Daily **Life**

The 68th Annual Grammy Awards:

A MAIN SHOW RECAP

by Jessica Pizzimenti
CONTRIBUTOR
SHE/HER/HERS
jjp23023@uconn.edu



Singer and Songwriter Olivia Dean accepts the award for Best New Artist, Dean rocketed to stardom last year off her popular hit "Man I Need".

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @GRAMMYS ON INSTAGRAM



Musical Artist Bad Bunny accepting an award at the 68th Grammy Awards on Feb. 1, 2026. Bad Bunny took home three awards that night, including the highly coveted Album of the Year award.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @GRAMMYS ON INSTAGRAM

Live from Los Angeles, music's biggest night was back Sunday, Feb. 1 for the 68th Annual Grammy Awards hosted, for the final time, by Trevor Noah.

A total of 95 awards were presented throughout the night, but only nine were aired during the main show on CBS. The most notable categories were Best New Artist, Song of the Year, Record of the Year, and Album of the Year, all of which are highly anticipated awards for audiences in the weeks leading up to the event.

A performance mashup of all the nominees for Best New Artist took on the main stage leading up to the announcement of the winner, starting with The Marías' "No One Noticed" and ending with Somber's "12 to 12."

The other nominees included Lola Young, Addison Rae, Katseye, Alex Warren, Leon Thomas and Oliva Dean, who ended up taking home the award after a killer performance of her hit song "Man I Need."

During Dean's acceptance speech she made sure to note that she is the granddaughter of an immigrant saying, "I'm a product of bravery, and I think those people deserve to be celebrated."

Many other big artists used the awards show as an opportunity to speak out on current events with stars like Billie Eilish, Justin Bieber and Hailey Bieber proudly wearing "ICE OUT" pins. Bad Bunny also spoke out in his acceptance speech for Best Música Urbana Album.

"Before I say thanks to God, I'm going to say: ICE out, we're not savage, we're not animals, we're not aliens. We are humans, and we are Americans," Bad Bunny said.

Song of the Year was awarded to Billie Eilish's "Wildflower," giving her album "Hit Me Hard and Soft" its first win after losing all seven of her nominations at last year's 67th Annual Grammy Awards.

Kendrick Lamar made history by winning Record of the Year for his song "Luther" featuring SZA. That win was Lamar's fifth award of the night, making him a 27-time Grammy Award winner. He is now officially the most awarded hip-hop artist in Grammys history, surpassing Jay-Z and his 25 wins.

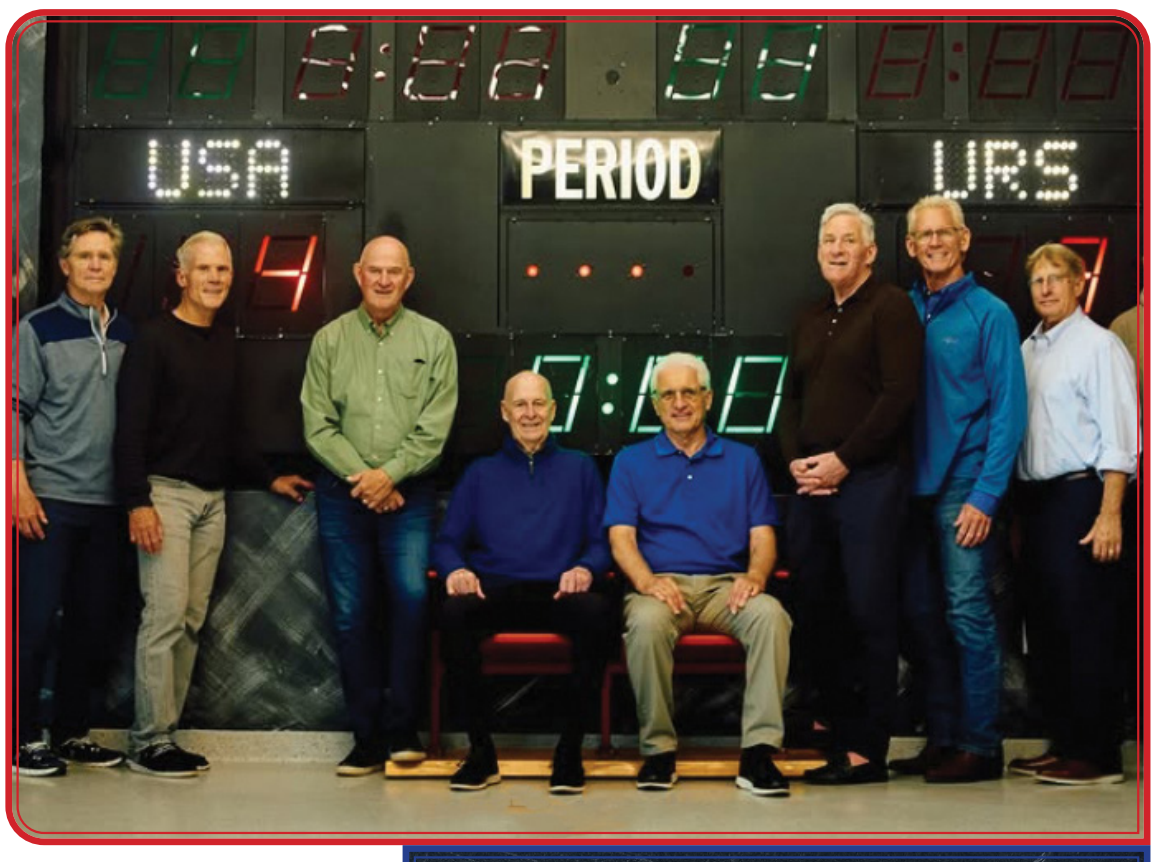
Though Sabrina Carpenter went home empty handed, she gave the Grammy's main stage her all with an upbeat performance of her single "Manchild," all while turning the stage into her own personal airport baggage claim.

