

## Mexico's new city of sport

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Mexico, a country who values her traditions and looks at the same time courageously to the future, has just provided new evidence of the importance which she lays on the education and good health of her youth by opening a vast City of Sport to the East of Mexico City.

From an urban point of view, this city will balance the University City which lies South of the capital.

From the figures quoted below, it will be possible to gain an impression of the importance of this network of sports installations for Mexico City. The total involved is 2,290,071 square metres. One hundred million pesos will have been invested in the installations by the time all the work has been completed. The City contains a stadium with seating capacity for 8,200 spectators. The central part of the stadium forms a football field, and two athletics tracks are also

included within its area. The installations contain 36 football grounds including the one in the stadium and 18 of these have stands with a total capacity of 1,200 spectators.

Schoolchildren will have access to 16 grounds for juniors. Of a total of 25 baseball grounds, 10 are provided with grandstands. The main stand can seat 4,200 spectators and 15 others are 1,000 seat stands.

The Sports Centre contains, in addition, 26 basket-ball grounds, 19 volley-ball nets, one velodrome, one hockey ground, a diving pool, two Olympic pools, 14 mens' douche installations and six for ladies, as well as dressing rooms and restaurant facilities...

All space not occupied by the games fields or the pathways leading to them has been planted with trees and laid out in lawns. There are close on 100,000 trees. Thus, not only has a huge sports area been created for lovers of sports and sportsmen, but Mexico City has gained a huge lung for the purification of her atmosphere.

It is expected that thousands of people will come to spend their leisure hours in the areas laid out with trees and lawns. Sanitary facilities have been provided for an estimate of 150,000 people. Childrens' playgrounds scattered throughout the area have over 100,000 merry-go-rounds. Four huge artificial lakes have also been laid out both for aesthetic reasons and to provide water for

the various installations. One can readily understand that the opening of the Sports City has been welcomed enthusiastically, not only by the youthful sporting people but by all the inhabitants of Mexico City. The ceremony of its inauguration was carried out on Sunday November 16th 1958, by Mr. Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, then President of the Republic, and by the Head of the Federal District, Mr. Ernesto P. Uruchurtu.

I remember how, when, touring the outskirts of Mexico City one day with Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee, he expressed his surprise not so much at the large stadia and sports installations, towards which thousands of amateur sportsmen were thronging to witness the championships, as at the large open areas where groups of young people went out to train every Sunday.

Mr. Brundage will have a full understanding now of the purpose of these new installations, which will be administered according to a strict timetable, so that at least three events can be held on each holiday. Thus, at least 25,000 athletes will be able to pursue their favourite sport, without taking into account the children who will be provided with merry-go-rounds, as well as the general public who will be able to picnic outside in the fresh air and to find relaxation amongst the parks, gardens and lakes.