

The Olympic Summer Games

The Olympic Games are unique; and athletes from across the world take part in them. Their achievements are followed, directly or from afar, by hundreds of millions of people.

Organised every four years, the Games are the largest sporting event by dint of the number of sports on the programme, the number of athletes and the number of individuals from various nations coming together at the same time in the same place. The athletes compete in a wide variety of events on tracks, roads and grass, in the water, on the water, outdoors and in multisport halls.

The Games are a one-off event, but they fit into the wider framework of the Olympic Movement. The mission of this Movement is to encourage the practice of sport worldwide and to promote its values. It is precisely in this spirit that the Olympic Games are organised and celebrated.

Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin was the person behind this major project. Others before him tried, but always in vain. Inspired by the Olympic Games of Antiquity, Baron de Coubertin decided to create the modern Olympic Games. He founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Paris in 1894 with the aim of organising the first Games of the modern era.

1896 marked the start of an amazing adventure, which has now lasted for over a century!

ATHENS 1896

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
6 April - 15 April	Greece	241	14	43

The first edition of the Olympic Games of the modern era brought together athletes from 14 countries.

On 6 April 1896, the USA's James CONNOLLY won the triple jump and became the first Olympic champion in over 1,500 years.

An Olympic Anthem, composed by Spiros SAMARAS (music) and Kostis PALAMAS (lyrics), was played in the Panathenaic Stadium.

For the long-distance swimming event, the swimmers were transported by boat out to sea and left to swim the required distance back to shore.



The Panathenaic Stadium

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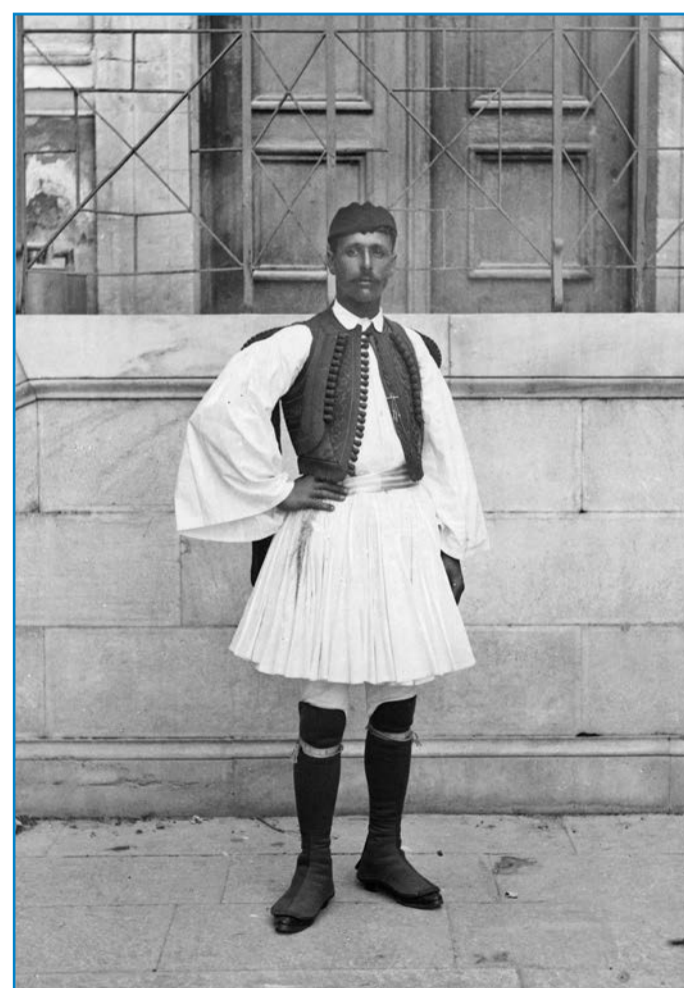
James CONNOLLY (USA)

© 1896 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / MEYER Albert



Swimming

© 1896 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Spyridon LOUIS (GRE) won the marathon, setting off from the eponymous city to the great joy of the 100,000 spectators in attendance.

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PARIS 1900

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
14 May – 28 October	France	997	24	95

The Paris Games competitions were organised during the World's Fair. They were spread out over more than five months, and the Olympic status of the events was so underpromoted that some athletes did not even know they were competing in the Games!

Women competed for the first time.

The big star of these Games was the USA's Alvin KRAENZLEIN, winner of the 60m, 110m hurdles, 200m hurdles and the long jump.



Women's golf event

© 1900 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



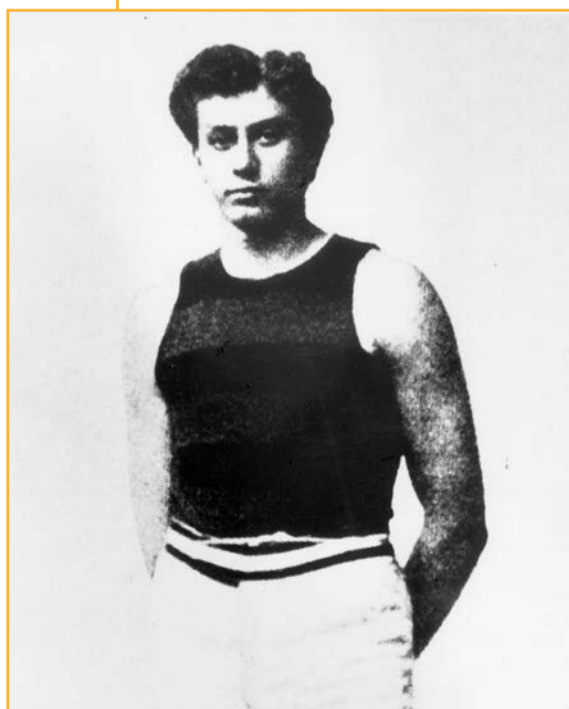
Charlotte COOPER (GBR), the first female gold medallist in an individual event.

© 1900 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



A sailing event

© 1900 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Alvin KRAENZLEIN (USA)

© 1900 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Tug-of-war

© 1900 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

ST LOUIS 1904

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
1 July - 23 November	United States of America	651	12	95

For the first time, bronze medals were awarded to those finishing in third place.

Boxing, freestyle wrestling, decathlon and weightlifting joined the Olympic programme.

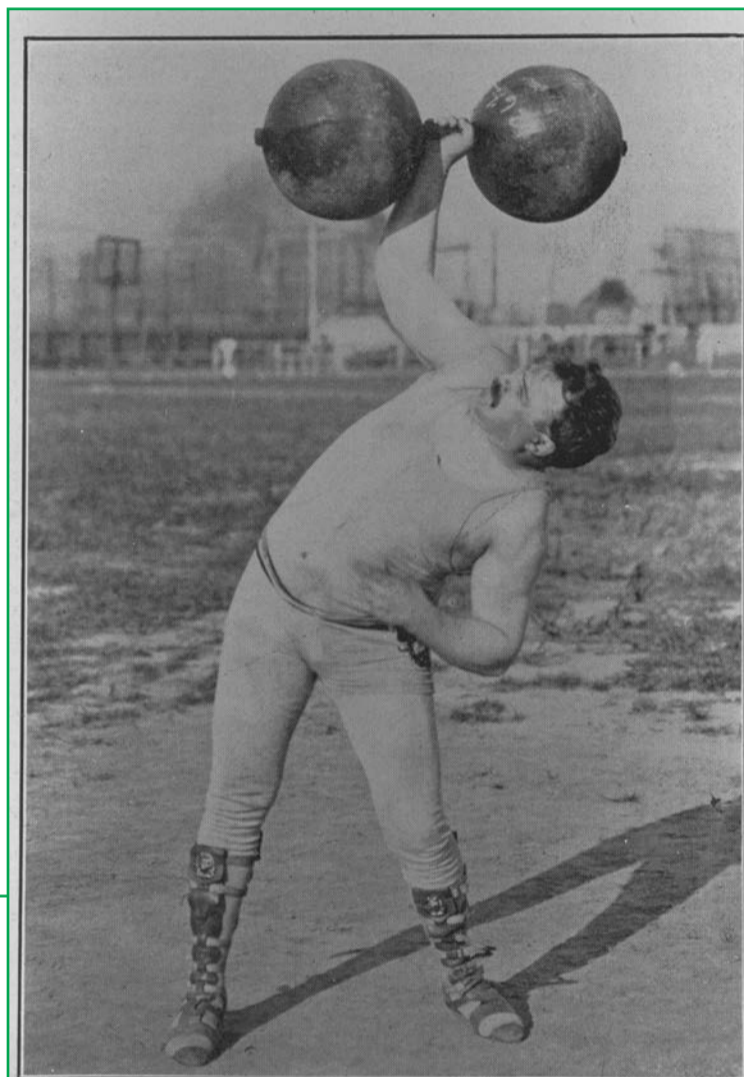
Thomas HICKS (USA) won the marathon after the disqualification of his fellow countryman, Fred Lorz, who was guilty of covering a large part of the race in a car, and getting out just before the finish!



ARCHIE HAHN WINNING A HEAT IN 60-METRE RUN.
Olympic Championships.

