



CONTACT
Nick Marvin
nick@thewoodsgoods.com

MEDIA ALERT

U.S. Hockey Olympian & Minnesotan Brock Nelson Carries on Tradition of Warroad Representation in 2026 Milan Games

Town of 1,800 has produced some of hockey's most notable names

With the 2026 Winter Olympics in full swing, all eyes are on Milan as the world watches our best athletes compete. In the small, rural town of Warroad, Minn., it's personal as Brock Nelson, Colorado Avalanche center and first-time Olympian, will represent the community and the U.S. in men's hockey when competition begins this week.

This isn't the first time Warroad's hockey prowess has been represented on the world stage. In fact, Warroad has a powerful legacy of hockey excellence, earning it the nickname "Hockeytown USA." **The town of 1,800 residents, which sits just six miles from the Canadian border in remote northwest Minnesota, has delivered eight hockey Olympians:** Gordon Christian (1956, silver), Roger Christian (1960, gold & 1964), Bill Christian (1960, gold & 1964), Henry Boucha (1972, silver), Dave Christian (1980, gold), Gigi Marvin (2010, silver; 2014, silver; 2018, gold), T.J. Oshie (2014)—and now Nelson.

- **No men's U.S. Olympic hockey team has won gold without a Warroad local on the team.** In fact, all but one Warroad hockey Olympian has returned home with a medal.
- Nelson comes from a long line of Warroad hockey greats. His grandfather, Bill Christian, great-uncles Roger and Gordon Christian, and uncle Dave Christian all played on the men's U.S. Olympic hockey team.
- Nelson's Olympian family members later began Christian Brothers, the legendary hockey stick manufacturer, known for high-quality "hockey sticks by hockey players."
- The only female hockey Olympian from Warroad, Gigi Marvin, has represented the U.S. in three separate Olympic Games and eight World Championships. She had an impressive 14-year professional tenure across the Professional Women's Hockey League, Canadian Women's Hockey League and Premier Hockey League before her 2024 retirement.
- As a state, Minnesota has produced 145 Olympic hockey players for the U.S. across men's and women's teams.

Hockey is a way of life in Warroad, with three indoor rinks and a 2.5-mile outdoor winter skating path supporting community affinity for the sport. Many of the city's residents begin their journey with Warroad Youth Hockey, a nonprofit organization which manages the town's competitive leagues for all ages.

“Hockey brings our community together, and we couldn’t be prouder to rally around Brock during his first Olympic Games,” said Warroad Youth Hockey board member Brian Farnes. “In our programs, we strive to build a culture of excellence that pushes each player to be the best they can be. It’s thrilling to see Warroad Youth Hockey be the jumping off point for yet another Olympic player and we look forward to seeing what the future brings for Brock and all future Warroad Olympians.”

BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Player	Accomplishments
1956	Gordon Christian	Silver medal, second in team goals (5)
1960*	Roger Christian**	Gold medal, led the team in goals (8)
1960*	Bill Christian**	Gold medal, led the team in assists (11)
1972	Henry Boucha	Silver medal, third on the team in points (6)
1980	Dave Christian	Gold medal, led the “Miracle on Ice” team in assists (8)
2010	Gigi Marvin	Silver medal
2014	Gigi Marvin	Silver medal
2014	T.J. Oshie	Shootout star scoring on 4 of 6 attempts in win over Russia
2018	Gigi Marvin	Gold medal, 2 goals and 1 assist
2026	Brock Nelson	2023 NHL All-Star, closing in on 1,000 professional games milestone

**United States’ first Olympic hockey gold medal*

***Also participated in 1964 Olympic games*

###

About Warroad Youth Hockey

Warroad Youth Hockey Association is governed by the rules of District 16, Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey. The goal of Warroad Youth Hockey is to provide a positive and competitive hockey opportunity for all boys and girls with an emphasis on developing hockey and life skills for all players. The focus and priority of Warroad Youth Hockey is to develop competitive players in a competitive environment while carrying forward a tradition of excellence at the High School level. Learn more at hockeytownusa.org.