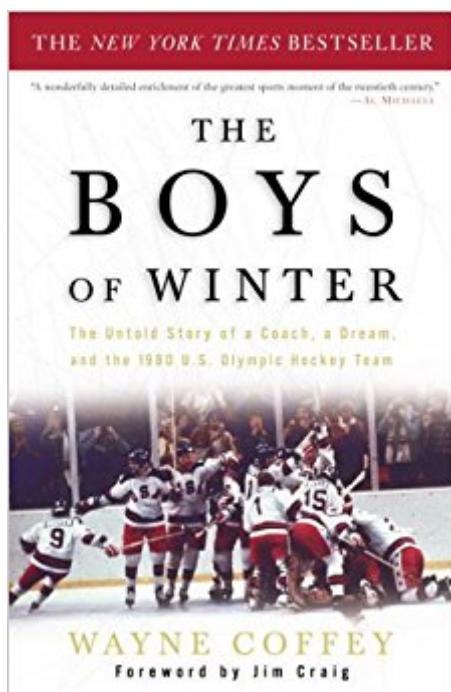


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The Boys Of Winter: The Untold Story Of A Coach, A Dream, And The 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team



Synopsis

The Story of the Greatest Sports Moment of the Twentieth CenturyOnce upon a time, they taught us to believe. They were the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team, a blue-collar bunch led by an unconventional coach, and they engineered what Sports Illustrated called the greatest sports moment of the twentieth century. Their “Miracle on Ice” has become a national fairy tale, but the real Cinderella story is even more remarkable. Wayne Coffey casts a fresh eye on this seminal sports event, giving readers an ice-level view of the amateurs who took on a Russian hockey juggernaut at the height of the Cold War. He details the unusual chemistry of the Americans—formulated by their fiercely determined coach, Herb Brooks—and seamlessly weaves portraits of the boys with the fluid action of the game itself. Coffey also traces the paths of the players and coaches since their stunning victory, examining how the Olympic events affected their lives. Told with warmth and an uncanny eye for detail, *The Boys of Winter* is an intimate, perceptive portrayal of one Friday night in Lake Placid and the enduring power of the extraordinary. Also available as an eBook

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In this well-written and thoroughly researched story of the 1980 Olympic gold-medal winning hockey team, New York Daily News sportswriter Coffey does much more than simply evoke memories. Expertly using coach Herb Brooks (who died last year in an auto accident) as his focal point, Coffey shows how Brooks, a devoted student of the game, used both psychological tactics and a groundbreaking system predicated on speed and constant motion to

defeat the Soviets, a team of highly trained, older and bigger professionals who had dominated the international competition for decades. Over the years, this story of the Americans' victory has become larger than life, replete with drama and drenched in patriotic themes. Coffey's greatest achievement is that his narrative never sinks into melodrama. He captures the rigorous training and the thrill of the games, yet digs deeper, soberly rendering the tenor of the American spirit amid the Iranian hostage crisis and the Cold War, and humanizing and illuminating (rather than caricaturing) the Russian side. For example, although the Russians were a world superpower, they scrounged for Band-Aids and didn't use slap shots because a shortage of quality sticks meant they couldn't risk breaking them—details suggesting the underlying faults of the Soviet regime. Coffey portrays the American side, a diverse collection of amateurs, warts and all, and gives special attention to Brooks, an enigmatic figure who turned a bunch of regional rivals into a tight-knit family whose bond still exists today. Filled with primary interviews and exceptional insight, Coffey's effort should delight more than just hockey fans. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School—A masterfully told narrative of the team's gold medal victory at Lake Placid, NY. The author's skilled depiction of personalities, breathtaking rendering of action on the ice, talent for capturing colorful regional hotbeds of hockey, and seamless segues between past and present are handled without loss of forward momentum in the story line. The saga of how coach Herb Brooks motivated a roster of 20 amateur, mostly college-age young men to orchestrate victory over an established Soviet team of seasoned, professionally trained skaters offers suspense, heroism, and a dizzying sense of the "full competitive combustion" that is a hallmark of this sport. A portrait of Brooks emerges as an irascible, obstinate, aloof, but savvy coaching genius who elicited singular creativity, grit, and a passionate teamwork ethic from his players. The 1980 setting for the XIII Winter Olympics, well before the age of blockbuster budgets and corporate sponsorship, is described in retrospect as having an "endearing, small-scale quality," where the potential for miraculous athletic performance resided in "a team full of dreamers" rather than a Dream Team. Vignettes of the Americans' hometown roots, as well as selective quotes and insights from members of the Soviet team's skating dynasty, nicely round out the coverage. Bottom line: the sports action is superb, the players' character enhancement and values are deftly related to coaching lessons learned, and the decade perspective is sketched with a fine hand.—Lynn Nutwell, Fairfax City Regional Library, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book and that is from a guy that has never played hockey. This book fills in all the blanks that Miracle leaves out. It goes into depth about the members of the team, their upbringing and what made that team so magical. Highly recommend if you enjoy a good sports read. I hope to provide my own input on products in order to help others as well. The contents of my review are 100% my own opinions and experiences with the product. I only give ratings that I think the product deserves. I am completely, 100% truthful in my reviews and I reserve the right to modify my thoughts if I ever come upon a change in my experience of using the product. I hope you found this review helpful, if so, please click the YES button or the HELPFUL button if you're using the mobile app.. If you have any questions at all, please ask and I will try to answer to the best of my ability.