Archie HAHN (USA), nicknamed the Milwaukee Meteor, took victory in the 60m, 100m and 200m.

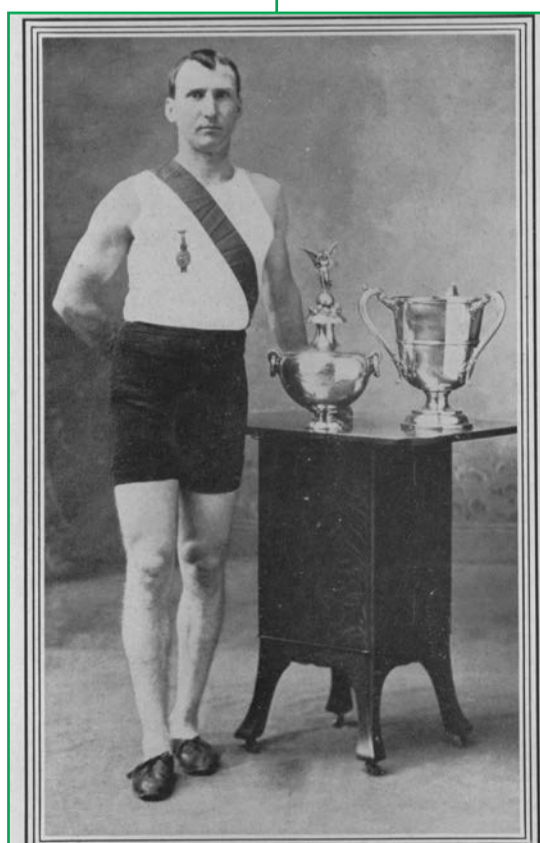
© 1904 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



WINTERS, N. W. S. A. C., NEW YORK, WEIGHT LIFTER,
Who secured second place in Dumb Bell Competition, Olympic Championships.

A weightlifting event

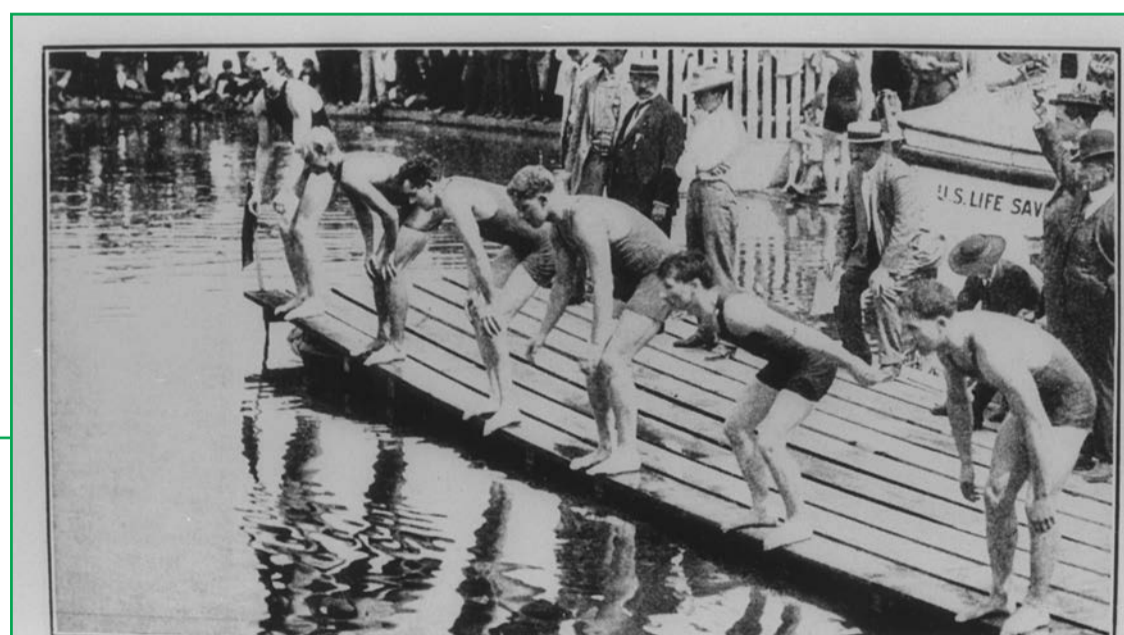
© 1904 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



THOMAS J. HICKS.

Thomas HICKS (USA)

© 1904 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



100-yard swim

© 1904 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

LONDON 1908

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
27 April - 31 October	Great Britain	2,008	22	110

The 1908 Games were initially set to take place in Rome. But owing to delays by the city, London was tasked with organising them.

Unusually, they were held in four different phases. The final “Winter Games” phase – which took place in October – featured boxing, football, rugby, field hockey, lacrosse and figure skating.

The Organising Committee fixed the distance of the marathon at 42,195 km – 42km representing the distance between the city of Marathon and Athens – with the last 195 metres being added on to ensure the race finished below the royal box in the London stadium!

The first parade of athletes, dressed in sportswear walking behind their national flag, was organised.



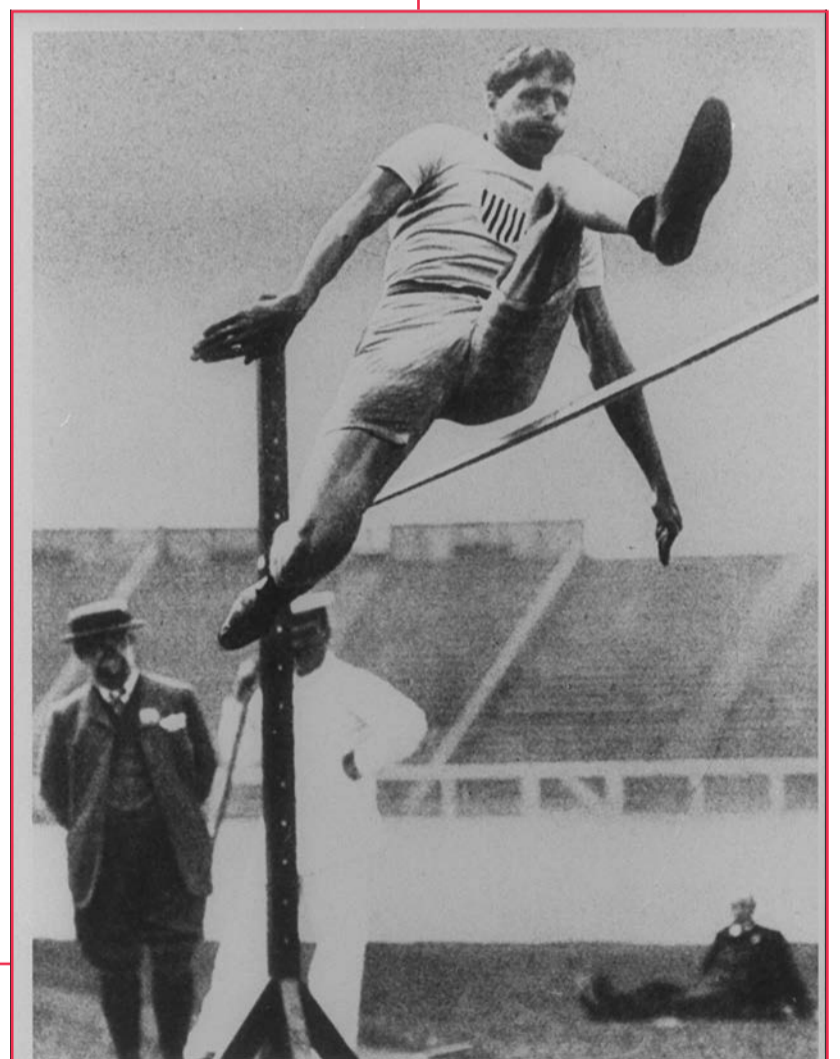
Assisted by officials to finish the marathon, Dorando PIETRI (ITA) was eventually disqualified, with the gold medal going to John HAYES (USA).

© 1908 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The parade of athletes

© 1908 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Ray EWRY (USA) added two new gold medals to his haul of six medals won in standing jumps (high, long and triple jumps).

© 1908 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



First swimming events in a pool

© 1908 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

STOCKHOLM 1912

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
05 May 27 July	Sweden	2,407	28	102

A model of efficiency, the Games in Stockholm were the first to use automatic timekeeping systems for track events, plus photo-finish cameras and a public address system.

For the first time, athletes from five continents took part in the Games.

Jim THORPE (USA) easily won both the pentathlon and the decathlon. But he was later disqualified on the grounds that, shortly before the Games, he had earned a modest sum of money from playing baseball. In 1982, the IOC decided to reverse this decision, and gave his medals to his daughter.

The Games programme grew with the inclusion of arts and letters competitions. The medals awarded had the same status as those given to the athletes.



