

Pan-American Games

When it became apparent that the Games of the XII Olympiad scheduled for Tokyo in 1940 could not be held, the latent interest in Pan-American Games which had existed in many countries for many years was brought to life. It was further stimulated by the growing spirit of solidarity among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. After considerable correspondence and discussion the Argentine Olympic Committee took the initiative and called a Congress of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere at Buenos Aires in 1940 to discuss the possibility of organizing the Pan-American Games and, in general, all the problems concerning amateur sport in the three Americas.

The National Olympic Committees of sixteen of the twenty-one countries in the Pan-American Union, including the United States, were represented. After three days of study and deliberation, marked by a friendly sporting spirit, the Congress decided to institute a set of Pan-American Games to be held every four years between Olympic Games beginning in 1942. War conditions made it impossible to conduct the Games at that time. At the Olympic Games in London in 1948 the Pan-American Congress was reconvened and completed definite plans to hold the Games in Buenos Aires from February 25th to March 8th, 1951.

The Pan-American Games will be modelled after the Olympic Games, and, in general,

Olympic rules and regulations will apply. The technical rules of competition in all sports will be those of the respective International Sports Federations, as in the Olympic Games. The Congress, which is held every four years, will control the organization.

For convenience in administration, with perhaps the thought in mind of eventually holding sectional contests, the countries of the Western Hemisphere were divided into five groups as follows:

Group 1: Canada, United States, Mexico

Group 2: Cuba, Costa-Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua.

Group 3: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay.

Group 4: Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru.

Group 5: Columbia, Panama, Venezuela.

One representative from each group constitutes the Pan-American Games Committee, which is the supreme authority during the four years between meetings of the Congress for all matters pertaining to Pan-American sport. Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the U. S. Olympic Association, has been chosen President of the Permanent Committee of the Pan-American Games Committee.

The second Pan-American Games will take place in Mexico-City in 1955.