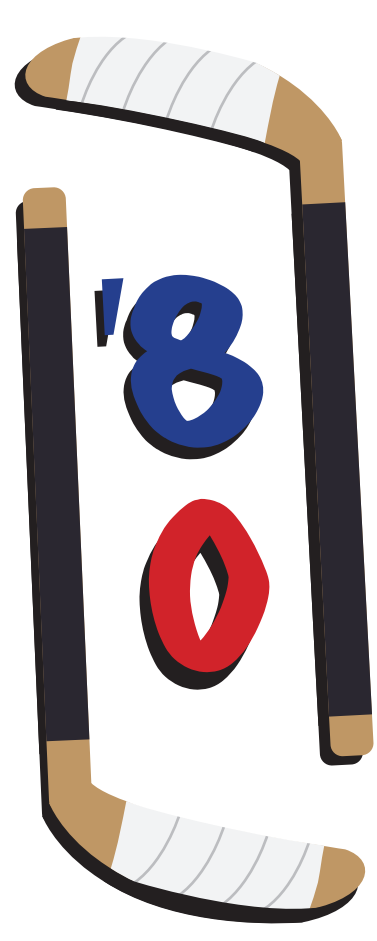
Other notable performances included Tyler the Creator's three song mashup featuring "Thought I Was Dead," "Like Him" and "Sugar on My Tongue;" Lady Gaga's performance of "Abracadabra" and an emotional tribute led by Reba McEntire and handed off to Post Melone for the late Ozzy Osbourne.

