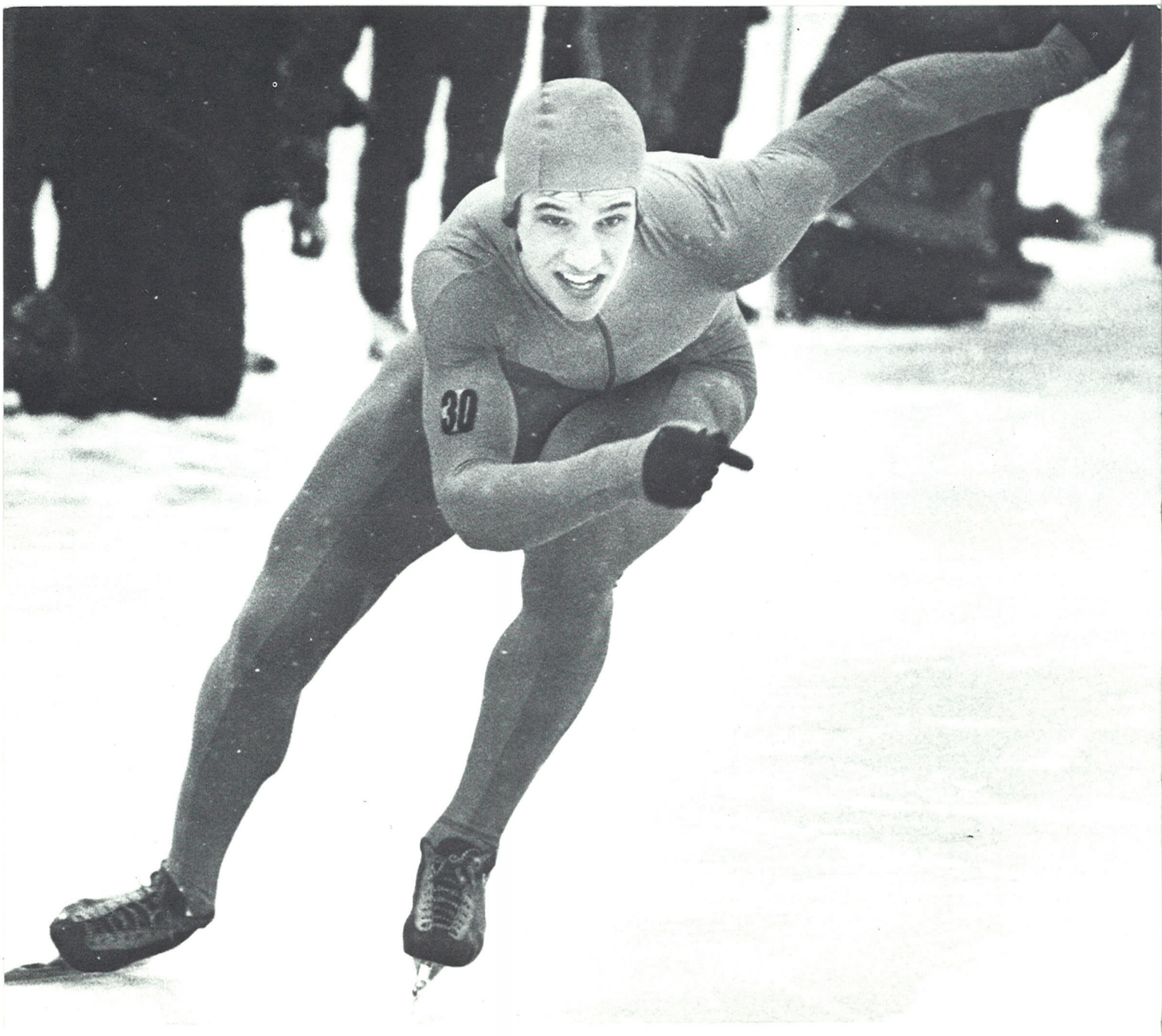
1980 winter olympic weather

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Environmental Data and Information Service
National Climatic Center



The Lake Placid area enjoys invigorating winters with frequent and abundant snowfall. This, combined with rugged, mountainous terrain, numerous lakes, and ponds, makes the Lake Placid area a recreational and resort center in winter months.

