

Silver, no

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the decision. Later, the American team refused to accept the silver medal of to appear at the victory ceremony scheduled in the main stadium. The latter was rained out anyway.

In a sometimes stormy press conference, it was plainly established that the officials were in error in giving the Russians three "overtime" seconds.

The official scorer, Hans Penchert, who appeared at the meeting, stated that no scorer or timer said there were three seconds left, that there was legally only one second left to play and that the game was officially ended with the U.S. leading 50-49.

The president of the appeals jury, Hungarian Ferenc Hepp, admitted that the referee signaled three seconds left after conferring at the table, even though the FIBA (International Amateur Federation of Basketball) delegate, Edmond Bigot, signaled one second left. But Bigot did not attempt to correct the referee, Rento Reghetto.

Bigot was the only official at the table who had the authority, but he did nothing to halt play and confer with the referee over the discrepancy in the time.

There also was some confusion in just what Reghetto did signal. Reghetto, a Brazilian, told the press earlier that he signaled one, not three seconds. Hepp said Reghetto told the jury that he did signal three seconds.

But the question arises why Bigot didn't correct the erroneous time set by the referee. No answer was forthcoming on this question except that the referee has the authority to adjust the time if he thinks it is in error. The clock, however, was actually set for three seconds — time enough for the Russians to sink the winning goal.

The official explanation given the press was that the referee and FIBA delegate ordered the

three seconds, but conflicting statements cast a great deal of doubt on whether either one gave the three-second ruling. Reference was made to the FIBA secretary general, Dr. William Robert Jones, of England, who was seen by the press at the scorer's table. Holding up

three fingers as if to signal three seconds.

The appeals jury, consisting, besides Hepp, of delegates from Puerto Rico, Cuba and Poland, thus took it upon themselves — after numerous conferences and a 14-hour delay — to believe what they said the referee told

them and uphold the score of 51-50 for the Russians, even though it was admitted the officials were in error in allotting the extra time.

Thus ended the proud reign of the U.S. in Olympic basketball. It had won seven straight gold medals, starting at Berlin in 1936, and had never lost a game in Olympic competition.

Russia's winning basket was scored on a two-handed layup shot by Aleksander Belov on a floor-length pass from Ivan Edeshko. The play followed two free throws by Doug Collins, which had put the U.S. ahead, 50-49, for the first time in the game.

Belov eluded Kevin Joyce and Jim Forbes to take the pass with a leaping catch. He came down, then jumped again to bank in the ball.

Decisive play

The decisive play came after the game had ended, claimed the furious American head coach, Hank Iba.

"I cannot fathom anything so incomprehensible," he said after the game.

The dispute raged over Russia being given two inbound plays in what was supposed to be the final three seconds.

Toss in a questionable Russian timeout and a floor mob scene with one second left and you've really got the makings of a controversy.

In any case, Iba said, there wasn't enough time left in the game for all the action that transpired, leaving the Russians on top.

The coach also said that it was a "mighty funny call" on Belov's bucket. He said that Joyce and Forbes were knocked down by Belov — "they certainly didn't trip themselves."

Iba was asked why he let his players return to the floor to resume play on what he considered an extra chance for the Russians and the coach replied, "The official told me there was time left in the ball game, and if an official tells me that I've got to believe him. I've never seen anything like this in my life."

Yanks celebrate

The floor had been a scene of wild jubilation before play was re-started as the Americans celebrated their "victory."

But seconds later it was the Russians who were jumping for joy and smothering each other with bear hugs.

Russian coach Vladimir Kondrashin commented: "We deserved the victory no matter

what the circumstances. We had them puzzled from the start since we used a different lineup to confuse them at the beginning."

Russia led at halftime, 26-21.

Until Collins's clutch free throws it looked as if the Russians were going to snap Uncle Sam's string without the aid of a clock. They jumped off to a quick 4-0 lead and upped it to 10 points halfway through the period as they outrebounded, outshot and outdefended the Americans.

