

# Olympics: fate haunts U.S.

A Sports Analysis

by David Zucchini  
Sports Editor

"They've been trying to rook the Americans in the Olympics," muttered USA-USC basketball star Kevin Joyce, "and now they've finally done it." Joyce has complained about basketball games before. This time, though, with Joyce wearing a white uniform with a red and blue "USA" on the front instead of a red rooster, you had to agree with him.

Joyce was referring, of course, to the International Basketball Federation's (FIBA) decision to award the Olympic gold medal in basketball to the USSR. The Russians' highly argumentative 51-50 win over the U.S. with three seconds gone in the post-game celebrations was the final, clinching outrage against a snake-bitten American squad in the ill-starred XX Olympiad.

If it wasn't the worst of times, then it was hardly the best. Americans got spiked and fell down on tracks, they got balled up on starting times, they bloodied opponents but still lost bizarre decisions in boxing rings, they had medals stolen for taking medically-prescribed drugs for sinus conditions and they lost half a relay team for what the IOC called "inexcusably insolent" behavior.

What really frosted the folks at home, though, was the blatantly biased basketball decision. It went something like this: The Americans had apparently won the game Saturday night after Doug Collins of Illinois State sank two pressure free throws with three seconds left, or more precisely, with what everyone in the Olympic basketball hall thought was three seconds left.

Russia took the ball and passed in bounds to mid-court. The clock read one second left. However, play was suddenly halted by the officials, who said they detected a disturbance at court-side. It turned out later that the "disturbance" consisted of a Russian coach standing on the playing court.

Anyway, the officials marched everybody back to the American end of the court and gave the Russians the ball with one second to play. Fair enough. The USSR tried for a full-court heave that didn't even touch the rim.

Naturally enough, the youthful American players were beside themselves with ecstasy. The jubilantly pounded and hugged and kissed one another in what they assumed was America's 64th consecutive basketball victory.

Wrong again. Amidst all the confusion and celebration, FIBA secretary general R. William Jones somehow got the notion that the American's victory dance had deprived the Russians of a fair chance to score. But the game films clearly showed that every single American player, minus the five starters, was on the player's bench until after time ran out.

Regardless of what Jones decided, it simply wasn't his decision to make. If the referees or the official scorekeeper had felt that the Russians got a raw deal or that the clock should be readjusted, it would have been an entirely different situation. But the officials were assailed from both sides by the opposing coaches and in the pandemonium that followed they blew their cool and did nothing.

Jones, however, suggested that the clock be reset at 0:03. The referees said what the hell and agreed. The Americans were dumbfounded. The Russians then came up with the 85-foot pass play that got the final layup and the eventual 51-50 victory.

And when the USSR players stomped around, rolled across the floor and generally behaved like it was 1917 all over again, not a word of protest was heard from the mouth of the FIBA. Not a damned word.

The FIBA heard some protesting, though. The federation's appeal jury studied the game films for 14 hours and finally decided that everything was above board. Final score: USSR 51 (plus three seconds), USA 50.

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# Carolina healthy for Terp contest

by Dan Collins  
Assistant Sports Editor

Twice during Saturday's 28-18 victory over Richmond it appeared as if ill-fate had plagued the Carolina football team in way of injuries.

In the second quarter with the score 14-0 and the game seemingly wrapped up, the Tar Heel fans had their first uneasy moment when starting tailback Tommy Bradley was sidelined with a pinched nerve in his leg.

The crowd then got their second scare in the third quarter when All-ACC guard Ron Rusnak came limping from the field with yet another leg injury.

Fortunately, however, both players are recovering well and are expected to play in this weekend's game with conference foe Maryland. Therefore, tailback Ike Oglesby, who failed to see action in Saturday's game due to a severe charleyhorse, remains the Heel's only major injury.

The coaches are doubtful that Oglesby will play against Maryland. It's a shame, for Carolina will need all the offensive help available when they meet the Terps in College Park.

The young but talented Terrapins displayed some awesome offensive firepower this past Saturday night when they tied N.C. State 24-24 in the season opener. The Maryland attack was spearheaded by quarterback Al Neville who completed 17 of 22 passes for 217 yards and Louis Carter, who rushed 82 yards on 23 carries.

A victory at College Park would mean the tenth straight conference victory for the Tar Heels, but Head Coach Bill Dooley hasn't chalked up a victory yet. "Maryland is a very explosive team," Coach Dooley admitted. "They have an excellent quarterback in Al Neville and some fine running backs in Louis Carter, Art Seymore and Jamie Franklin."

"Before the season started I said Maryland would be a contender for the ACC championship and I haven't changed my mind."

Carolina wingback Jimmy Jerome looked impressive Saturday against Richmond while alternating with starter Ted Leverenz. It was Jerome's first varsity game after being red-shirted last year due to a broken arm.

Jerome, who was a high school All-American three years ago while at Wallace-Rose Hill, carried once for a nine yard gain and also caught a pass from Johnny Klise for 11 yards.

On defense sophomore tackle Ronnie Robinson drew raves from all circles for his hard nose tackling. Robinson, who was a stand-out lineman for last year's freshman team, proved Saturday that he could knock heads with the big boys.

At 6'2" 248-pound Robinson is a pretty big boy himself.

Robinson, however, was overshadowed by his competitor for the left tackle spot, Peter Talty. Talty, a 225-pound junior from Garden City, New Jersey, made the best post game score after the game films were graded by defensive line coach Jim Carmody.

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