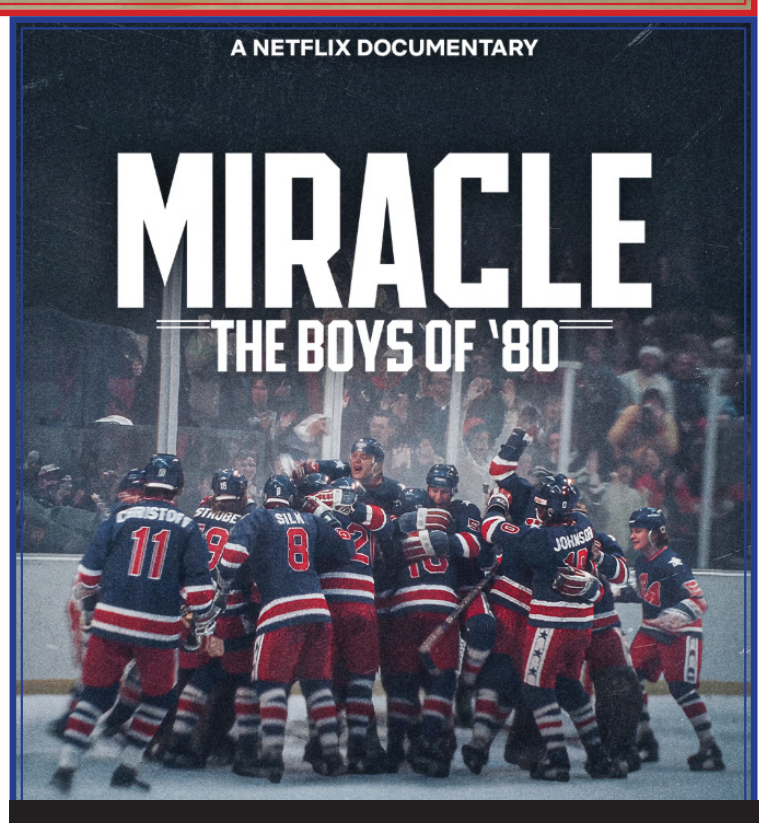
The 68th Annual Grammy Awards closed with Bad Bunny making history after Harry Styles — in his first Grammy's appearance since 2023 — announced his album "Debí Tirar Más Fotos" the winner of the highly sought after Album of the Year award. This win marked Bad Bunny's third win of the night, making him the first artist to win Album of the Year with an album predominantly performed in Spanish.

"Miracle: The Boys of '80" Scores BIG

by Thaddeus Sawyer
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu







Promotional images of "Miracle: Boys of 80." The film was released Jan. 30, 2026 on Netflix.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF @1980MIRACLEHOCKEYTEAM ON INSTAGRAM

Just in time for the beginning of the 2026 Winter Olympics, "Miracle: The Boys of '80" was released on Jan. 30, 2026, on Netflix.

Unlike Disney's "Miracle," the documentary combines archive recordings and footage of present-day interviews with players and pundits to tell the firsthand story of the 1980 Olympics' United States gold-medal winning hockey team.

Despite passing away over 20 years ago, Head Coach Herb Brooks is the star of the documentary. Primarily featured through archive recordings of old interviews and through the memories of his players, Brooks comes off as disciplinarian and rather hated by some. That isn't to say his players didn't respect him, as most shared the sentiment that he coached them in a manner that pulled the best out of them.

"I'm pushing you because I admire your talents," Brooks said in one of the recordings about his players.

Individual players from the team were also highlighted extensively in the documentary, shedding light on their personal lives both before and during the Olympics.

Two stories in particular that stand out are those of Ralph Cox and Steve Janaszak.

Cox was the final player cut from the roster before the team went to Lake Placid. He shares how Brooks broke the news with him, while a similar situation that Brooks went through during his playing career is interluded through the story to show the emotional toll the conversation took on the coach.

Janaszak's story is comparatively more lighthearted. Even though he was the backup goalie on the team, he considers himself luckier than any of his teammates as he married an employee of the Olympics.

Beyond just the players, the documentary shines a light on the political climate of America at the time. Political commentator George Will called America "depressed" in the documentary.

The war was "about as cold as it could get before it got hot," said sportscaster Al Michaels, who called the "Miracle on Ice" game.

The climax of the story mirrors this stress during the semifinals matchup between the USA and Soviet Union, in which the U.S. were definitive underdogs. Watching Michaels tear up while looking back on his introduction to the broadcast is a touching moment that humanizes the famous journalist.

This documentary also does a fantastic job humanizing the players, including hearing about what was going through their heads as the game went on and understanding the respect and fear they had for the Soviet team.

With the Cold War standing as a time in American history where fear was used by both sides to put a wall in front of the shadowy figure on the other side, the game is a nice reminder on a smaller scale of the regular people fighting that war.

One of the quiet highlights of the documentary is the emphasis that is placed on the finals game against Sweden. Although typically part of the story often glossed over compared to the Soviet game, the emotional drain impacting the team and them banding together in the locker room to pull off the win put a nice bow on the journey and preparation it took to get there.

"Miracle: The Boys of '80" is a comprehensive telling of the story of one of the most legendary teams in American sports history while also humanizing the team in a way that shows a group of regular people achieving greatness.

Rating: 4.7/5