
Ice Hockey

The 1920 Olympic Games began with ice hockey games, commencing with the Sweden–Belgium game on 23 April. There was no opening ceremony of the Olympics held prior to the game — that was to come later. This was the first time ice hockey was conducted at the Olympic Games and it has been held continuously since; however, at the Olympic Winter Games only.

This was also the only time that Olympic ice hockey was contested by seven-man teams. The seventh position was that of rover, in addition to three forwards, two defensemen, and the goalie. The tournament was conducted indoors at Le Palais de Glace d'Anvers, situated at the Rue de la Santé, near the Botanic Gardens in Antwerp.^{1*} The rink measured only 18 × 56 meters (59 by 185 feet), which was quite narrow by Canadian standards and was made to appear even smaller by the 14 skaters on the ice. Finally, the games consisted of two 20-minute halves, unlike the Canadian game of three 20-minute periods.

Canada, where ice hockey is the national game, was the class of the tournament, being challenged only by the United States team. The Winnipeg Falcons, who had won the 1920 Allan Cup, symbolic of amateur hockey supremacy in Canada, represented Canada. The Falcons were formed as a team in 1908, joining two previous teams, the Viking and Athletic Clubs of Winnipeg. They disbanded after one year, but reorganized in 1912. Although the team suspended play during the war, the Falcons resumed competition in 1919, winning the championship of Western Canada. They won the Allan Cup in 1920 by defeating the University of Toronto Varsity, 8–3 and 3–2.² Of the eight “Canadian” players, seven were actually of Icelandic origin. Only goalie Wally Byron was not. The team nickname, Falcons, was chosen because the Falcon is a symbol of Iceland.

The United States was represented by 11 players who were members of three clubs — the St. Paul Athletic Club, the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, and the Boston Athletic Association. At least four members of the American team were born and raised in Canada — the brothers Joe and Larry McCormick, Frank Synott, and Herbert Drury.³ They had been playing for American clubs for some time and, although they were all Canadian citizens, it is not known if they had also attained American citizenship by 1920. It mattered little, for Olympic eligibility rules were much more lax in that era. In a training match on 23 March, the U.S. team played the Winnipeg Falcons, losing 3–2 to the Canadians.

^{*}See Notes on pages 214–215.

In the first game, Sweden against Belgium, it was noted by one sportswriter that "the Swedes were rough even by Canadian standards." The next day, Canada and the U.S. made their débuts, winning easily. In the Canadian 15-0 victory over Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovakia did not get a single shot on goal.

In the semi-finals, Sweden defeated France 4-0. The big match was the other semi-final between the United States and Canada. The referee was to be Garon, a Canadian who was an officer with the American Red Cross. The Canadians demanded the right to replace him if his work was unsatisfactory and he refused to referee under that condition, being replaced by M. Catella, a Frenchman. The game was scoreless at halftime, but Canada scored two second-half goals to win 2-0. In the finals, Canada defeated Sweden quite easily, 12-1.

Second- and third-place were decided by the Bergvall System (termed the Vancouver System in Canada) in which all teams losing to the champion, Canada, played off in a single-elimination tournament to decide the runner-up. When that was finished, all teams that had lost to either the first or second-place team then contested another single-elimination tournament for third place. The United States easily defeated Czechoslovakia, 16-0, for second place, while Czechoslovakia nipped Sweden 1-0, to earn the bronze medal. Sweden was decidedly hampered by the draw of the Bergvall System, being forced to play games on five consecutive days.

Site: Le Palais de Glace d'Anvers
Dates: 23-29 April.
Competitors: 61⁴
Nations: 7

	<i>Competitors</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Medals</i>
Belgium	7	—	—	—	—
Canada	8	1	—	—	1
Czechoslovakia	9	—	—	1	1
France	7	—	—	—	—
Sweden	11	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	8	—	—	—	—
United States	11	—	1	—	1
<i>Totals</i>	61	1	1	1	3
<i>Nations</i>	7	1	1	1	3

Committee for Ice Hockey

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Final Standings

A: 61; C: 7; D: 23-29 April.