Automatic timekeeping and photo finish
© 1912 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Jim THORPE (USA)
© 1912 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Women's swimming and diving made their Olympic debut, as did men's modern pentathlon.
© 1912 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Rudolph LEWIS (RSA) won the road race which, at 320km, is the longest cycle race in Olympic history.
© 1912 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The Opening Ceremony
© 1912 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

ANTWERP 1920

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
14 August - 12 September	Belgium	2,622	29	156

The 1916 Games, scheduled to take place in Berlin, were cancelled because of the First World War. The 1920 Games were held in Antwerp, in tribute to the heavy toll suffered by the Belgians during the conflict.

During the Opening Ceremony, the Olympic flag, with its five rings symbolising the universality of the Games, was raised for the first time.

Nedo NADI (ITA) won five of the six gold medals on offer in the fencing events.

At 72, Sweden's Oscar SWAHN won the silver medal in the 100m team running deer double shot event. He became the oldest medallist in the history of the Olympic Games.



Figure skating and ice hockey, on the programme of the 1920 Games, were incorporated into the Winter Games programme in 1924.

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The Olympic flag

© 1920 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Oscar SWAHN (SWE)

© 1920 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Suzanne LENGLEN (FRA) won three tennis medals, including two golds.

© 1920 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Nedo NADI (ITA)

© 1920 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

PARIS 1924

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS	VIII ^e OLYMPIADE DE PARIS 1924 COMITE OLYMPIQUE FRANCAIS
4 May 27 July	France	3,088	44	126	

The Paris Games saw the first Closing Ceremony in the style that we know today. Three flags were flown in the Stadium: those of the IOC, the host country and the next host country.

The athletes were housed in a village built especially for the occasion: a simple group of wooden cabins.

Finnish runner Paavo NURMI took home five medals, adding to the three he had already won in 1920.

Swimmer Johnny WEISSMULLER (USA), who went on to play Tarzan in 12 films a few years later, won three gold medals.

For the first time, an emblem was created with a design that sought to capture the identity of the host city. Uniquely, the Paris emblem did not include the Olympic rings. It featured the city's coat of arms and a galley sailing down the Seine.



The first Olympic Village

© 1924 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



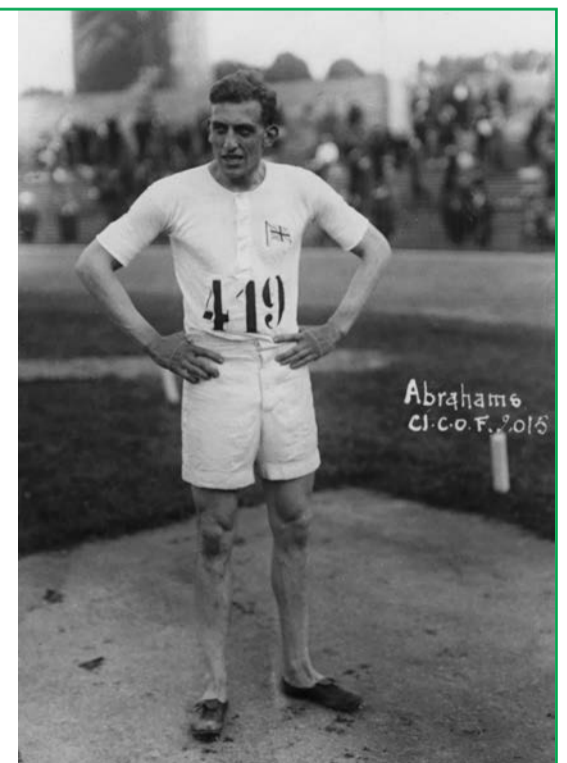
Johnny WEISSMULLER (USA)

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Paavo NURMI (FIN)

© 1924 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The story of Harold ABRAHAMS (GBR) and Eric LIDDELL (GBR) was immortalised by Hugh Hudson in 1981 in Chariots of Fire.

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AMSTERDAM 1928

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
17 May - 12 August	Netherlands	2,883	46	109

For the first time, a symbolic flame was lit during the Games. The flame burned in a cauldron at the top of a column outside the Stadium.

At the Opening Ceremony, the Greek team led the parade of athletes, while the Dutch brought up the rear. Greece at the front, the host nation at the back: this protocol would continue to be respected in the future.

From 1928 to 1968, the Summer Games medals, designed by Giuseppe CASSIOLI, were identical.



The parade of athletes

© 1928 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



102. MARATHONLOOP - DE DEELNEMERS VERLATEN HET STADION

The Olympic flame

© 1928 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The obverse and reverse of the Olympic gold medal

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In rowing, Henry PEARCE (AUS) entered the history books. He stopped in the quarter-final to let a family of ducks pass by... before winning the race and the gold medal!

© 1928 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



19. HET BRITSCH-INDISCH HOCKEY-ELFTAL

From 1928 to 1956, the Indian men's hockey team won six gold medals in a row.

© 1928 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

LOS ANGELES 1932



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
30 July - 14 August	United States of America	1,334	37	117

In 1932, the duration of the Games was set at 16 days. The editions that followed respected this format (between 15 and 18 days).

Attendance records were broken, with 100,000 spectators at the Opening Ceremony. The Coliseum Olympic Stadium thrilled everyone with its sheer scale and the quality of the facilities.

Male athletes were housed in the Olympic Village, while female athletes stayed at the Chapman Park Hotel.

Japan's Kusuo KITAMURA, 14, won the 1,500m freestyle swimming event and became the youngest gold medallist in an individual event.



The Coliseum

© 1932 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



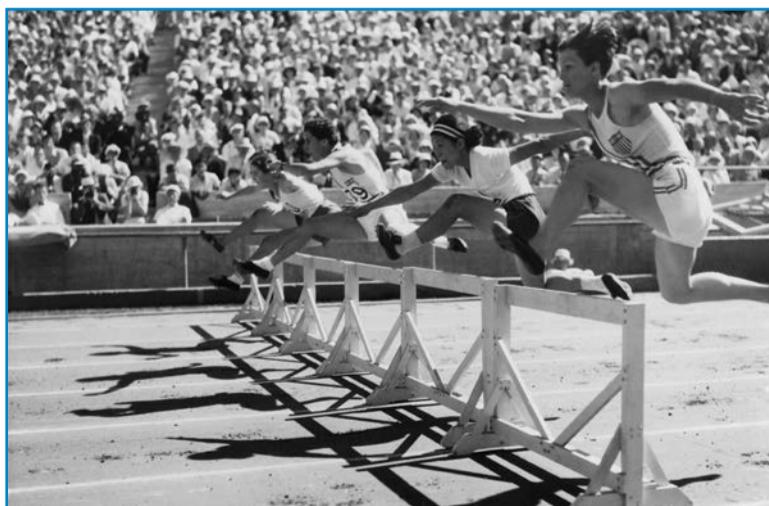
The Chapman Park Hotel and the Olympic Village

© 1932 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Kusuo KITAMURA (JPN), right

© 1932 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Mildred DIDRIKSON (USA) won gold in the javelin and 80m hurdles and took silver in the high jump.

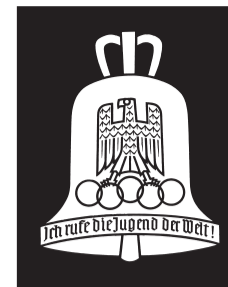
© 1932 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



In a wonderful gesture of fair play, Judy GUINNESS (GBR) pointed out to the judges that they had missed two of her opponent's hits in fencing leading her to collect the silver medal instead of gold.

© 1932 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

BERLIN 1936



XI. OLYMPIADE
BERLIN 1936

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
1 August - 16 August	Germany	3,963	49	129

The Berlin Games are best remembered for Adolf Hitler's failed attempt to use them to prove his theories of Aryan racial superiority. The hero of these Games, Jesse OWENS, was an Afro-American – he won four gold medals.

These Games saw the introduction of the Torch Relay: a flame lit at the ancient site of Olympia (GRE), passed from hand-to-hand to the Stadium where the Games took place.

For the first time, the Games were filmed and broadcast in 25 places around Berlin to allow the public to follow the events free-of-charge.



Jesse OWENS (USA)

© 1936 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / RÜBELT Lothar



The Torch Relay

© 1936 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Marjorie GESTRING (USA), 13, won gold in the 3m springboard event. She is still the youngest female to have won a gold medal at the Summer Games.

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Leni Riefenstahls (GER) provided a new approach to cinema, highlighting the aesthetics of the human body in her film *Olympia*.

© 1936 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / RÜBELT Lothar



Korea's SOHN Kee-chung won the marathon, but he ran as a member of the Japanese team owing to the occupation of his country.

© 2017 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / RIEFENSTAHL Leni

LONDON 1948



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
29 July - 14 August	Great Britain	4,104	59	136

The London Games were the first to be televised, even if few British households had a television set.

In the sprint, starting blocks were used for the first time; while the Empire Pool was the first covered swimming pool in the history of the Games.

All eyes were on sprinter Fanny BLANKERS-KOEN (NED), who excelled in each of the four events in which she competed.

Burma, Ceylon, Lebanon, Puerto Rico, Syria and Venezuela took part for the first time.



Television

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Micheline OSTERMEYER (FRA), a famous pianist, dominated the throwing events of shotput and discus, and also took bronze in the high jump.