One of the great books on leadership and how coaching makes an enormous difference. Miracle is all Hollywood-- The Boys of Winter is about the nuts and bolts of assembling a group of youngsters and building them into a real team where the sum of the parts far exceeded the individual parts. A great addition is learning about where each player went after 1980 and where they are today. The book might have focused more on the Russian team but this deficiency does not make this book any less interesting or entertaining.

This is a great book that gives the reader an inside look into the 1980 USA Men's hockey team. So often I read the blurbs on sports books and see words like "epic" "David vs. Goliath" or "a true story of overcoming the odds" when in fact the stories are none of the above. Let's face it when one rag tag small town school beats an undefeated small town school it isn't a story for the ages, yet go to your local bookstore and you will see multiple books that oversell the drama behind the story. This isn't the case with Boys of Winter. While it is the only sports story I've read in which the real event actually does merit the hype, what I appreciated the most about this book was how Wayne Coffey didn't let melodrama take hold. He gives a very straightforward look into how Herb Brooks got the team to come together and become better than the sum of its parts. Do yourself a favor and check it out.

This book is beautifully written. You can't pass this one up. It's heavy on the Minnesota side, but what do you expect? There were lots of Minnesotan's on the team. An absolutely iconic event-- surely you couldn't make it more memorable than the games itself, right? Wrong! Wayne Coffey has captured my heart with this book. Coffey has conveyed the epitome of Minnesota with no better way

imaginable. This book has become a beloved favorite of mine, top five, no doubt. With details of the game weaving in and out with stories of each American teammate, Coffey has managed to crack open the elusive mind of Brooks, and shown well-deserved lime light on each forward, defense man, and goaltender. As if the event itself couldn't make this small town Minnesotan choke up a little, Wayne Coffey goes far and beyond. From the tragic, heart breaking death of Ricky Holger, to feel good memories of Neal Broten and his father, funny moments like Herb Brooks "talking Hockey" to a door if he had to, to the more iconic moments like "Do you believe in miracles? Yes!" and Broten's induction into the Hall of Fame, this book doesn't disappoint. (Not even close!) Wayne Coffey gives us all another huge, well written, pride invoking reason to yell "It's a great day for Hockey!" and continue on experiencing the best sport in the world.

I was so excited to find this book on my recommendations. I downloaded it instantly and started reading immediately. While I LOVE Hockey, and Love Love Love the 1980 team, this is not what I expected. The way the book is pieced together it is very choppy to read and a little confusing. The author takes you through the Russian game piece by piece, but when he is focusing on Buzz, you will go back into his childhood and it is very rambling. Good information, not well placed. You will find out about the town and growing up, and the socio economic issues the town had, not in a smooth telling, they will talk about the town then talk about how many people were laid off in 2003 and then back to Buzz as a child. Very disjointed. Then when done with Buzz it goes back the game and picks up another player. Brooks is in here in chunks, and then back to game or player. This is one of my favorite stories, and I did like some insight from the Russian players; however, it was too difficult to get to the pertinent material. It felt like there was a lot of filler information that was not necessary or was so poorly placed it lost its importance in the jumble. I gave it the rating I did just because I LOVE this team, I was 9 years old and watching the Olympics with my parents and God parents in Lake Tahoe. I did like the author pointed out that people remember exactly where they were and that is rare for something good, usually you remember that for major tragedies, like 9/11, The Challenger explosion etc. If you are wild about this story and willing to wade through this to get information it is ok. If you are hoping for an easy enjoyable read I would pass.

I can rewatch the movies about this hockey game over and over, and never tire of them. You'd think that there wouldn't be any more to say than what has already been filmed and written about this game, played so long ago. This book adds to that. It is not only a recap of the game, with the expected play by play of some key moments -- but it is also the story of many of the key players,

both before and after the game. And it was a further insight into the magical and incomparable Herb Brooks. This book describes the people behind the miracle, the history, the backgrounds, and what happened to them afterwards. Like the movies about the game, this is a book that I will keep always.

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