

Olympic Gold Medallists

Participants in the Olympic Games



ROBERTO GUILLERMO PEPER

Roberto Guillermo Peper of Argentina was South American record holder and finalist in the 4x100m freestyle relay at the Games of the X Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932. He subsequently took part in the Pan-American and South American Games. He also won a number of rowing and water-polo titles. Jeanette, his wife of 55 years, was the first Argentine women to take part in the Olympic Games. She won a silver medal in the 100m freestyle at the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin

in 1936, thus becoming Argentine and South American record-holder with a record that was to stand for almost 30 years. Mr Peper has always said that he has three great loves: swimming, rowing and Jeanette. A life member of the Belgrano Athletic Club (swimming) and the Teutonia Rowing Club, he was made an IOC member in 1977 and served on the Commission for the International Olympic Academy before becoming an honorary member in 1988.

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

I went by ship all the way to New York, and then by train, from the East Coast across to the West, with the Argentine swimming team when I was only 19 years old. When we finally arrived, after over five weeks of travelling, I could hardly believe the size of the Olympic Stadium and Village.

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

Apart from qualifying for the 4x100m freestyle relay race, I will never forget the day when my mates and I saw Argentine athlete Juan Carlos Zabala dash along the track to win the Olympic Marathon. In those times, there was no television service, just occa-

sional up-dates every few miles. When Zabala came in first, we couldn't believe it, and I have never forgotten that day.

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

In spite of all the changes in the world over the past century, the Olympic

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Games continue to be held, and each time, as a tribute to the success of the Games, there are more participating countries and athletes.

criminal and drug-related activities which are the cause of so many deaths and economic losses.

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

Both Olympism and sport are among the best ways for people to get to know and understand each other, and to avoid crisis, which unfortunately still affects different parts of the world.

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

Youth and government should work toward increasing participation in all sport activities in order to prevent youngsters from getting involved in



Roberto and Jeannette in the 1930s.