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The starting blocks

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The Empire Pool

© 1948 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / RÜBELT Lothar



Fanny BLANKERS-KOEN (NED)

© 1948 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

HELSINKI 1952



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
19 July - 3 August	Finland	4,955	69	149

In the equestrian sports, the rules evolved to allow women to compete alongside men in the mixed events.

For its first participation, the USSR ranked second behind the USA, winning 71 medals, including 22 golds.

Czech long-distance runner Emil ZATOPEK excelled, winning the 5,000m and 10,000m and both for the second time, the marathon – a unique triple in Olympic history.



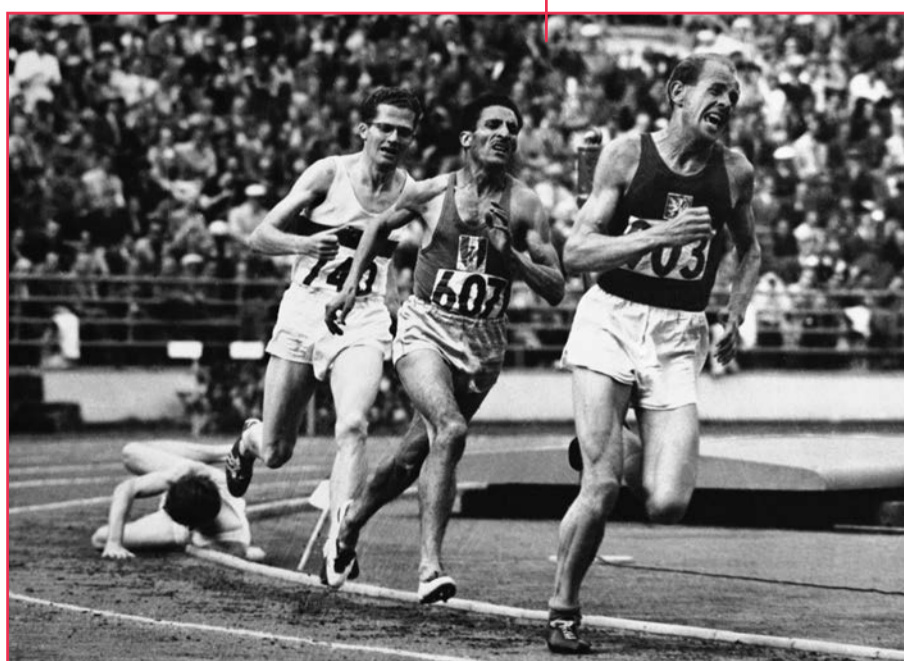
The Soviet team

© 1952 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Mixed equestrian events

© 1952 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Emil ZATOPEK (TCH)

© 1952 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The Helsinki Stadium, built for the 1940 Games, which were eventually cancelled, is part of the Functionalist movement.

© 1952 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

MELBOURNE/STOCKHOLM 1956

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
22 November - 8 December and 10 June - 17 June	Australia and Sweden	3,314	72	151



These were the first Games to be held in Oceania. As Australian veterinary rules forbade the entry of foreign horses, the equestrian events were staged in Stockholm, in June.

The IOC succeeded in its skilful diplomacy efforts to have the two Germanys (East and West) participate as a unified team (EUA). The Games saw their first boycott following various international conflicts.

In Melbourne, at the proposal of John Ian Wing, a young Australian student, the athletes entered the Olympic Stadium together at the Closing Ceremony.



Equestrian events, Stockholm 1956

© 1956 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / United Archives



The athletes of the two Germanys competed together in a unified team (EUA).

© 1956 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Athletes of all nations parade together in the Closing Ceremony.

The Melbourne Closing Ceremony

© 1956 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Larisa Latynina of U.S.S.R., in the Women's Combined Gymnastics

At three editions of the Games, Larissa LATYNINA (URS) won 18 medals in gymnastics, including six in Melbourne.

© 1956 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The Hungarian water polo team won the title, having beaten the USSR team in a heated semi-final in which blood was unfortunately spilled.

© 1956 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

ROME 1960



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
25 August - 11 September	Italy	5,338	83	150

These Games were a blend of sport and culture in this historic city on the banks of the River Tiber. The Basilica of Maxentius and Constantine, the Baths of Caracalla, Lake Albano and the Arch of Constantine provided an ancient setting for the Olympic competitions.

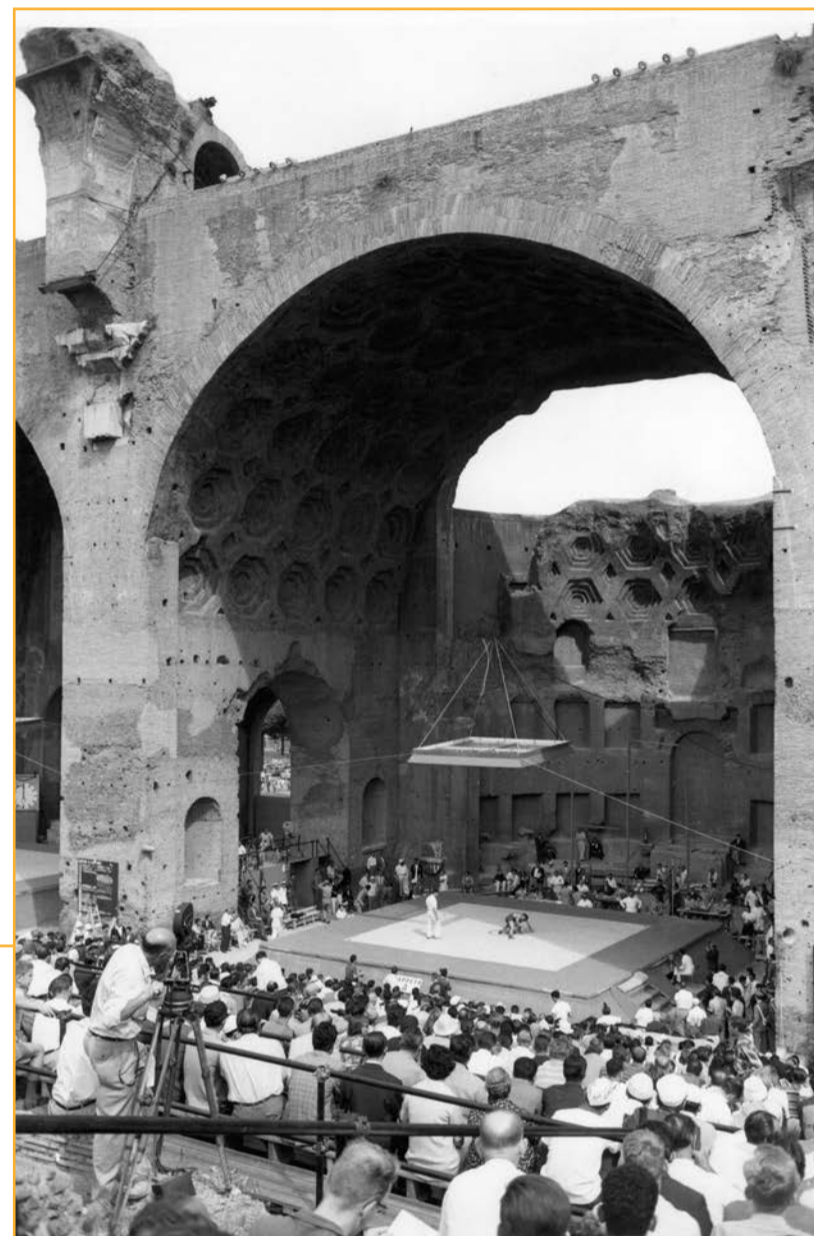
Running the marathon barefoot, Ethiopia's Abebe BIKILA became Africa's first black Olympic champion.

Boxer Cassius Marcellus CLAY (USA), who later changed his name to Muhammad ALI, won gold in the light-heavyweight category.



Abebe BIKILA (ETH)

© 1960 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The wrestling competitions in the ruins of the Basilica of Maxentius and Constantine.

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Cassius CLAY (USA)

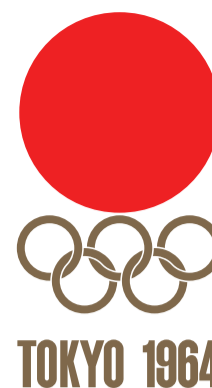
© 1960 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Wilma RUDOLPH (USA) dominated the sprint events with three gold medals (100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay).

© 1960 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

TOKYO 1964



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
10 October – 24 October	Japan	5,152	93	163

Yoshinori SAKAI, the last torchbearer, was chosen because of his date of birth – 6 August 1945 – the day of the atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima.

The first Fair Play Trophy was awarded to Swedish sailors Lars Gunnar KÄLL and Stig Lennart KÄLL, for abandoning their race to come to the rescue of two competitors whose boat had capsized.

Judo (men's) and volleyball (men's and women's) made their debut on the Games programme. This was the first team sport for women.



