



Before the arrival of the Flame, the celebration begins with the release of balloons.

FESTIVAL AT THE FOOT OF THE ROCKIES

Both cowboys and Indians came together for the XVth Winter Games, providing the 60,000 lucky spectators at the McMahon Stadium and over a billion viewers throughout the world with a succession of lively and colourful images bearing witness to the history of the Canadian West and reflecting the spirit of Calgary, the beauty of the region and the warmth of the population. Ovation followed ovation as the fifty-seven delegations led by Greece started to process into the stadium. There was a special mention for Australia, with a chorus of “Happy Birthday to you” from the crowd in honour of the country’s bicentenary. Also, for the first time, at the end of their procession, the athletes were able to sit in the stands and watch the show.

XVth Olympic Winter Games

At the end of its long journey, the flame entered the stadium borne aloft by Cathy Priestner, the speed skater who won the silver medal in the 500 m in 1976 in Innsbruck, and by former world ski champion and local hero, Ken Read. But whereas everyone was expecting a former Olympic champion, it was in fact the young Robyn Perry, a future Olympic skating hopeful, who finally stood on tiptoe to light the cauldron. The cross-country skier Pierre Harvey spoke loudly and clearly the oath for all the competitors. Thus, with youth firmly to the fore, the Games could begin. In the following pages, the *Olympic Review* lists the results of the competitions, with the names of the first eight competitors, the three medallists and the five diploma winners.

Day after day, exploits and scenes of intensive sport, in turn astonishing, amusing, dramatic or disappointing, made up the history of these Games, lending them a particular colour. What images remain of this sporting youth which has, once again, pushed itself to the limit in quest of gold, silver and bronze ?

Pierre Harvey takes the oath in the name of all the competitors



The image of the American skater Dan Jansen, one of the favourites who fell in the 500m, after having just learned of the death of his older sister from leukaemia; the image of Matti Nykaenen soaring through the air to earn his title of king of the ski jump; or the image of British jumper, Eddie Edwards whose foolhardiness enchanted the people of Calgary?

On the first day the slopes of Nakiska were empty but for the wind. The downhill was postponed until the following day which saw stunning performances from the Swiss Pirmin Zurbriggen and Peter Müller, and the Frenchman Franck Piccard. In the evening it was the Soviet couple Gordeva-Grinkov who took the lead role in the figure skating.

Despite a good start, Zurbriggen was not to win the combined, leaving the top step of the podium to the Austrian Hubert Strolz. In the meantime, the skaters were still performing; the Swede Tomas Gustafson repeated his exploit in Sarajevo with gold in the 5,000m, but dogged by ill-fortune, Dan Jansen fell again in the 1,000m. At Canmore, the first finishers were arriving; in the 5 km, the Finn Marjo Matikainen was energy personified.

On 19th February, Karen Percy skied her way into Canadian history by winning the bronze in the women's downhill; that same evening a packed Calgary plaza gave her a hero's welcome.

Fulfilling his own prediction, Prince Albert of Monaco, IOC Member and competitor in the bobsleigh, finished 25th. The two Brians confronted each other to the strains of suitably military music, and the Canadian Orser ceded to the American Boitano, giving the gold medal to the United States.

In the footsteps of Jean-Claude Killy, twenty years after Grenoble, Franck Piccard won the gold in the super G, his second medal. If the artificial snow worked well for the Frenchman, the ice in the indoor oval did wonders for Gustafson who repeated his earlier success in the 10,000 m.

It was a fight between champions in the women's super G, with the Austrian Sigrid Wolf snatching the gold ahead of Switzerland's Michela Figini. Next was Karen Percy winning her second bronze and once again sending the crowd wild with delight. With a record in the 500m speed skating, Bonnie Blair won the second gold medal for the United States.



On 23rd February, the wind died down, and the 90 m ski jump finally took place with the same stars, Matti Nykaenen in the lead, Eddie Edwards at the back. In the speed skating the East Germans gave way to the Dutch, with Yvonne van Gennip victorious in the 3,000m. In the ice dance, the Soviets Natalia Bestemianova and Andrei Boukine received their marks in gold, but it was the African rhythm and inspiration of the French couple which won the plaudits of the crowd.

The following day was a day for champions with Matti Nykaenen repeating his success in the 90m team event, and Switzerland's Vreni Schneider confirming her world title in the giant slalom.

Then the pace quickened on the last four days with Italy making a triumphant return with Alberto Tomba, "the bomb", carrying off with equal style and speed the giant and the special, and Vreni Schneider repeating her winning form in the slalom. The Soviet team was victorious in the ice hockey, Yvonne van Gennip kept her advantage in the 1,500m and 5,000m, but, even 50 still left a little golden place for Christa Roth-enburger (GDR) in the 1,000 m. In the figure skating, Debi Thomas disappointed the hopes of many, winning only the bronze, and it was the Canadian Elizabeth Manley who came second behind the invincible Katarina Witt (GDR). A special mention goes to the Japan's Midori Ito who, after a spectacular demonstration, is becoming a name to look out for. The final word goes to the Swiss who won the last two gold medals, in the Nordic combined with Hippolyt Kempf, and in the bobsleigh.

Finally, some images from the demonstration sports and events, curling, freestyle skiing and short track speed skating, the undeniable success of which augurs well for 1992.

In a festival of sequins and pirouettes on ice, and a succession of ovations and waves of enthusiasm which seemed as though they would never end, President Samaranch, after awarding the Olympic Order in gold with the IOC's gratitude to Mr. Frank King, chairman of OCO'88, then proceeded to close the XVth Winter Games and made the traditional appeal to the youth of the world for the next meeting in Albertville.

After Mr. Frank King, the IOC President presented the Olympic Order to the Mayor of the Olympic city, Mr. Ralph Klein, and the President of OCO'88, Mr. Bill Pratt.