

Return to Sapporo

Praise for the XIth Winter Games, which are already part of Olympic history, since they were held from 3rd to 13th February, has been unanimous, as much among the 1,129 athletes from 35 countries, as among the officials, journalists and spectators. Statements made by many personalities are witness to this. Here are some of them.

First of all, the letter which President BRUNDAGE wrote to Mr. Takeshi ITAGAKI, Mayor of Sapporo, on 21st April:

"If, as you say, the people of Sapporo are "delighted with the success of the XIth Olympic Winter Games", rest assured that that makes it unanimous. I have heard nothing but praise for the manner in which this enterprise was handled. We of the International Olympic Committee feel that it will be difficult indeed to match the standards you set in Sapporo. The facilities could not have been improved and the organisation was impeccable. We are greatly indebted to President Kogoro UEMURA, Secretary Tomoo SATO, and the members of the Organising Committee, as well as your good self and your colleagues of the Municipality. Even the Gods were favourable in postponing the blizzard which flooded the streets and shut down the airport the day after the closing.

As a result of the success of this festival, Sapporo has become the winter sport capital of the Orient and you can be

certain with the heightened public moral that the effects in the long run will be highly favourable to the entire community."

From among the press cuttings of French, English and American newspapers, we are publishing the following:

Time - 5th February, 1972:

. . . From the breathtaking descent down the slopes of Mount Eniwa to the giant circle of the Makomanai speed skating rink, Sapporo is truly the winter sports' country of marvels...

Le Monde - 9th February, 1972:

...as much from the point of view of the technical quality of the installations, as from the smooth organisation of the events, those Nippons responsible have covered themselves with glory...

Fred ROESSNER, Technical Inspector of the International Ski Federation:

...I was invited to Sapporo in 1964, just after the Tokyo Olympic Games. At that time, Makomanai was nothing but wasteland. I warned the Japan-

February 3, 1975 - Opening Ceremony



JAPON/JAPAN



ROUMANIE/ROMANIA



ESPAGNE/SPAIN



SUISSE/SWITZERLAND



ETATS-UNIS/UNITED-STATES



U. R. S. S. / U. S. S. R.



YUGOSLAVIE/YUGOSLAVIA

ese that they would have to work hard if they wanted to organise the Winter Games there.

The organisers have accomplished the remarkable and, now, everything is perfect...

Robert PETERSEN, Director of the American Cultural Centre in Tokyo:

. . . One cannot help but be impressed by the calm and competent way in which the Japanese have organised the Games...

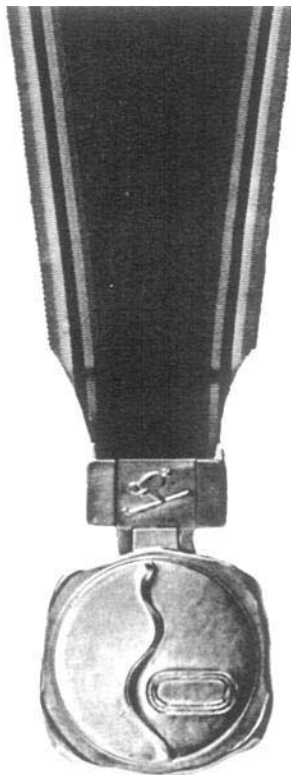
Jacques FOURNO, Trainer of the French Women's Ski Team:

...The downhill course is perfect, nothing more to be said . . .

All the world has been praising the quality of the organisation and the installations, but we must not forget to congratulate the athletes, without whom there would be no Games.

We will leave the last word to a reader of Life Magazine (United-States):

...There are a few winners; there are many, many losers, but all are gallant competitors worthy of our greatest respect...



1972

The Olympic medal and the Sapporo emblem.

The Official Book

It is enough to look through the magnificent album, which the Organising Committee of the XIth Winter Games of Sapporo has just published, to relive the extraordinary atmosphere which marked these eleven Olympic days.

This book, beautifully bound in brown holland, contains photographs of the most exciting moments of the Games and those of the athletes before, during and after the competitions. Spectators from the four corners of the world, the installations, the mountain passes which surround Sapporo, the official personalities of the competitions, whether they be technicians, heads of state or members of the International Olympic Committee, are all very lifelike.

The official results, sport by sport, event by event form the second part of this work, edited in Japanese, French and English.

"SAPPORO OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES 72" published by the Organising Committee of the XIth Winter Games - Issued by JITSUGYO NO NIHON SHA, 1-3-9 Ginza, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan.