But Collins, Tommy Henderson and Tom McMillan hit for goals late in the period to bring the Yanks back to within five points, 26-21, at the half.

The second half was almost a repeat of the first. The Rus-

Box score

UNITED STATES			RUSSIA				
	G	F	T		G	F	T
Brewer	3	3-4	9	ABelov	3	2-4	8
Hendrsn	4	1-2	9	Sankdz	2	4-8	8
RJones	0	0-0	0	Korkia	1	2-2	4
DJones	2	2-4	6	Sharmdov	1	2-4	4
Ratleff	3	0-0	6	SEBelov	8	4-6	20
Bantom	1	0-2	2	Edeshko	0	0-0	0
Burleson	0	0-0	0	Paulkas	0	3-4	4
Collins	1	6-6	8	Volnov	0	0-0	0
Davis	0	0-0	0	Pollvoda	0	0-0	0
Forbes	1	0-0	2	Dvorni	0	0-0	0
Joyce	3	0-0	6	Kovalenko	0	0-0	0
McMilln	1	0-0	2	Boloshev	2	0-0	0

Totals ..19 12-18 50 Totals ..17 17-28 51
United States ..21 29-50
Russia ..26 25-51
Fouled out—United States, Bantom;
Russia, None.
Total fouls—United States 26, Russia 25.

sians opened a 10-point gap with less than 10 minutes remaining and the Yanks seemed out of it.

But Ed Ratleff, Jim Brewer and Mike Bantom brought it back to 44-38 and the big American cheering section came alive.

Then Joyce got it really hopping when he connected for two quick fielders and it was 44-42 with four minutes left.

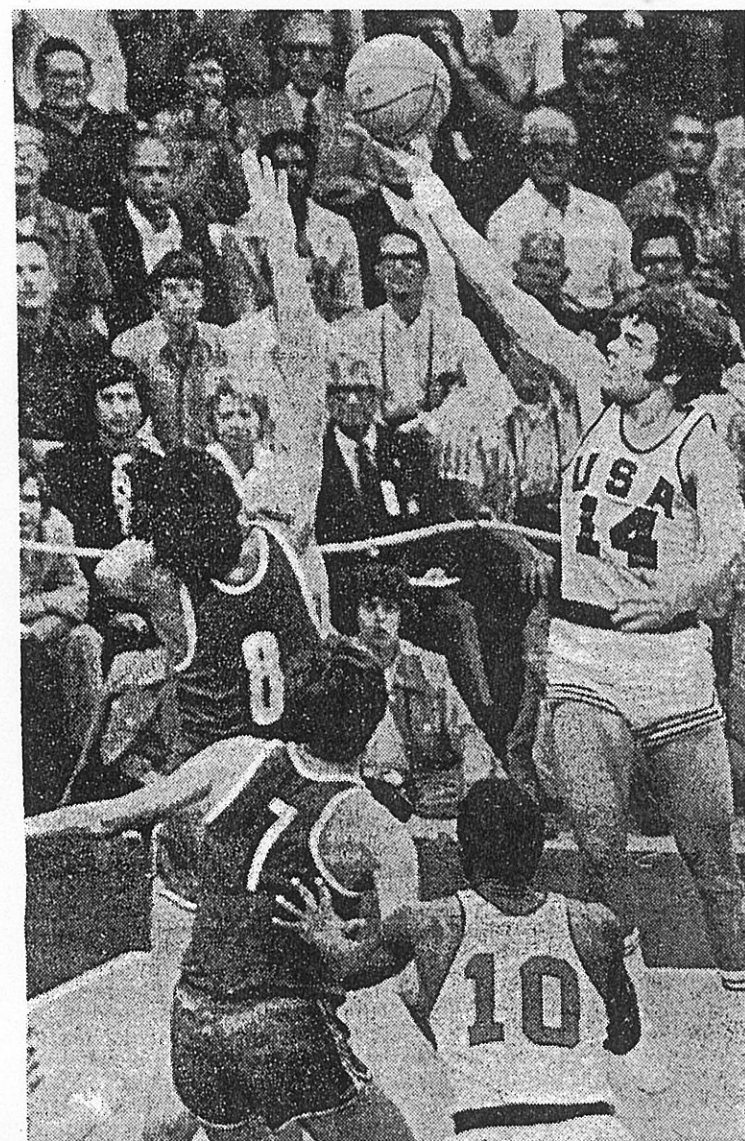
The Russians got three quick foul shots before Joyce hit another fielder and Collins netted two free throws to move within one point.