The mean temperature for February is 15° F, with average lows around 3° F and highs around 27° F. The lowest temperature recorded at the Lake Placid Club is -37° F on February 16, 1943. The mean February snowfall is 27 in., but a record 51 in. fell in 1960. The prevailing wind in February at Lake Placid is from the west. Wind speeds from all directions are less than 11 mph about 85 percent of the time.

Lake Placid lies in a north-south oriented valley in the central portion of the Adirondack Mountains of upper New York State. The local topography and the proximity of large bodies of water have a pronounced effect on the climate. Arctic air flowing southward from central Canada or the Hudson Bay produces cold winter temperatures with ample snow. As cold air crosses Lake Ontario, it is warmed from below and picks up moisture. The moisture-laden air moving eastward is lifted by the mountains. condensation occurs, and snow is produced. The other snow producer that occasionally affects upper New York State is the coastal "Northeaster" storm that moves northward along the New England coast. Lake Placid averages approximately 130 in. of snow annually. Lasting snow cover usually develops in late November and continues into April. However, rain has occurred in some winters.

The table following shows daily temperature and precipitation values for the month of February averaged over the past 53 years.

The Wind Chill chart shows the cooling effect of the wind. The temperature of the air is not always a reliable indicator of how cold a person will feel outdoors. Generally, "coldness" is related to the loss of heat from exposed flesh. Scientists have developed a formula for determining wind chill. This formula has been used to generate the wind chill equivalent temperature chart shown. An example of the use of this chart is shown in bold lines where an air temperature of 20° F and a wind speed of 10 mph would produce the same effects (coldness) on exposed flesh as a temperature of 3° F.

All photos credit Lake Placid 1980 Olympic Organizing Committee

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: LAKE PLACID, NY
MONTH: FEBRUARY

