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Jim Craig

Olympic Gold Medalist

Goalie, 1980 USA "Miracle on Ice" Team

An All-American goalie at Boston University and standout for the Terriers' 1978 NCAA championship squad, Jim was selected as the starting goaltender for the U.S. 1980 Olympic hockey team. At the Lake Placid games his performance was phenomenal. Indispensable to Team U.S.A.'s epic - what some have called *miraculous* - upset of the Soviet Union was the play of Jim Craig. In the game against the Soviets, the Americans were outshot 42-16, but Jim made 39 saves, many of the spectacular variety, and his teammates scored four times. Two days later, against Finland, Jim was again superb, and the Yanks won, 4-2, to take Olympic gold. How incredible was the victory over the Soviets? Consider that as the 20th century came to a close, most major media sports polls selected what happened two decades prior in Lake Placid, as the number one sports episode of the previous 100 years.

"It may just be the single most indelible moment in all of U.S. sports history," said Sports Illustrated of Team USA's win over the Soviet Union. "One that sent an entire nation into frenzy."

Jim was a hero that day in February 1980 when the US beat the Soviet Union to virtually assure gold at the Lake Placid Olympics. He was the goalie behind the victory and the man who draped himself in the American flag as he skated around the rink looking for his father. Jim Craig has been called the backbone of a team that accomplished one of the most extraordinary and memorable sports victories of all time. He went on to play professionally and transitioned to tremendous and ongoing success in the business world.

Following the Olympic Games, Jim played in the NHL where he started for the Atlanta Flames, Boston Bruins, and Minnesota North Stars. While in net for the North Stars, Jim sustained an injury that ended his professional hockey career. Jim is enshrined in the Boston University Athletic Hall of Fame, the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame, the United States Hockey Hall of Fame, and the United States Olympic Hall of Fame.

Jim has volunteered for several years as a youth hockey coach and contributes to and supports many philanthropic organizations and causes, including taking to the ice with the Boston Bruins Alumni to play in benefit games.

While his NHL career didn't play out as Jim had hoped, he will forever be remembered by US hockey fans for his incredible play in the 1980 Olympics. Jim is in demand from coast to coast and internationally as a motivational speaker, spokesperson, and master storyteller.



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