

Participants in the Olympic Games



Better known by his title of heir to the principality of Monaco, Prince Albert is an all-round sportsman who excels in several disciplines. He has been president of the Monegasque swimming, tennis and athletics federations and the Monaco Yacht Club, and is also a keen footballer. In 1987 he became founder president of the Monegasque bobsleigh and skeleton federation, and it was in this sport that he took part in the Olympic Winter Games in Calgary in 1988, Albertville in 1992 and Lillehammer in 1994, as a member of the principality's bobsleigh team. He has been president of the Olympic Committee of Monaco since April 1994. An IOC member since 1985, he is also vice-president of the Athletes' Commission and a member of the Coordination Commission for the Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta.

PRINCE ALBERT OF MONACO

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

I could mention any number of television clips from the Games in Mexico or Grenoble, for instance, but I think what struck me the most was a photo of my grandfather, who was double sculls champion at the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp.

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

My most enduring memory is probably of the great pride and joy I felt as I walked into the stadium, with my country's flag, during the opening ceremony of the Calgary Games. The emotion you feel at moments like that is hard to describe.

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

The Centenary of the Olympic Games is tremendously important. It is an opportunity for us, as members of the Olympic family, not only to celebrate a historic occasion and to consider the evolution of sport and Olympism over the past hundred years, but also an opportunity to start thinking about the future of the Games and of Olympism. The extraordinary strength of the message of peace, brotherhood and hope that the Olympic Games inspires today is clear to see. Despite the difficulties which modern sport faces, the Olympic Games remain more than

ever the world's greatest sporting and cultural event.

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

If our modern society were a temple, sport would be one of its pillars and Olympism would be the roof.

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

Among the incredible wealth of educational activities available today, sport is still the best school for learning humility, restraint, courage, self-control and patience. It can also help you to find or rediscover the joy and fellowship to be found in physical exercise. It is perhaps a positive way of preserving your youth.



Albert de Monaco at the bobsleigh starting gate.