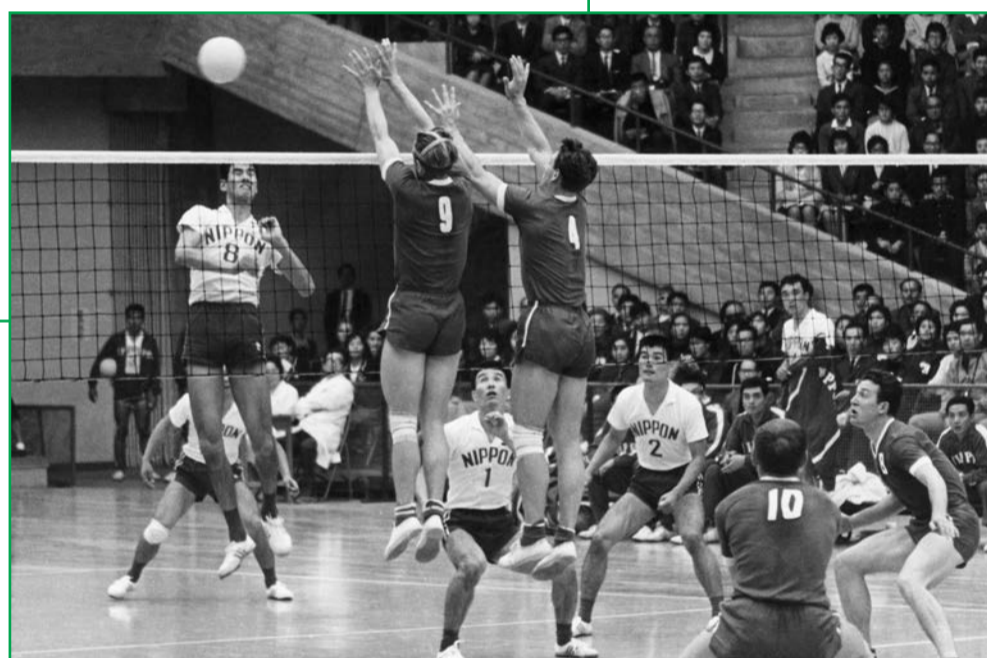
Yoshinori SAKAI (JPN)

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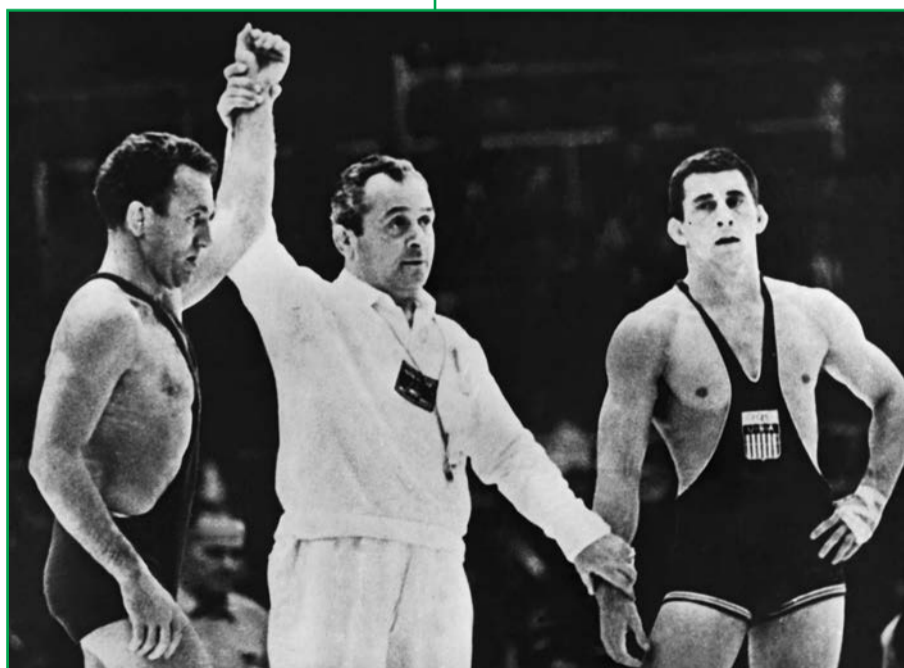
Anton GEESINK (NED) won the judo open category.

© 1964 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Women's volleyball

© 1964 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Wrestler Imre POLYAK (HUN) finally won a gold medal, having placed second at the previous three editions of the Games.


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View of the Yoyogi Gymnasium designed by famous architect Kenzo TANGE.

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MEXICO CITY 1968

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS	
12 October – 27 October	Mexico	5,516	112	172	

Mexican hurdler Enriqueta BASILIO was the first woman to light a cauldron at an Opening Ceremony.

At the 200m victory ceremony, Americans Tommie SMITH and John CARLOS, the gold and silver medallists respectively, raised a black-gloved fist and lowered their heads as the national anthem was played. They were demonstrating against racial segregation in the USA – a stance that saw them excluded from the Olympic Village.

A synthetic material, Tartan, was used for the first time for the athletics track.



Enriqueta BASILIO (MEX)

© 1968 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Tommie SMITH and John CARLOS (USA)

© 1968 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / United Archives



The Tartan track

© 1968 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / United Archives



Bob BEAMON (USA)

© 1968 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Dick FOSBURY (USA) won the high jump using a new jumping style that was named after him.

© 1968 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

MUNICH 1972

München  1972



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
26 August - 11 September	Germany	7,134	121	195

While the first 11 days of the Games were perhaps the greatest Olympic celebrations ever seen, a terrible event overshadowed them on the morning of 5 September. Eight Palestinian terrorists entered the Olympic Village, taking 11 Israeli team members hostage before killing them all.

American swimmer Mark SPITZ won an incredible seven gold medals and broke seven world records!

Waldi was the first official mascot of the Olympic Summer Games. He was a dachshund, a very popular animal in Bavaria, famed for its endurance, tenacity and agility.



The ceremony in memory of the victims.

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Mark SPITZ (USA)

© 1972 / Kishimoto / IOC



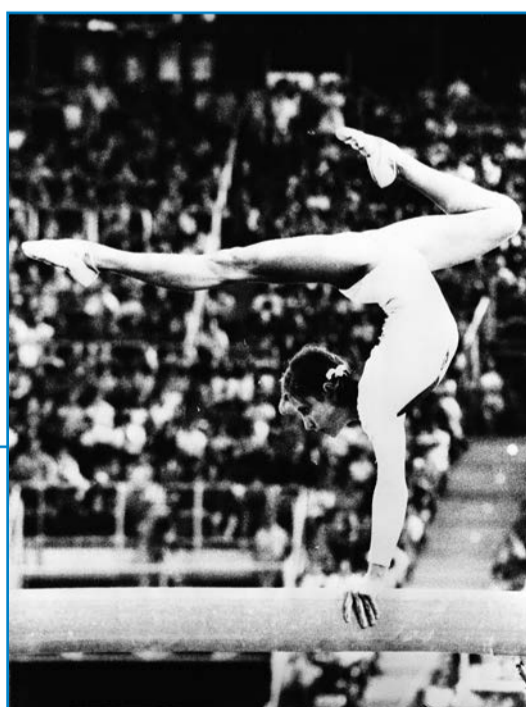
Waldi

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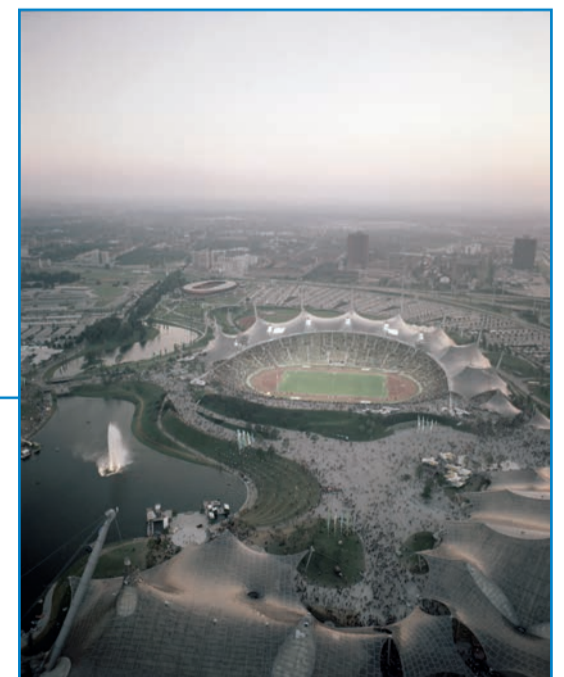
Canoe slalom and canoe kayak joined the Olympic programme along with men's indoor handball.

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Olga KORBUT (URS) became a media darling, racking up victories in the gymnastics events.

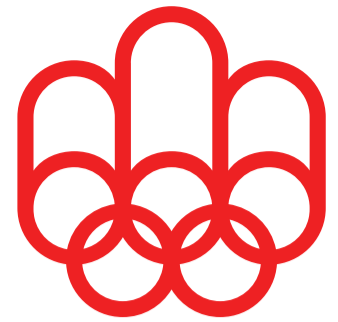
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The Olympic Park

© 1972 / Kishimoto / IOC

MONTREAL 1976



Montréal 1976

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
17 July - 1 August	Canada	6,084	92	198

Women's basketball, rowing and handball events made their debut on the Olympic programme.

