



# OLYMPIC GAMES



**LAKE PLACID**  
February 13 -24, 1980



## After 48 years...

The 1980 Winter Olympics, officially known as the XIII Olympic Winter Games were held from February 13, through February 24, 1980, in Lake Placid, New York. This was the second time the Upstate New York village hosted the Games, after 1932. The only other candidate city to bid for the Games was Vancouver-Garibaldi, British Columbia, Canada, which withdrew before the final vote (though Vancouver would eventually win the bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics.)

The mascot of the Games was "Roni", a raccoon. The mask-like rings on a raccoon's face recall the goggles and hats worn by many athletes in winter sports. The sports were played at the Olympic Center, Whiteface Mountain, Mt. Van Hoevenberg Olympic Bobsled Run, the Olympic Ski Jumps, the Cascade Cross Country Ski Center, and the Lake Placid High School Speed Skating Oval.

The official theme song for the 1980 Winter Olympics was "Give It All You Got" by the American flugelhorn player Chuck Mangione, who performed the song (along with the song "Pina Colada") live at the Closing Ceremony, with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (Canada).

*Based on [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)*



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## SPORTS

**There were 38 events contested in 6 sports (10 disciplines):**

- \*Alpine skiing (6 events)
- \*Biathlon (3 events)
- \*Bobsleigh (2 events)
- \*Cross-country skiing (7 events)
- \*Figure skating (4 events)
- \*Ice hockey (1 event)
- \*Luge (3 events)
- \*Nordic combined (1 event)
- \*Ski jumping (2 events)
- \*Speed skating (9 events)

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- The United States men's ice hockey team, composed mostly of collegiate players and not predicted to advance beyond group play, won the gold medal. The United States team's 4–3 win over the veteran Soviet team, which came into the 1980 Games having won four consecutive Olympic gold medals, became

known as the "**Miracle on Ice**" in the US culture and all over the world. The win captured the hearts of Americans during a time of Cold War tensions, even though it was the win against Finland that secured the gold medal.






































- Eric Heiden of the United States won gold in the 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10,000m speed skating events, setting four Olympic records and one world record (10,000m) in the process and delivering 83% of the American gold medals (the only other gold, as noted above, was won by the hockey team). Heiden became the first to ever win all five speed skating events, the first of only three to win five gold medals in individual events at a single Games (either Summer or Winter), and is still the only athlete to win five gold medals at one Winter Games.
- Hanni Wenzel won the women's giant slalom and slalom, making Liechtenstein the smallest country to produce an Olympic champion.
- Ulrich Wehling of East Germany and Irina Rodnina of the USSR won their respective events for the third time, Wehling in Nordic combined and Rodnina in pairs figure skating.
- Aleksandr Tikhonov of the USSR earned his fourth straight gold medal as part of the 4 x 7.5m biathlon relay team.
- Nikolay Zimyatov of the USSR earned three gold medals in cross-country skiing.
- Robin Cousins won gold for Great Britain in the men's singles figure skating.
- East Germany won the most medals overall (23) but had fewer golds (9) than the USSR (10).
- In possibly the most dramatic duel of the games, Sweden's Thomas Wassberg edged Finland's Juha Mieto in the 15 km cross-country skiing by 0.01 seconds, the closest margin of victory ever in Olympic cross-country skiing. This led the International Ski Federation (FIS) to time all events to the nearest 1/10 second in the future.
- Although they did not get any medals, the People's Republic of China entered the Olympics Games for the first time after the IOC agreed to designate the Republic of China "Chinese Taipei".
- Lake Placid 1980 marked the first use of artificial snow in Olympic competition.
- Lake Placid 1980 was the last Olympics to be opened by the Vice President of the United States, as 1980 was a Presidential election year.

# Venues

VENUE	SPORTS
Intervales Ski-Hill	Nordic combined / Ski jumping
Lake Placid Equestrian Stadium	Opening ceremony
Lake Placid Olympic Sport Complex Cross Country Biathlon Center	Biathlon / Cross-country skiing / Nordic combines
Mt. Van Hoevenberg Bob and Luge Run	Bobsleigh / Luge
Olympic Center Arena	Figure skating / Ice hockey
James B. Sheffield Speed Skating Oval	Speed skating
Whiteface Mountain	Alpine skiing

**37 NOCs participated. United States President Jimmy Carter had already called for the boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, leading to a great deal of tension at the Games. Nevertheless, the USSR and its allies participated (though the USSR didn't participate in the 1984 Summer Olympics, held in Los Angeles).**

**Cyprus made their Olympic debut at the games. The People's Republic of China and Costa Rica both made their Winter Olympic debut. The Republic of China had boycotted the Games over the IOC's recognition of the PRC as "China", and its request for the Republic of China to compete as "Chinese Taipei".**

