

Men's and women's team both win gold in Milano-Cortina for USA Hockey

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At the 2026 Winter Olympics in [Milano-Cortina](#), Team USA delivered a record-breaking performance, earning them the campaign title “Winter Belongs to the U.S.”

They came home with [33 medals](#) (12 gold, 12 silver, 9 bronze), and broke their record for gold, which was previously held at 10 at the 2010 [Winter Games in Vancouver](#).

Arguably, two of the more memorable runs came from the men's and women's ice hockey teams.

On February 10th, 2026, the USA Hockey women's team delivered a dominant 5-0 performance over rival country, Canada, in the preliminary round. Nine days later, the two teams would meet again for a gold medal matchup.

This game, being much closer than the one days prior, was decided by Team USA's [Megan Keller in overtime](#) after Hillary Knight, the captain of the team, tied the game with 2:04 left on the clock.

Keller and Knight both play in the [PWHL](#) for the [Boston Fleet](#) and [Seattle Torrent](#), respectively.

“I'd be lying if I didn't say I haven't dreamt of that moment. We all do. When the game's on the line on the biggest stage, OT, you live that out as a kid in the road playing hockey,” said Keller.

Selena Strede, a freshman on the Avon High School girls hockey team said “It's so inspiring seeing the women's team go out there and beat Canada and win gold on the biggest stage.”

When asked about Keller's performance, Strede said “I felt like Megan Keller's performance during all of the games were strong, but something that really helped her team rise above and beyond was her leadership skills, even though she didn't officially have the “C” on her jersey.”

Keller captains her PWHL team, the Boston Fleet.

The group stayed in the Olympic Village to celebrate their victory, and cheer on the men's team who also took on Canada in the gold medal game on February 22, 2026.

Very similar to the women's game, this one was also decided in overtime with a final score of 2-1. The “[golden goal](#)” was scored by USA's Jack Hughes, who plays for the [New Jersey Devils](#) in the NHL.

This was the men's first gold medal in hockey since “[Miracle on Ice](#)” in 1980.

Maeve Walsh, a senior on the Avon High School Hockey girls team says she felt Hughes and [Connor Hellebuyck](#), Team USA's goalie, had the biggest "breakout" performance, helping to lead their team to gold.

Lots of fans, including Walsh, said they "felt like there was an immense amount of pressure on the team to beat Canada," considering [Canada took gold in Vancouver in 2010](#) and at the [4 nations face-off](#) last year in Montreal and Boston.

Both of these games also ended in overtime.

So now what does this mean for USA Hockey and the sport in general?

It means new fans, more viewers, and more participants.

The men's gold medal game set a record for 20.7 million viewers and topped off at 26 million viewers by the time the overtime goal was scored. That's a [96% viewership increase](#) from the [2022 Beijing games](#).

USA Hockey also just reached [100,000 female participants](#) for the first time ever.

As for the athletes of the gold medal teams, they've returned to either their professional (PWHL or NHL) or NCAA teams to resume their seasons.

The men's team paid a [visit to the White House](#) and Connor Hellebuyck was awarded the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) by President Trump.

The women's team will head to [Las Vegas in July and go to Flavor Flav](#) to celebrate their win.

The next Olympic Winter Games will be held in [France in 2030](#) where both teams will be on the hunt for gold again.