Nadia COMANECI, a 14-year-old Romanian gymnast, was the undisputed queen of these Games. She rose to glory earning the first ever maximum score of 10.0 points on the uneven bars. In total, she earned this outstanding score seven times.

Hockey was staged for the first time on artificial grass.

Clarence HILL won the bronze medal in the lightweight boxing event and gave Bermuda its first Olympic medal.



Women's handball

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Nadia COMANECI (ROM)

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Hockey

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Alberto JUANTORENA (CUB) took the first 400m and 800m double.

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The Japanese women's volleyball team dominated the discipline, winning all of their matches.

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MOSCOW 1980

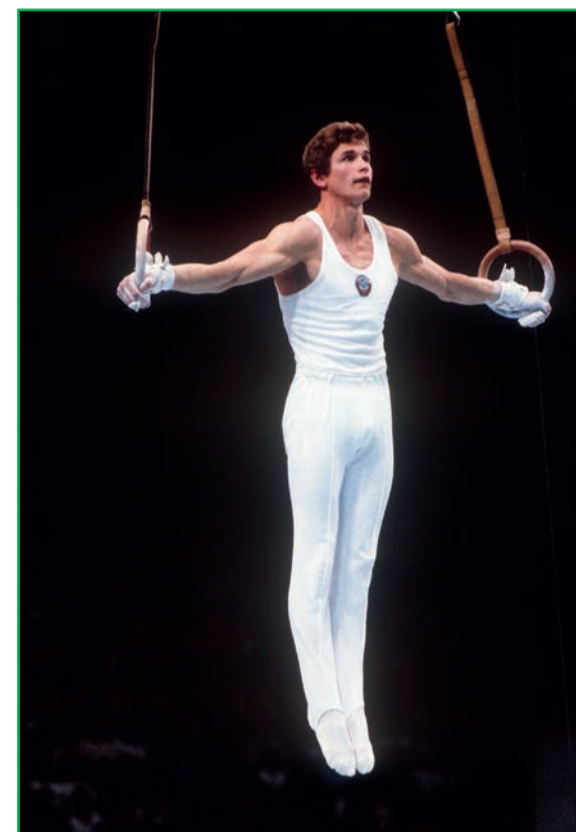


DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
19 July - 3 August	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)	5,179	80	203

The Olympic Games were held in a socialist country for the first time.

Initiated by the USA, a boycott reduced the number of participating countries to 80, the smallest number ever recorded since 1956. This boycott was part of a series of measures aimed at protesting against the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet troops in December 1979.

Aleksandr DITYATIN (URS) won medals in all the men's gymnastics events and became the first athlete to win eight medals at one edition of the Olympic Games.



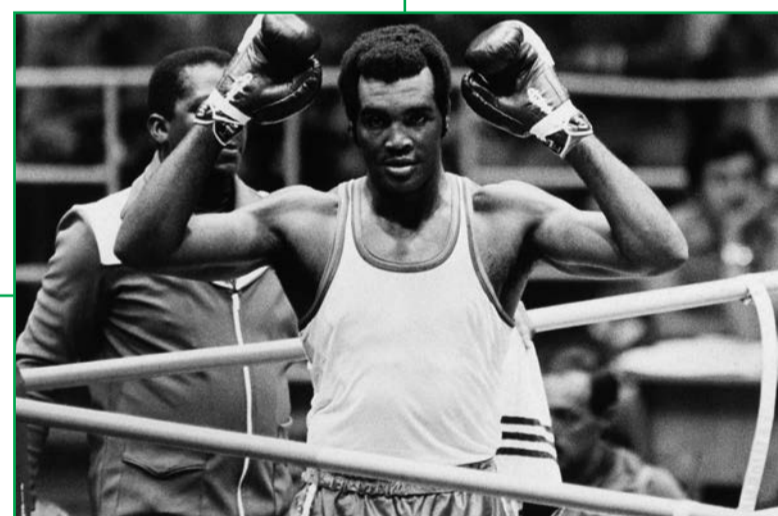
Aleksandr DITYATIN (URS)

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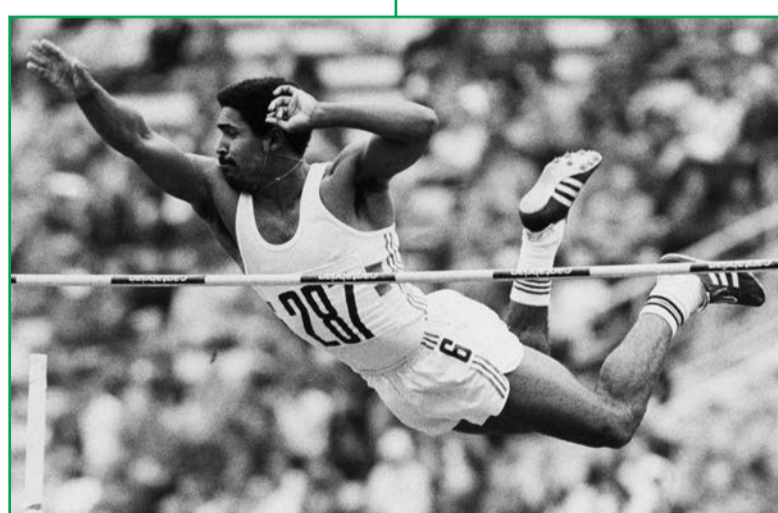
After finishing second in the 800m, Sebastian COE (GBR) won the 1,500m. Four years later, he became the first athlete to retain the Olympic title in this event.

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Boxer Teófilo STEVENSON (CUB) won gold for the third consecutive time. Only two other boxers have managed to achieve this.

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Daley THOMPSON (GBR) won the decathlon, beating the world record. He repeated this feat four years later in Los Angeles.

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The athletes' parade at the Opening Ceremony

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LOS ANGELES 1984



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
28 July - 12 August	United States of America	6,829	140	221

The Soviet Union led a boycott in revenge for the one it had been subject to four years earlier. However, 140 National Olympic Committees were present – a record!

Carl LEWIS (USA) entered the history books by equalling the success of his fellow countryman, Jess OWENS, in Berlin. He won gold medals in the same events: 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and the long jump.

New Zealand archer Neroli FAIRHALL, a paraplegic, became the first athlete in history to compete for a medal whilst in a wheelchair.

The USA's Joan BENOIT won the first women's Olympic marathon.



Neroli FAIRHALL (NZL)

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Carl LEWIS (USA)

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Nawal EL MOUTAWAKEL (MAR) won the first women's 400m hurdles event in Olympic Games history, and became the first Arab, African and Muslim woman to win an Olympic gold medal.

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Joan BENOIT (USA)

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SEOUL 1988



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
17 September – 02 October	Republic of Korea	8,397	159	237

Awarding the Games to South Korea provided the impetus needed to bring democracy to the country.

Canadian sprinter Ben JOHNSON beat the world record in the 100m, but then tested positive for steroids. He was the first world-famous athlete to be disqualified for doping.

In the cycling events, speed skater Christa LUDING-ROTHENBURGER (GDR) won a silver medal. With her two medals at the previous Winter Games, she became the first female athlete to win medals at consecutive editions of the Winter and Summer Games!

For the first time, the three steps of the dressage podium were all occupied by women.



Christa LUDING-ROTHENBURGER (GDR)

© 1988 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / VANDERLINDE Frans



Ben JOHNSON (CAN)

© 1988 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



The podium for the dressage event

© 1988 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Greg LOUGANIS (USA) hit his head against the board during the preliminary rounds, but despite suffering from concussion, he successfully defended his title in the 3m springboard competition.

© 1988 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / TORRES Bruno



Matt BIONDI (USA) won seven medals in seven events, five of them gold.

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BARCELONA 1992



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
25 July - 09 August	Spain	9,356	169	257

For the first time since 1972, the Games were not boycotted.

In the last lap of the 10,000m final, Ethiopia's Derartu TULU led from the front and won the race. After crossing the finish line, she waited for her South African rival, Elana MEYER, and ran a lap of honour with her, a real symbol of hope for a new Africa.

Spain's Carlos FRONT, coxswain for the men's coxed eights, became the youngest Olympic athlete of the 20th century: he was just 11 years old.

With basketball now open to professional players, the United States sent its "Dream Team" to Barcelona, with players including Earvin "Magic" JOHNSON, Michael JORDAN and Larry BIRD. Unsurprisingly, they dominated the competition and won the gold medal.



Women's judo joined the Olympic programme, together with badminton and baseball.