NATION	PARTICIPANTS	NATION	PARTICIPANTS
ANDORRA 	3	ICELAND 	6
ARGENTINA 	12	ITALY 	46
AUSTRALIA 	9	JAPAN 	50
AUSTRIA 	43	SOUTH KOREA 	10
BELGIUM 	3	LEBANON 	3
BOLIVIA 	3	LIECHTENSTEIN 	7
BULGARIA 	8	MONGOLIA 	3
CANADA 	58	NETHERLANDS 	29
CHINA 	24	NEW ZEALAND 	5
COSTA RICA 	3	NORWAY 	63
CYPRUS 	3	POLAND 	30
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 	41	ROMANIA 	35
FINLAND 	53	SOVIET UNION 	86
FRANCE 	22	SPAIN 	8
EAST GERMANY 	53	SWEDEN 	61
WEST GERMANY 	80	SWITZERLAND 	44
GREAT BRITAIN 	48	UNITED STATES 	101
GREECE 	3	YUGOSLAVIA 	15
HUNGARY 	3		

## THE MASCOT

Roni is the Olympic mascot of these Games, created by Don Moss. The mascot is a racoon, which is a familiar animal from the mountainous region of the Adirondacks where Lake Placid is situated. The name Roni comes from the word *racoon* in Iroquoian, the language of the native people from the region of the State of New York and Lake Placid and was chosen by Lake Placid school children.



## POLISH PARTICIPATION

There were 30 athletes from Poland in 5 sports.

### RESULTS:

#### CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:

**Józef ŁUSZCZEK** – 6 (15km); 5 (30km); 17 (50km) - *photo below*

#### ICE HOCKEY:

Henryk WOJTYNEK, Paweł ŁUKASZKA, Andrzej UJWARY, Henryk JANISZEWSKI, Henryk GRUTH, Andrzej JAŃCZY, Jerzy POTZ, Ludwik SYNOWIEC, Marek MARCIŃCZAK, Stefan CHOWANIEC, Wiesław JOBCZYK, Tadeusz OBŁÓJ, Dariusz SIKORA, Leszek KOKOSZKA, Andrzej ZABAWA, Henryk PYTEL, Stanisław KLOCEK, Leszek JACHNA, Bogdan DZIUBIŃSKI, Andrzej MAŁYSIAK – **7th place**

*RESULTS: FINLAND 5-4; CANADA 1-5; SOVIET UNION 1-8; NETHERLANDS 3-5; JAPAN 5-1*

#### NORDIC COMBINED:

Jan LEGIERSKI – 10

Józef PAWLUSIAK – 17

Kazimierz DŁUGOPOLSKI – 24

Stanisław KAWULOK – 26

#### SKI JUMPING:

Stanisław PAWLUSIAK – 40 (normal hill); 43 (large hill)

Piotr FIJAS – 47 (normal hill); 14 (large hill)

Stanisław BOBAK – 10 (normal hill); 22 (large hill)

#### SPEED SKATING:

Jan JÓŻWIK – 9 (500m); 13 (1000m) - *photo below - on the right*

**Erwina RYŚ-FERENS** – 11 (500m); 16 (1000m); 17 (1500m); **5** (3000m)



## Medal count

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	SOVIET UNION	10	6	6	22
2.	EAST GERMANY	9	7	7	23
3.	UNITED STATES	6	4	2	12
4.	AUSTRIA	3	2	2	7
5.	SWEDEN	3	0	1	4
6.	LIECHTENSTEIN	2	2	0	4
7.	FINLAND	1	5	3	9
8.	NORWAY	1	3	6	10
9.	NETHERLANDS	1	2	1	4
10.	SWITZERLAND	1	1	3	5
11.	GREAT BRITAIN	1	0	0	1
12.	WEST GERMANY	0	2	3	5
13.	ITALY	0	2	0	2
14.	CANADA	0	1	1	2
15.	HUNGARY	0	1	0	1
16.	BULGARIA	0	0	1	1
	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	0	0	1	1
	FRANCE	0	0	1	1
		<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>115</b>

### MAJOR STARS

**Ingemar STENMARK (Sweden)** – two gold medals in alpine skiing (then: 2-0-1)

**Hanni WENZEL (Liechtenstein)** – two golds and one silver in alpine skiing (then: 2-1-1)



**Anatoly ALYABYEV (USSR)** – two golds and one bronze in biathlon

**Frank ULLRICH (GDR)** – one gold and two silvers in biathlon (then: 1-2-1)

**Meinhard NEHMER (GDR)** – one gold and one bronze in bobsleigh (then: 3-0-1)

**Bernhard GERMESHAUSEN (GDR)** – one gold and one silver in bobsleigh (then: 3-1-1)

**Nikolay ZIMYATOV (USSR)** – three gold medals in cross-country skiing

**Barbara PETZOLD (GDR)** – two gold medals in cross-country skiing (then: 2-0-1)

**Raisa SMETANINA (USSR)** – one gold and one silver in cross-country skiing (then: 3-2-0)

**Irina RODNINA (USSR)** – she won her third consecutive gold in figure skating; at the same time she won second consecutive gold in pair with **Alexander ZAITSEV**.

**Ulrich WEHLING (GDR)** – he won his third consecutive gold in nordic combines

**Eric HEIDEN (USA)** – he won all the events in speed skating and won 5 gold medals!