The Russians got it back to three again on a pair of charities only to see Forbes connect from the key with a jumper that cut it to 49-48 and set the stage for Collins.

Medal standings

MUNICH (UPI) — Medal standings in the Olympic Games through Sunday afternoon.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Soviet Union	25	21	21	67
United States	32	30	26	88
East Germany	20	22	21	63
Japan	13	7	8	28
West Germany	11	10	15	36
Australia	8	7	2	17
Poland	5	4	5	14
Italy	5	3	7	15
Hungary	4	10	14	28
Sweden	4	6	4	14
Great Britain	4	5	6	15
Bulgaria	3	7	4	14
Netherlands	3	1	1	5
France	2	4	7	13
Kenya	2	1	2	5
Norway	2	1	1	4
Finland	2	0	3	5
Romania	1	4	5	10
Czechoslovakia	1	3	2	6
New Zealand	1	1	0	2
North Korea	1	0	3	4
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Uganda	1	0	0	1
Switzerland	0	3	0	3
Canada	0	2	3	5
Belgium	0	2	0	2
Austria	0	1	2	3
Iran	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Turkey	0	1	0	1
Lebanon	0	1	0	1
Colombia	0	1	0	1
South Korea	0	1	0	1
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
Greece	0	1	0	1
Pakistan	0	1	0	1
Cuba	0	0	3	3
Brazil	0	0	2	2
Ethiopia	0	0	2	2
Jamaica	0	0	1	1
Spain	0	0	1	1
India	0	0	1	1



Joyce hits

Kevin Joyce drives in for a basket during the late U.S. rally against the Russians in Saturday night's Olympic basketball final. Russian Aleksander Beloshev (8) tries vainly to block the shot, while Soviet Alshan Sharmukhamedov (7) and Yank James Forbes (10) watch. Joyce scored three late basket in the controversial game, which was ruled a 51-50 Soviet victory.

—S&S Photo by Grandy

Text of protest

MUNICH (AP) — Here is the text of the protest made by the United States basketball team Saturday night in writing regarding a controversial 51-50 loss to Russia in the Olympic basketball finals:

1. The U.S. is protesting the extra three seconds granted because the game, according to FIBA rules, was over.

2. The U.S. was shooting the second of a two-shot foul. This free throw was made. At the point the free throw was made, there were three seconds remaining.

3. At this point, according to FIBA rules, neither team can call a time out. The official score sheet does not show a time out in the last three seconds.

4. The opponents played the ball and ran off two seconds. According to FIBA rules, this was the only official way to con-

tinue the game.

5. With one second remaining, spectators ran onto the playing court and referees stopped the game at this time. At this point, with one second remaining, according to FIBA rules, they acted correctly.

6. When the spectators were removed, the game was started with only one second to go.

7. The one second was played and the horn sounded, officially ending the game. The official score was U.S. 50, Russia 49.

8. According to FIBA rules the game is officially over.

The protest was signed by M.K. Summers, U.S. basketball chairman.



Tempers flare

A referee rushes in to separate the Soviet Union's Zurab Sakan-delidze from American Dwight Jones as the two make menacing gestures at each other after scrambling for loose ball in second half of Olympic final. Both players were ejected. Russia was awarded the game victory and gold medal after U.S. protest of controversial ending was turned down.

—AP Photo