

# Olympic sites and ways



The new speedways called “peripheral” that encircle Mexico City facilitate an easy and immediate transportation from the northern part of the city to the southern suburbs, avoiding the heavy downtown traffic, with a slight deviation up to the neighbouring hills on the western side. It is on this long bow that most of the existing sports facilities are situated, with those already under construction and those that have been intended for the 1968 Olympic Games. In half an hour, non-stop, by car or by bus, it is possible to leave the shooting range, at the farthest north boundary, and reach the wide sports grounds (2 290 000 square metres) of the Magdalena Mixhuca at the south. This same express way will be lengthened shortly

to Xochimilco, to the very shores of the Cuemanco canal, where the canoe and rowing competitions shall take place in a most picturesque setting, beside the “chinampas”, or floating gardens.

At different points of this gigantic curve one finds, one after the other, the shooting range, the golf clubs, the swimming pool and gymnasiums of the Polytechnical Institute, the horse racing track, the Olympic Sports Center, where Mexican champions are training under the guidance of their coaches, some of them famous foreign specialists ; the equestrian grounds, the University City with its splendid main stadium, soon to be the Olympic Stadium, the Olympic Village with its thousand small and larger



*Magdalena Mixhuca Sports Centre.*

houses, its restaurants and all possible public services, the Sports Palace, of an extraordinary bold architectural design ; a short distance away, the enormous Aztec Stadium, the mecca of football, to be inaugurated presently, and at the Sports City of the Magdalena Mixhuca the endless series of basketball, baseball, football, volleyball, hockey grounds and fields, the running tracks, the tennis courts, the two velodromes and the autodrome.

The long Reforma Avenue (which commemorates the political reform of the Mexican constitution) is one of the arrows of that bow which, coming from modern and even luxurious suburbs on the hills, goes slowly down through Chapultepec Park, where the National Auditorium is that will be the scene of gymnastics, wrestling and weightlifting tournaments, to the city's business center, the main hotels, the largest stores, to reach finally through a part of the old town, the Zócalo, this impressive plaza, the capital's and country's heart, its nervous center, both administrative and historical.

The whole of Mexico City's population will take part, directly or indirectly, hosts or spectators, to the Olympic Games in a general and impressive effort and with a fervent and ever increasing enthusiasm. It has been planned, as a popular event, that the Marathon race, the most classical of all long-distance events, shall leave the Olympic Stadium to end in an apotheosis of light, color,



*Reforma Avenue.*



*The Aztec Stadium (football).*

sounds and music at the Zócalo, in front of the Presidential Palace and the Old Cathedral, after a course between two lines of cheering spectators that will be counted by the hundreds of thousands. A genuine people's fiesta, obliged contrast with the fastuous and ritual ceremonies that will mark the opening and the closing of the Olympic Events.



*The Olympic Stadium at the University City.*