



VISIT TO THE OLYMPIC VENUES

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by **MORLEY MYERS**

SPORTS EDITOR. UPI

The visit of the press sub-commission revealed that most venues are within easy reach of the Round-Up Centre, which is the location of the Main Press Centre. The only far flung outposts are Mount Allan and Canmore, the respective venues for Alpine and Nordic skiing.



CALGARY

The Round-Up Centre, first stop on our visit, is part of the Stampede Park complex and has ample space for media group transportation in addition to being a stopping point on the Light Railway Transport (LRT) system.

Prospects were encouraging regarding the size and facilities of the Centre which is used for exhibitions. The impressive building has approximately 8,200 square metres of floor space and a 500-seat amphitheatre which will be used for IOC press conferences.

The building is adjacent to the proposed site of the International Broadcast Centre, providing easy access for both media factions in sharing some of the common facilities.

A covered walkway links the Round-Up Centre to the Olympic Saddledome, site of the ice-hockey, figure skating and closing ceremonies. The 20,000 seat Saddledome looked ideally equipped, being well tried and tested for the staging of NHL matches with all the media infrastructure already in use. There will have to be expansions of facilities in certain areas because of the greater demands and higher numbers of media for Olympic hockey tournaments.

A 15-minute car trip from Stampede Park took us to MacMahon Stadium where the opening ceremonies will take place. Construction is in hand to provide an additional 14,000 seats for spectators to boost the number to 50,000. The LRT will be extended to link the venue, which is adjacent to the University of Calgary, the proposed site of the athletes village. It is planned to accommodate 2,000 athletes, coaches and officials on the campus.

Just outside the campus, work was in progress on the bowl for speedskating oval, the first covered facility for this sport

Canada Olympic Park, situated 15 minutes from the Main Press Centre, was another indication of the compact nature of most of the venues. The sites for the ski-jumping and the combined bobsleigh and luge runs are located cheek-by-jowl and the Park is less than 30 minutes away from the Athletes Village. There will be a combined press sub-centre and access to the venue will be by car or shuttle buses via the multi-lane Trans-Canada Highway.

The commission flew by helicopter to Canmore and Mount Allan, a journey which would take over an hour by bus from the main press centre, a distance of some 100 kilometers. The two venues lay either side of the Trans-Canada Highway and

the members believed it was possible that another Olympic Village could be used in Banff which is closer to the sites than Calgary.



If this proved to be the case, accommodation would have to be available to the press in the Banff area and there should also be a very substantial press sub-centre. Alpine and Nordic skiing have a great following among the media and is likely to attract half of the media personnel covering the Games.

M. M.

CTV, HOST BROADCASTER OF THE XVth OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Before the final press conference held at 18.00 on the 28th February, 1985, the IOC President, accompanied by the Director Mrs. Monique Berlioux, for the IOC and Mr. Frank King, President and Mr. Bill Pratt, Director General for the OCO '88, ratified in the presence of Mr. Murray Chercover, Chairman of CTV Television Network, the contract making this Canadian network the "Host Broadcaster" for the XVth Olympic Winter Games.