1. Canada
(Robert Benson, Walter "Wally" Byron, Frank Frederickson, Chris Fridfinnson, Magnus "Mike" Goodman, Haldor Halderson, Konrad Johanneson, Allan "Huck" Woodman)
2. United States
(Raymond Bonney, Anthony Conroy, Herbert Drury, J. Edward Fitzgerald, George Geran, Frank Goheen, Joseph McCormick, Lawrence McCormick, Frank Synott, Leon Tuck, Cyril Weidenborner)
3. Czechoslovakia
(Karel Hartmann, Vilém Loos, Jan Palouš, Jan Peka, Karel Pešek-Káda, Josef "Boban" Šroubek, Otakar Vindyš, Karel Wälzer)⁵
4. Sweden
(Wilhelm Arwe, Eric Burman, Seth Howander, Albin Jansson, Georg Johansson, Einar Lindqvist, Einar Lundell, Hansjacob Mattsson, Nils Molander, David Säfwenberg, Einar Svensson)
- =5. France
(Jean Chaland, Pierre Charpentier, Henri Couttet, Georges Dary, Jacques Gaitter, Léonhard Quaglia, Alfréd de Rauch)
- Belgium
(Maurice Deprez, Paul Goeminne, Jean-Maurice Goossens, Paul Loicq, Philippe Van Volckx-som, Gaston Van Volxem, François Vergult)⁶
- Switzerland
(Rodolphe Cuendet, Louis Dufour, Max Holzboer, Marius Jaccard, Bruno Leuzinger, Paul Lob, René Savoie, Max Sillig)

Tournament Summary

	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Tied</i>	<i>Pts.</i>	<i>Gls For</i>	<i>Gls Agst</i>
1. Canada	3	0	0	6	29	1
2. United States	3	1	0	6	52	2
3. Czechoslovakia	1	2	0	2	1	31
4. Sweden	3	3	0	6	17	20
=5. France	0	1	0	0	0	4
Belgium	0	1	0	0	0	8
Switzerland	0	2	0	0	0	33
<i>Totals</i>	10	10	0	20	99	99

Tournament Summary

23-24 April	25 April	26 April
	France	
Sweden	Sweden	Sweden
Belgium	8-0	4-0
United States		Canada
Switzerland	United States	12-1
	29-0	
Canada		Canada
Czechoslovakia	Canada	2-0
	15-0	

2nd-Place Tournament

27 April	28 April
	Czechoslovakia
United States	United States
Sweden	7-0
	16-0

3rd-Place Tournament

29 April	29 April
	Czechoslovakia
Sweden	Czechoslovakia
Switzerland	1-0
	4-0

Game Results

23 April

Sweden 8 Belgium 0 (5-0, 8-0)
 Time: 2120
 Referee: William Archibald Hewitt (CAN)
 Goals: Burman [3], Johansson [2], Lindqvist [2], Molander
 Sweden (Howander [G], Svensson [D], Lundell [D], Molander [R], Burman [F], Lindqvist [F], Johansson [F]).

Belgium
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24 April

United States
 Time: 1
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Canada
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25 April

Sweden
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26 April

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Belgium (Vergult [G], Van Volckxsom [D], Van Volxem [D], Goeminne [R], Loicq [F], Goossens [F], Deprez [F]).

24 April

United States 29 Switzerland 0 (15-0, 29-0)

Time: 1700

Referee: Raoul Le Mat (SWE/USA)

Goals: Conroy [8], J McCormick [7], Goheen [6], Drury [6], Fitzgerald, Tuck

United States (Bonney [G], Tuck [D], Fitzgerald [D], Goheen [R], Drury [C], Conroy [LW], J McCormick [RW]).

Switzerland (Savoie [G], Jaccard [D], Lob [D], Dufour [R], Holzboer [F], Sillig [F], Cuen-det [F]).

Canada 15 Czechoslovakia 0 (7-0, 15-0)

Time: 2130

Referee: unknown

Goals: Halderson [7], Frederickson [4], Goodman [2], Woodman, Johanneson

Canada (Byron, Benson, Halderson, Frederickson, Goodman, Woodman, Johanneson).

Czechoslovakia (Peka [G], Vindyš [D], Palous [D], Hartmann [R], Pešek-Káda [F], Šroubek [F], V Loos [F]).

