

Participants in the Olympic Games



WILLI DAUME

Willi Daume, who played in the German basketball team at the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936, has had a remarkable career in sport and sports administration. He practised both individual sports such as athletics, tennis and golf, and team sports such as basketball, handball and volleyball; in addition, he was president of the German sports confederation from 1950 to 1970, and of the National Olympic Committee from 1961 to 1992. He was responsible for organizing the

Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972 and the XI Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden in 1981. He is currently president of the International Fair Play Committee and the German Sport Aid Foundation. Since Mr Daume became an IOC member in 1956, he has been vice-president (1972-1975), and has chaired both the Commission for the Administration of the Olympic Games and the Eligibility Commission. He became an honorary member in 1991.

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

I can not imagine anything that could take the place of the Olympic Games. In making this statement, I am aware that the Olympic Games, like the times, must accommodate a constant process of change. Tradition is good, but it does not breed new life.

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

I took part in the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936 (as a member of the German basketball team). Although the 1936 Games were largely shaped by national-socialist propaganda, the most popular celebrity at the time was US sprinter and long jumper Jesse Owens, a black athlete and gold medal

winner. Despite the racist ideology which prevailed in Germany in those years, Jesse Owens was loved by the German population more than any other person of his time. This has remained unchanged to this day.

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



We must realize that the Olympic Games do not take place on an island of idealism, but rather in the midst of our fast-moving times. This should be emphasized throughout the celebrations of the Centenary of the Olympic Games.

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

Sport and the Olympic Movement are among the most powerful moral and social forces which characterize our world at the turn of the millennium.

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

The message which Coubertin addressed to the youth of the world: *Citius - Altius - Fortius*, should be supplemented by a fourth element: *"Humanus"*.