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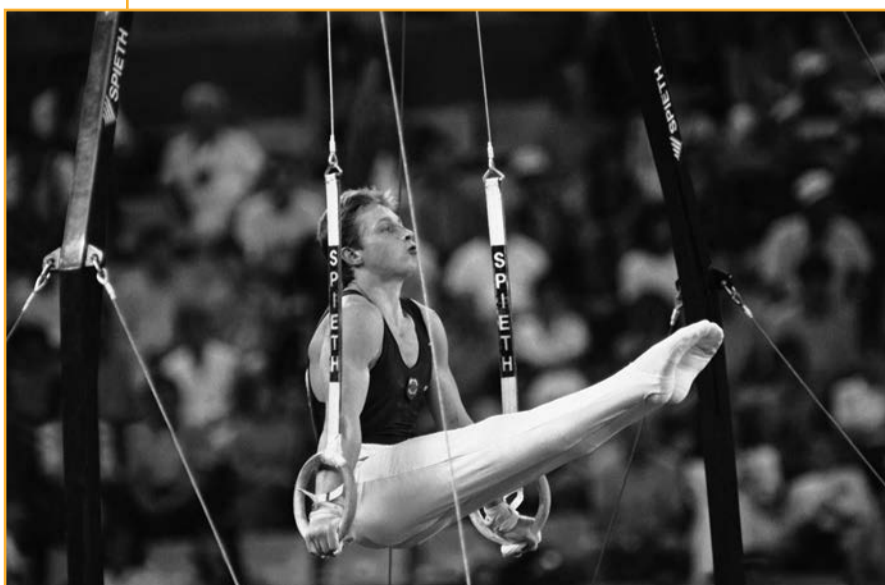
Derartu TULU (ETH) and Elana MEYER (RSA)

© 1992 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Lighting of the Olympic cauldron by Paralympic archer Antonio REBOLLO (ESP).

© 1992 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / STRAHM Jean-Jacques



Vitaly SCHERBO (EUN) won six gold medals in gymnastics.

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Earvin "Magic" JOHNSON (USA)

© 1992 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

ATLANTA 1996



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
19 July - 04 August	United States of America	10,318	197	271

Athletes from 79 countries - a record - won medals, and 53 won at least one gold medal.

Beach volleyball, mountain biking, lightweight rowing and women's football joined the Olympic programme.

American champion Michael JOHNSON became the first man in Olympic history to win both the 200m and the 400m! His 200m victory, in 19.32 seconds, was also a new world record.

Turkey's Naim SULEYMANOGLU became the first weightlifter in history to win three consecutive Olympic titles.



Mountain biking

© 1996 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



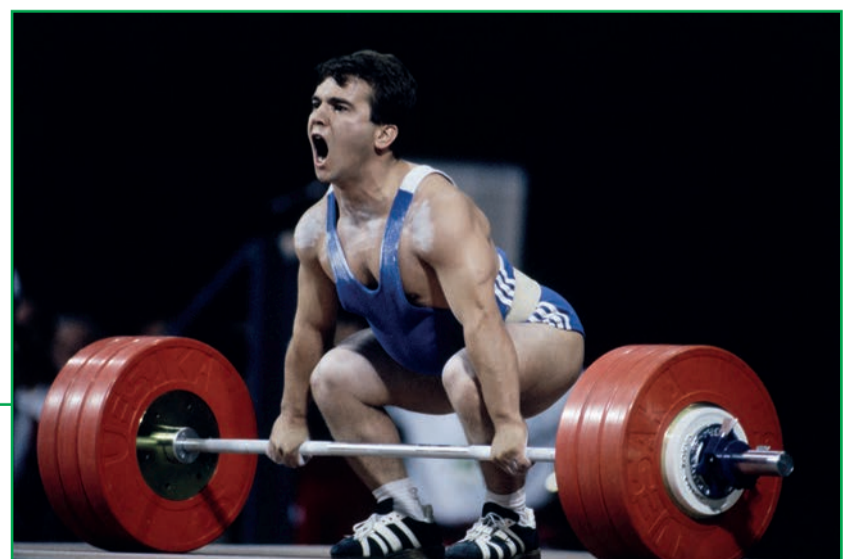
Michael JOHNSON (USA)

© 1996 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Lighting of the Olympic cauldron by Mohammad ALI (USA)

© 1996 / Kishimoto / IOC



Naim SULEYMANOGLU (TUR)

© 1996 / Kishimoto/IOC

SYDNEY 2000



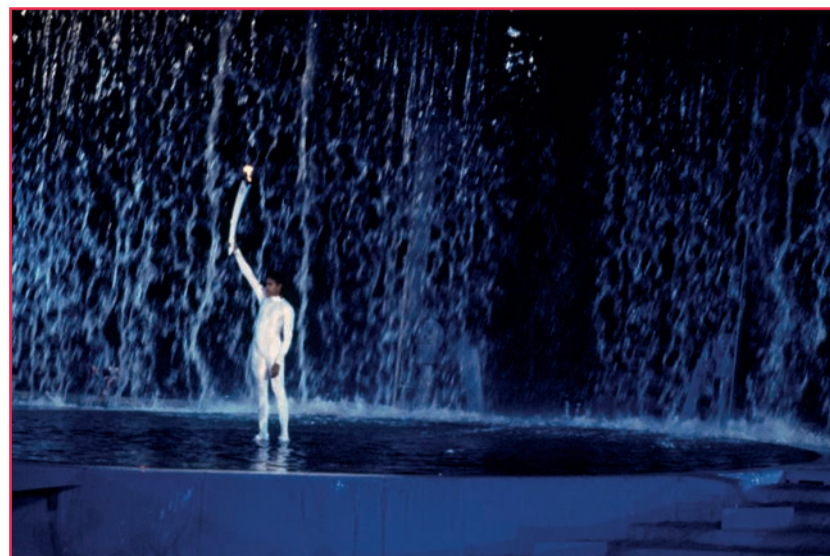
DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
15 September - 01 October	Australia	10,651	199	300

Triathlon and taekwondo joined the Olympic programme. Women's weightlifting and modern pentathlon events were held for the first time.

The honour of lighting the Olympic cauldron went to Aboriginal Australian athlete Cathy FREEMAN. This was a strong symbol of the desire for reconciliation with the Aboriginal population.

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) marched under the same flag.

For the first time, tests to detect EPO were conducted and blood samples taken.



Cathy FREEMAN (AUS)

© 2000 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Triathlon

© 2000 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Weightlifting

© 2000 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / MUNDAY Stephen



The two Koreas

© 2000 / International Olympic Committee (IOC)

ATHENS 2004



ATHENS 2004



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
13 August - 29 August	Greece	10,625	201	301

The media impact of these Games was unprecedented, with 3.9 billion television viewers following the event.

LIU Xiang (CHN) won the men's 110m hurdles and became China's first gold medallist in athletics.

The stadium in Ancient Olympia was renovated to host the shotput competitions, while the Panathenaic Stadium hosted the archery competitions and the finish of the marathon.

Women's wrestling joined the Olympic programme, with four weight categories.

Canoeist Birgit FISCHER (GER) became the first athlete ever to win two medals at each of the five editions of the Games in which she took part.



LIU Xiang (CHN)

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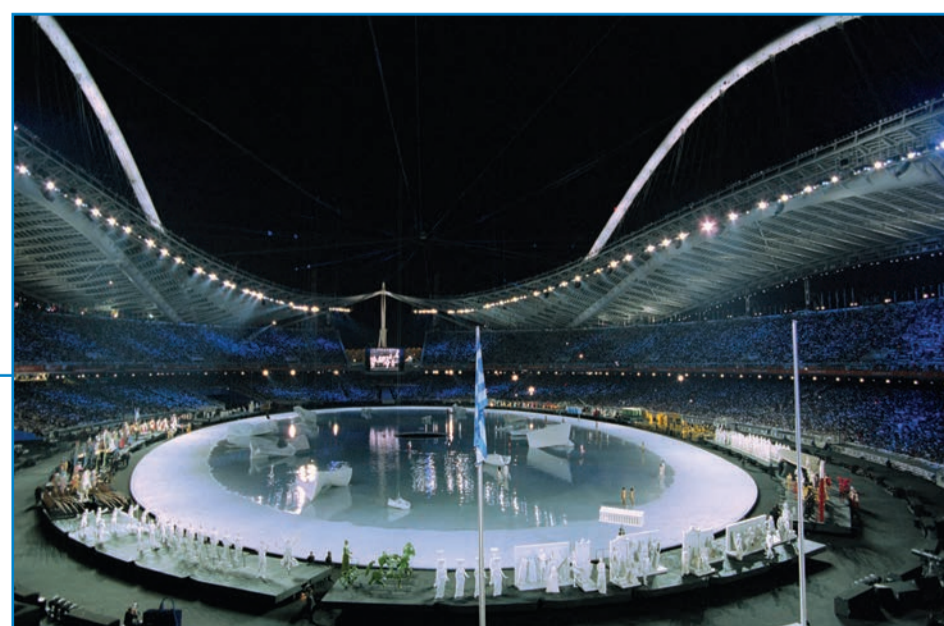
Control room in the International Broadcast Centre.

© 2004 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / SOURLIS Michalis



The stadium at Ancient Olympia

© 2004 / Kishimoto / IOC / NAGAYA Yo



The Olympic Stadium in Athens during the Opening Ceremony.

