



# The IX<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympic Games Innsbruck 1964

## *Facilities at Sports Sites Tested in 1963*

Exactly one year before the 1964 Winter Olympics, all competition sites with the exception of the Tivoli Ice Arena were ready for testing.

Since the organizers had hoped and planned from the very beginning to offer the best race courses ever to the competitors, early completion of the courses was of eminent importance, so that they could be subjected to strenuous tests and trials.

Therefore, this year's competitions were meant only to check the suitability of the completed facilities. Perhaps it was a mistake to call these competitions 'Pre-Olympic Trials'; if more emphasis had been laid on the process of testing the courses, a great amount of criticism not at all concerned with the courses themselves could have been avoided. According to schedule, the sports technical staff of the Organizing Committee will be established in the winter of 1963-1964. After all, Austria is a comparatively small nation and cannot possibly afford to put on Olympic Winter Games twice in a row — 1963 and 1964 ! For this reason, the 1963

competitions were organized by the competent sports associations which are entirely dependent on volunteer workers and officials and could concern themselves only with the best possible technical staging of the races. Spectator control, traffic, press relations, feeding at the competition sites, and many other aspects of big sports events could only be improvised in 1963. It would be entirely wrong to jump to conclusions regarding success or failure in 1964 judging from this year's happenings. Plans worked out by the Organizing Committee in these respects date far back and are on a much bigger scale than ever envisioned for the 1963 trials. Just to mention a few examples, road construction completed by 1964 and use of a vast number of Committee-controlled vehicles will create a completely different picture in public transportation during the Olympic period. A well-appointed Press Center, Sub-Centers at all competition sites, as well as automatic instant availability of results made possible through the services of IBM will offer working conditions for the news media that are a far cry from this year's facilities. By severe

screening for accreditation, however, the organizers will see to it that the available facilities shall not be overrun. Let us repeat : The IXth Olympic Winter Games at Innsbruck. in 1964, will be Games without frills — sports will be paramount.

The newly constructed facilities will perfectly serve the purpose of the Games. but at the same time they were built for future use. In due consideration of the welfare of our people, the lost expenditure necessary in staging the Games shall be kept as low as possible. This will mean that visitors watching the Games events will have to put up with a certain lack of comforts. The big question now is — how did the competition facilities stand up under fire ? Let's see what the experts have to say on this point.

THE SYMBOL OF INNSBRUCK - THE BRIDGE  
(DIE BRUCKE)

The birth and the development of the capital of the Tyrol are closely linked with the bridge, which was constructed over the River Inn. In the year 14 B.C., the Romans, at the time of crossing the Alps, built a military camp called *Valdidena* in a part of the town which was called *Willen*.

It was only in 1138, that work was started to uncover the old Roman houses. In the interim, the Convent of Wilten was built, around which were situated those quarters of the town which were to become the future City of Innsbruck. In 1180, Count Berthold von Andechs obtained permission from the Superior of the Convent of Wilten to build a dwelling **on** the northern side of the Inn.

At the same time, he also obtained authorization to construct a bridge over the river.

In the year 1238, Innsbruck was elevated to the rank of town. The bridge over the Inn, which gives the town its name, does not only figure on its Coat of Arms, but has remained its symbol right up to the present day. It is in this way that the emblem of the Ninth Olympic Winter Games of 1964 at Innsbruck also includes the famous bridge.

Innsbruck, the old commercial town of the Middle Ages, seat of a famous University and a modern town renowned for its sport, hopes on the occasion of the next Winter Games to be the bridge between the various nations, for a better understanding between their peoples.

THE PRESS AT INNSBRUCK

It is estimated and laid down by the Olympic Rules that 400 seats will be reserved for journalists and photographers and 75 for operators and reporters of both Radio and Television. Taking into account the great demand which has already been manifested a whole year before the opening of the Games, the Organizing Committee has decided to go further than the prescribed limits laid down by the International Olympic Committee — which is its right if it so desires — and to fix the following limits which, in no case, may be exceeded :

600 journalists, 100 radio reporters, 100 television commentators and 100 photographers. The application forms were distributed all over the world in April 1963 and the Organizing Committee will decide in the final instance.