25 April

Sweden 4 France 0 (2-0, 4-0)

Time: 1700

Referee: Garon (CAN)

Goals: Burman, Svensson, Molander, Lindqvist

Sweden (Howander [G], Lindqvist [D/F], Lundell [D], Molander [R], Burman [F], Svensson [F/D], Johannson [F]).

France (Gaitter [G], Courtter [D], Chaland [D], Charpentier [R], de Rauch [F], Quaglia [F], Dary [F]).

Canada 2 United States 0 (0-0, 2-0)

Time: 2100

Referee: Alfred de Rausch (FRA)⁷

Goals: Frederickson, Johanneson

Canada (Byron [G], Benson [D], Johanneson [D], Woodman [R], Frederickson [F], Goodman [F], Halderson [F]).

United States (Bonney [G], Geran [D], Fitzgerald [D], Drury [R], Goheen [F], Conroy [F], J McCormick [F]).

26 April

Canada 12 Sweden 1 (5-1, 12-1)

Time: 2200

Referee: Joseph McCormick (USA)

Goals: Canada — Frederickson (7), Halderson (2), Fridfinnson, Goodman, Benson. Sweden — Svensson

Canada (Byron [G], Johanneson [D], Benson [D], Fridfinnson [R], Goodman [F], Frederickson [F], Halderson [F]).

Sweden (Howander [G], Lindqvist [D/F], Arwe [D], Svensson [R], Burman [F], Mattsson [F/D], Johansson [F]).

27 April

United States 7 Sweden 0 (5-0, 7-0)

Time: 2200

Referee: unknown

Goals: Geran (3)

United States (Weidenborner [G], Geran [D], Tuck [D], Drury [R], Goheen [F], Conroy [F], Synott [F]).

Sweden (Howander [G], Lindqvist [D], Lundell [D/R], Arwe [R/D], Burman [F], Svensson [F], Johansson [F]).

28 April

United States 16 Czechoslovakia 0 (7-0, 16-0)

Time: 2200

Referee: Paul Loicq (BEL)

Goals: L McCormick [7]

United States (Weidenborner [G], Fitzgerald [D], Goheen [D], Synott [R], Conroy [F], J McCormick [F], L McCormick [F]).

Czechoslovakia (Peka [G], Vindyš [D], Palous [D], Hartmann [R], Pešek-Káda [F], Šroubek [F], V Loos [F]).

Sweden 4 Switzerland 0 (0-0, 4-0)

Time: 2330

Referee: Frank Frederickson (CAN)

Goals: Arwe [2], Johansson, Säfwenber

Sweden (Jansson [G], Lindqvist [D], Lundell [D], Molander [R], Säfwenber [F], Arwe [F], Johansson [F]).

Switzerland (Savoie [G], Jaccard [D], Lob [D], Dufour [R], Leuzinger [F], Sillig [F], Cuen-der [F]).

29 April

Czechoslovakia 1 Sweden 0 (1-0, 1-0)

Time: 2300

Referee: Frank Frederickson (CAN)

Goals: Šroubek

Czechoslovakia (Wälzer [G], Vindyš [D], Palous [D], Hartmann [R], Pešek-Káda [F], Šroubek [LW], V Loos [F]).

Sweden (Howander [G], Lindqvist [D/F], Lundell [D], Molander [R], Burman [F], Svensson [F/D], Johansson [F]).

NOTES

1. Hensen, Kenth. "The Birth of Swedish Ice Hockey — Antwerp 1920," *J Olympic History*, 4(2), May 1996, p. 12.
2. Podnieks, p. 2.

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3. Podnieks states that the American team was composed of "...no fewer than *seven* Canadian-born players" but he does not list them. The above four are known to have been born in Canada.

4. EK-OWG lists only 59 competitors while FW has 58. WL has 62 listed, incorrectly including Karel Kotrbá of Czechoslovakia.

5. Earlier sources, including my own, list Karel Kotrbá as a member of the Czechoslovak roster. But match rosters are known for all games and he does not appear to have competed. Jaroslav Pruner, Czech expert, states definitely that Kotrbá competed but there is no evidence of that in any match results.

6. Earlier sources, including my own, include François Franck as a member of the Belgian roster. But Belgium competed in only one game, and Franck did not skate in that game.

7. *The Winnipeg Free Press* describes the referee as Catella (FRA), but de Rauch is listed in *The New York Times*, Swedish sources, and the article by Hensen.