© 2004 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / RICHARD François

BEIJING 2008



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
8 August - 24 August	People's Republic of China	10,942	204	302

The National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest to the people of Beijing, and the National Aquatics Centre, nicknamed the Water Cube, were avant-garde examples of sports architecture and symbols of the new Beijing.

Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Mauritius and Togo earned their first Olympic medals. Mongolia, Bahrain and Panama did even better, winning their first gold medals.

Michael PHELPS (USA) beat the record set by Mark SPITZ (USA) at the 1972 Games in Munich by winning eight gold medals.



The National Stadium

© 2008 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / HALLERAN Scott



Michael PHELPS (USA)

© 2008 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / HUET John



Usain BOLT (JAM) made his mark on these Games by winning three gold medals in athletics.

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LI Ning (CHN) lights the cauldron. A journey covering 137,000 km, 1,528 of them in Greece and 97,000 in China for the sacred flame.

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In cycling, the road race route went past the entrance to the Forbidden City.

© 2008 / Kishimoto/IOC / KISHIMOTO Takamitsu

LONDON 2012



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
27 July - 12 August	Great Britain	10,568	204	302

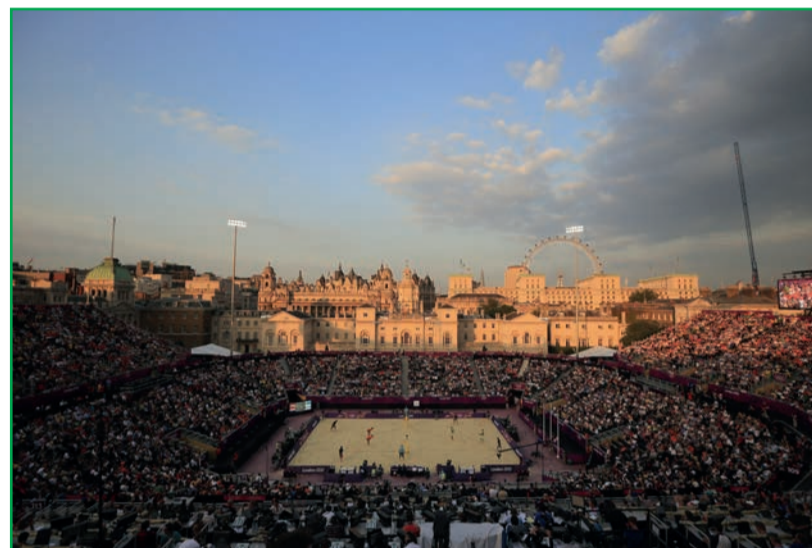
Some of the competitions were held in prestigious locations, such as Wembley Stadium for football, the All England Club at Wimbledon for tennis, Lord's Cricket Ground for archery and Horse Guards Parade for beach volleyball.

After 1908 and 1948, London became the first city to host three editions of the Olympic Games.

Nicola ADAMS (GBR) became the first Olympic women's boxing champion.

With these Games, for the first time in Olympic history, every National Olympic Committee had now included at least one woman in its team.

Epke ZONDERLAND (NED) won the high bar competition, with a routine that included a triple combo of Cassina-Kovacs-Kolman, then the most difficult release combination.



Horse Guards Parade

© 2012 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / FURLONG Christopher



Epke ZONDERLAND (NED)

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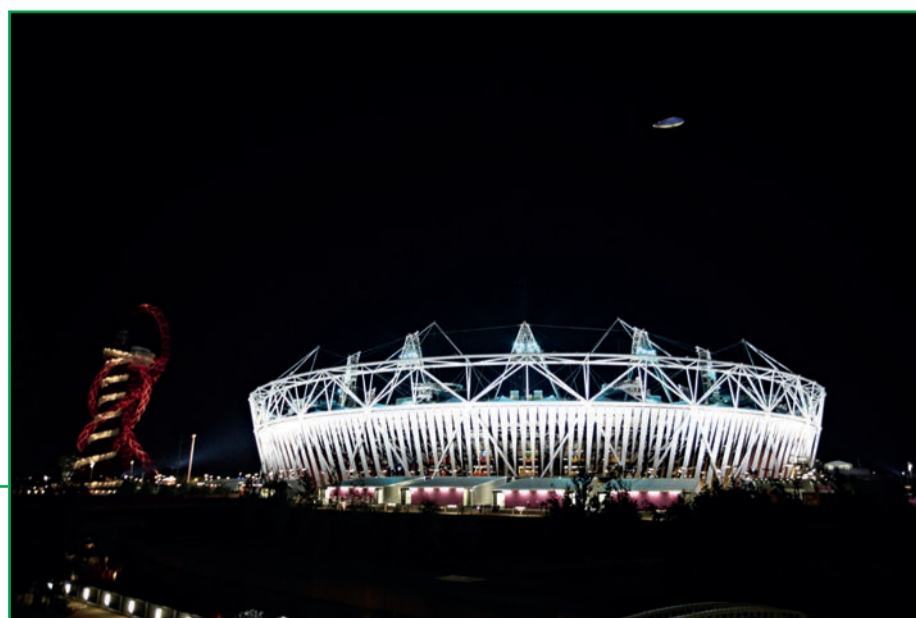
Nicola ADAMS (GBR)

© 2012 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / EVANS Jason



Judoka Wojdan SHAHERKANI was Saudi Arabia's first ever female Olympic athlete.

© 2012 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / JUILLIART Richard



The legacy of the Games was at the heart of the London 2012 concept, with the stadium designed to be downsized after the Games.

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RIO 2016



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
5 August - 21 August	Brazil	11,238	207	306

Michael PHELPS (USA) enriches his impressive record of 23 medals.

Usain BOLT (JAM) became the first athlete to win the 100m and 200m at three successive editions of the Games.

At the IOC's initiative, 10 refugee athletes took part in the Games under the Olympic flag.

Nikki HAMBLIN (NZL) and Abbey D'AGOSTINO (USA) showed true Olympic spirit by helping each other after a fall in the 5,000m; they finished the race hand-in-hand.

In shooting, Kimberly RHODE (USA) won her sixth medal at her sixth consecutive edition of the Games.



Michael PHELPS (USA)

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Kimberly RHODE (USA)

©2016 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / JONES Ian



The Refugee Olympic Team

© 2016 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / HUET John



Rugby sevens made its appearance, while golf returned after a 112-year absence.

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Wayde VAN NIEKERK (RSA) made his mark on athletics history by beating the world 400m record held for 17 years by Michael JOHNSON (USA).

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TOKYO 2020



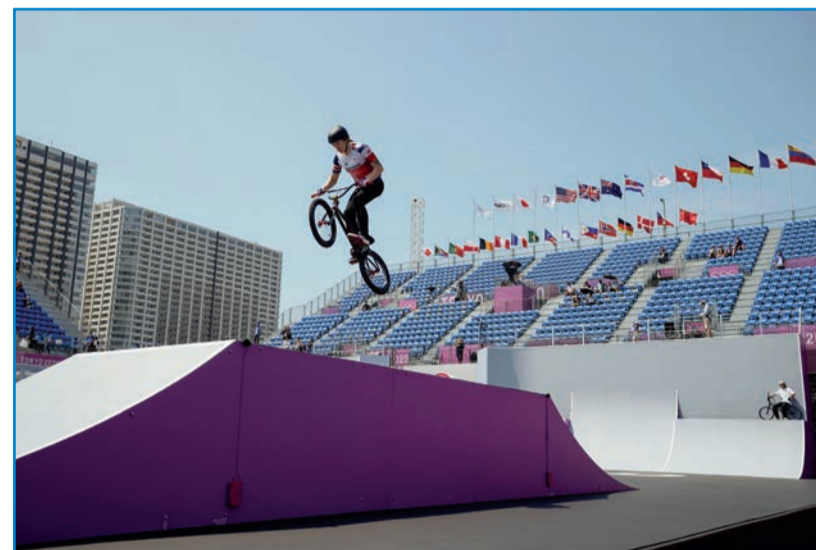
DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES	EVENTS
23 July - 8 August 2021	Japan	11,420	205	339

Tokyo 2020 was the first edition in Olympic Games history to be postponed; it was delayed by one year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Several youth-centred sports and disciplines (basketball 3x3, BMX freestyle, sport climbing, skateboard and surfing) made their debut at these Games, providing a comprehensive transformation of the Olympic programme.

The high jump ended with a truly wonderful illustration of the Olympic spirit. Having tied, athletes Gianmarco TAMBERI (ITA) and Mutaz BARSHIM (QAT) agreed not to continue the competition and to share the gold medal!

Another name to remember was that of swimmer Emma MCKEON (AUS). In addition to being the athlete who won the most medals in Tokyo, she became the first female swimmer to win seven medals at the same edition of the Games.



BMX freestyle event with no spectators

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Gianmarco TAMBERI (ITA) and Mutaz BARSHIM (QAT)

© 2021 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / DAVIDSON Alex



Emma MCKEON (AUS)

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With sustainability in mind, the medals and podiums at this edition of the Games were made from recycled materials.

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