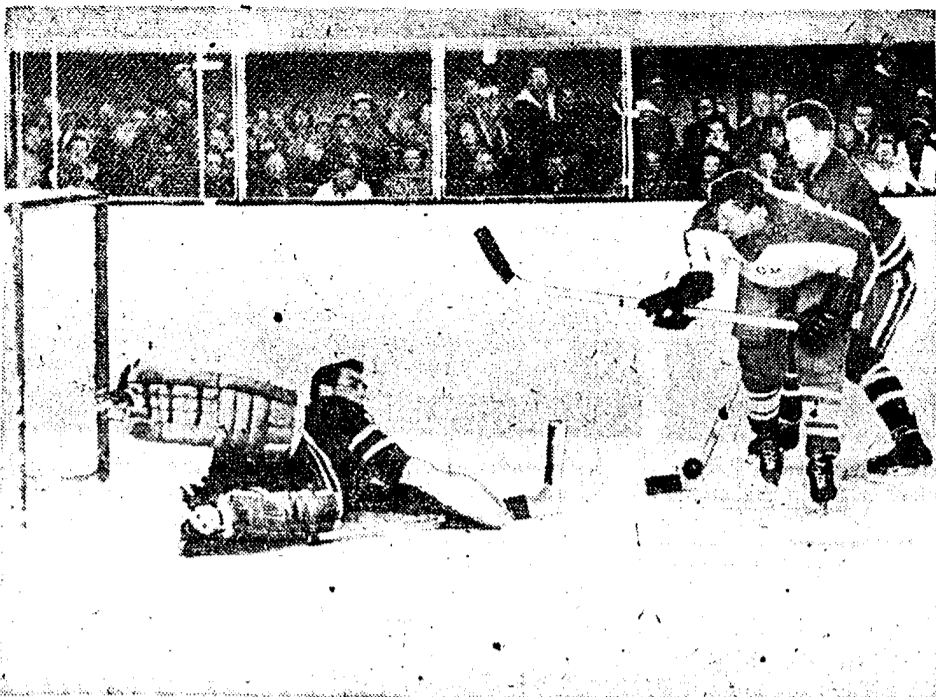
The brother teams of Bill and Roger Christian and Bill and Bob Cleary accounted for the goals and then there was the raging defensive play of Rodney Paavola of Hancock, Minn., and the fine goal tending of Jack McCartan of St. Paul.

Yanks Show Guts

It was more than a game. The Yankee youngsters were trying to show the blue and white garbed Russians how free men can fight. They were blocking more shots with their hurtling bodies than

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DE LUXE GOAL TENDING



[UPI Telephoto]

John McCartan, United States goalie, makes one of many fine stops Saturday in 3 to 2 victory over Russia. Teammate John Kirrane pushes puck away from Aleksandr Almetov during first period action in game which decided Winter Olympic hockey championship.

Fans Go Wild as U. S. Beats Russia in Hockey

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rushed from the bench to the athletes who had made the last stand.

The roar of applause increased in intensity.

Two Tough Games

Amid the cheers, many sighed. Some cried.

There was an air of anticipation in the arena when the American and Russian captains exchanged pennants before the opening faceoff. In warmups, the Russians—tied by Sweden but unbeaten—appeared poised and confident. The unconquered Americans appeared listless, and there were fears they might have spent everything in Thursday's 2 to 1 upset of Canada.

Four minutes and four seconds of mounting and falling audience reaction followed the first faceoff before the goal by 25 year old Bill Cleary, on a pass from his brother Bob, 23, inspired the initial kingsized ovation.

Iron Curtain Defense

Fifty-nine seconds later the score was tied at 1 to 1 as Russia's Veniamin Aleksandrov, amidst a melee near the American net, drove home the puck. The Russians now threw up an iron curtain on defense.

Meanwhile, they blitzed American's embattled defense. At 9:37 of the opening period, Mikhail Bychkov—a graybeard of 33 — added another Russian goal. The Soviets led, 2 to 1, and there was apprehension.

The opening period ended with John McCartan, a member of the United States baseball team in Chicago's 1959 Pan-American games, forced to 14 saves. The Russian goalie had nine—but he was due for unexpectedly heavy labor in the 40 minutes to follow.

Yanks Take Over

Following the intermission, the Americans came back with tigers in their ranks. They now were the aggressors. McCartan had only eight saves. Nikolai Puchkov, the Russian goal tender, had nine. One Puchkov failed to step

was Bill Christian's tying shot — on an assist from older brother Roger—at 11:01.

Roger Christian, Rod Paavola, and Tom Williams embraced Bill. The stands rumbled as feet stomped. There were whistles. The score was 2 to 2.

But this mighty ovation was merely a whisper compared to the outburst when Bill Christian, again on an assist from Roger and also Williams, rocketed in the winner at 14:59 of the final period.

Then—The End!

An anxious 5 minutes and one second still were to be spent. Fans were on their feet. Their fingers were crossed. Some must have prayed. With 35 seconds left, and again with 17 seconds left, there were faceoffs near the American goal. Finally the clocks showed five seconds.

"Five. Four. Three! Two!! ONE!!!

All hell broke loose.