

Stockholm

EQUESTRIAN GAMES OF THE XVIth OLYMPIAD 10 TO 17 JUNE 1956

(See Committee's composition in French text.)

Entries

Preliminary entries have been received from 24 nations : Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, U.S.A., Venezuela, Germany. Furthermore Chile, Colombia, New Zealand, Portugal, Rumania, South Korea, Spain, U.S.S.R., Hungaria, Egypt and Jugoslavia are expected to participate on the Games.

The number of riders who will take part in the Equestrian Games will be about 225, whereof approximately 15 women riders. The participating horses will be about 270.

Opening and Olympic Torch

The programme for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Equestrian Games will follow the Olympic traditions. His Majesty the King of Sweden, patron of the Games, will personally perform the inauguration ceremony. Thanks to the cooperation of the Greek Olympic Committee, the Olympic Flame will be burning during the Equestrian Games of the XVIth Olympiad which are to be held in Stockholm next June. The Flame will be lit in Olympia itself where an official ceremony to this effect will take place. It will be transported by means of a minor's lamp on a car to the airport of Hellinikon in Athens where it will be received by the Swedish Delegation. From there, a Swedish plane will convey the Flame to south Sweden and carried on horseback by riders of Swedish equestrian clubs the 800 km way to Stockholm to arrive in the Stadium during the inauguration ceremony.

Press, Photos, Films, Medals, Stamps

Arrangements have been made to facilitate the communications for the press. All modern telecommunications will be available at the Stadium and special messengers will be on hand for quick transportation of photographic material and films to the Stockholm airport.

One side of the Olympic Medal will show a classic Greek horseman. The other side of the Medal will display the official motive of the Olympic Games, including the five interlocked rings.

The Swedish Post Office Department has declared itself willing to issue stamps of different values to celebrate the Olympic Equestrian Games in Stockholm. The stamp will be available as from April 1956.

The Stockholm Stadium

Equestrian events in the Olympic Games were introduced for the first time at the Games of the Vth Olympiad which was held in Stockholm in 1912. The Stockholm Stadium was built in order to create a suitable arena for these Olympic Games. Chiefly constructed as a ground for field sports and football it has, however, sufficient versatility to be turned overnight into a perfect field for show jumping.

The Stadium can take about 21,000 spectators. In 1921 temporary arrangements provided for extra seats, but these arrangements were scrapped immediately after the Vth Olympiad.—It is interesting to note that a Stadium which had ample capacity for complete Olympic Games in 1912 nowadays is barely sufficient to harbour the Equestrian part of an Olympiad.

The Organizing Committee has taken every possible step to make available to the public as many seats as possible. To judge from the results of the ticket sales sofar and the prevailing trend in this respect it is, however, to be feared that tickets later on will be scarce.

The Olympic Villages

There will be two Olympic Villages during the Equestrian Games of the XVIth Olympiad. One will use the facilities of the Swedish Military Academy and one those of the Swedish Naval College. Both these institutions are housed in historical buildings which, however, are modernized to a very high standard. During the Games a complete modern hotel service will be arranged on both premises.

The Military Academy of Karlberg is situated approximately 10 minutes' bus ride from the Stadium. The buildings were originally part of a nobleman's palace and the oldest of them were constructed in the beginning of the seventeenth century. Lady competitors will reside in a special section of the old palace.

The Castle of Näsby which today is the home of the Swedish Naval College has

traditions which date back to the thirteenth century. The Navy has, however, only resided there since 1942. It is situated some 20 minutes by bus or car from the Stadium and it has regular connections with Stockholm city by frequent electric trains. It is set in rural surroundings and will provide an excellent atmosphere for rest and concentration for the competitors.

Also in this place there are excellent catering facilities. What the Naval College may be lacking in previous experience in housing a group of international sportsmen will probably only spur to efforts to reach perfection in service.

Stables and Grooms Quarters

The Horse Guards' barracks are located a couple of hundred yards from the Stadium and there stables will be touched up to be a worthy temporary home for the horses. If these facilities do not go round, other stabling facilities are available even closer to the Stadium.

The grooms will be billeted in the Horse Guard's barracks where catering facilities also will be arranged.

Veterinary surgeons, farriers, saddlers and other service facilities will be on hand in the immediate vicinity of the stables and the grooms quarters.