

Olympic Medallists



ANITA DEFRANTZ

An IOC member since 1986 and a lawyer by training, Anita DeFrantz was an elite athlete in the sport of rowing. She represented her country from 1975 through 1980, winning a bronze medal at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976, when she was captain of the American team. Two years later, she won a silver medal at the World Championships. Ms DeFrantz served as vice president of the Organizing Committee of the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles 1984. Since 1987, she has been President of the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, which

was created following the Los Angeles Games. A member of several sports associations, she also serves on the USOC Executive Board; she is a trustee of the Women's Sports Foundation and President of the Southern California Olympian Society. Ms DeFrantz has been a member of the IOC Executive Board since 1992 and belongs to the Juridical, Sport and Law, Olympic Movement and Congress Study Commissions, as well as the Coordination Commission for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in the year 2000. She is chairman of the IOC working group on sport and women.

OR : What is your earliest image of the Olympic Games?

I believe my earliest images of the Olympic Games are a mixture of my father wanting my brother and me to be the first African-American swimmers for the United States at the Olympic Games and the elegance of my

third grade¹ physical education teacher, JoAnn Terry, who competed in track and field in the 1960 Olympic Games.

OR : What is your best memory or favourite anecdote from the Olympic Games?

Without question the walk to and into the stadium for the opening ceremonies in Montreal is a memory that will stay with me forever. All of us were being applauded simply because we

¹ In the United States, the third year of elementary school.

Olympic Medallists

were Olympians, not winners or losers. All Olympians were being celebrated.

OR : In your opinion, what is the significance of the Centenary of the Olympic Games?

I believe that the Centenary Games are a testimony to the strength and longevity of the Olympic Movement, In part, the Centennial Games are



proof that the Games will endure, and more important, that the Games will continue to exist for athletes in the centuries to come.

OR : What role do you feel sport and Olympism play in modern society?

Sport belongs to us all. It is part of our nature as human beings. Sport provides to individuals the opportunity for success, teamwork, goal-setting and courage. The Olympic Games take sport to its highest level and provide examples for generations to come.

The Olympic Games are a celebration of human excellence. The Olympic village contains the most beautiful gathering of people in the world.

Everyone in the community respects each other. In part, the Olympic Movement is proof that all the people of the world can live in peace.

OR : What message would you like to give to today's youth?

We live in a world of people with various backgrounds, but all have a shared future. We must learn to appreciate all individuals for what they can give. It is important be able to both ask for help and offer help - to believe in yourselves, in the future of the world, and to know that people care for you. Sport can help you to appreciate yourselves and others. It will teach you about courage. Be willing to try new challenges.