ELEVATION: 1880 FT.
PERIOD OF RECORD: 1925–1977

DAY	TEMPERATURE (°F)										PRECIPITATION TOTALS (INCHES)										
	MEANS		EXTREMES				NUMBER OF DAYS WITH							24 HOUR SNOWFALL							
							MAX		MIN								NUMBER OF DAYS WITH				
	DAILY MAXIMUM	DAILY MINIMUM	RECORD HIGHEST	YEAR	RECORD LOWEST	YEAR	40°AND ABOVE	32°AND BELOW	32°AND BELOW	0°AND BELOW	MEAN	GREATEST DAILY	YEAR	MEAN	DAILY MAXIMUM	YEAR	1 INCH OR MORE	2 INCHES OR MORE	3 INCHES OR MORE	4 INCHES OR MORE	5 INCHES OR MORE
1	22.6	.3	40	46	-26	35	1	39	51	24	.08	.45	51	.9	6.5	66	16	11	5	4	1
2	22.8	1.0	50	68	-27	62	3	42	52	25	.09	.60	51	.8	6.0	43	14	10	5	3	1
3	22.5	.6	47	70	-28	55	2	44	51	27	.07	.53	73	.6	3.5	27	14	7	2	0	0
4	23.5	.8	45	52	-27	55	1	44	52	27	.10	.64	72	1.2	10.0	72	19	13	8	5	3
5	24.9	.2	45	52	-20	27	4	39	52	26	.08	.60	45	1.0	7.5	47	15	13	8	5	2
6	27.1	-.6	50	62	-28	34	6	37	51	28	.06	.56	38	.5	4.0	64	11	6	3	2	0
7	27.7	3.3	51	25	-26	34	5	31	52	24	.08	.55	55	.8	5.5	55	16	11	5	1	1
8	28.3	2.9	61	25	-28	34	7	33	52	22	.12	.90	51	1.4	8.0	42	20	14	12	7	5
9	25.5	2.3	62	25	-32	34	6	39	52	25	.07	.50	58	.9	7.0	47	16	7	6	3	2
10	26.3	3.6	58	25	-30	34	4	35	50	20	.08	.50	57	.8	5.0	40	14	9	7	3	1
11	27.0	3.2	52	25	-29	48	9	36	48	23	.09	.50	57	.3	5.0	59	5	4	2	1	1
12	29.3	1.3	50	25	-25	73	6	33	51	27	.09	1.00	55	.9	10.0	55	15	8	4	3	3
13	27.0	2.2	51	37	-30	67	7	31	51	27	.06	.42	38	.6	7.0	25	8	5	3	3	2
14	28.1	5.0	50	39	-26	67	7	29	51	24	.11	1.15	71	.9	4.0	68	19	12	6	1	0
15	27.5	7.3	51	46	-36	43	6	32	51	14	.12	.66	44	1.2	8.0	44	20	13	7	5	3
16	27.0	4.0	55	49	-37	43	6	36	52	21	.09	1.20	53	1.0	12.0	53	11	9	8	3	2
17	30.4	2.1	46	51	-32	43	8	29	52	27	.11	2.10	58	1.2	21.0	58	16	10	6	3	2
18	30.3	6.8	54	37	-20	34	10	29	52	19	.09	1.00	52	.8	10.0	52	15	8	4	3	2
19	29.9	7.8	53	30	-18	44	9	31	51	17	.10	.50	56	1.2	6.0	60	18	13	10	6	4
20	27.3	6.4	54	30	-21	50	11	35	51	19	.08	.71	72	1.3	17.0	46	15	8	7	4	3
21	26.5	4.4	53	54	-25	50	7	35	51	21	.12	1.00	39	1.0	7.0	60	19	9	7	4	3
22	29.0	5.6	59	30	-21	50	11	28	50	22	.10	1.11	76	.7	5.0	32	16	9	2	1	1
23	28.2	7.6	57	30	-29	72	8	29	51	19	.07	.40	49	.7	4.0	44	13	9	8	2	0
24	30.1	6.6	54	30	-23	72	8	33	50	20	.09	.45	59	.9	7.0	59	16	10	7	4	2
25	32.8	6.6	55	76	-23	72	16	24	52	17	.13	1.18	77	1.0	9.5	33	13	8	6	4	4
26	29.6	6.9	54	76	-26	70	7	29	50	19	.10	1.10	61	1.1	16.0	66	13	10	8	5	3
27	29.6	7.5	59	57	-23	63	11	30	51	16	.11	.89	27	1.4	14.0	27	20	15	11	6	4
28	30.1	7.7	46	71	-16	50	10	29	52	15	.07	.50	46	.7	3.5	33	16	10	2	0	0
29	33.6	9.5	48	64	-4	40	2	8	13	1	.03	.18	48	.4	3.0	48	2	1	1	0	0

WIND CHILL CHART

Dry Bulb Temperature (°F)

Wind Velocity (MPH)	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	
4	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	4
5	37	32	27	22	16	11	6	0	-5	-10	-15	-21	-26	-31	-36	-42	-47	5
10	28	22	16	18	3	-3	-9	-15	-22	-27	-34	-40	-46	-52	-58	-64	-71	10
15	23	16	9	2	-5	-11	-18	-25	-31	-38	-45	-51	-58	-65	-72	-78	-85	15
20	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	20
25	16	8	1	-7	-15	-22	-29	-36	-44	-51	-59	-66	-74	-81	-88	-96	-103	25
30	13	6	-2	-10	-18	-25	-33	-41	-49	-56	-64	-71	-79	-86	-93	-101	-109	30
35	12	4	-4	-12	-20	-27	-35	-43	-52	-58	-67	-74	-82	-89	-97	-105	-113	35