

# Participants in the Olympic Games



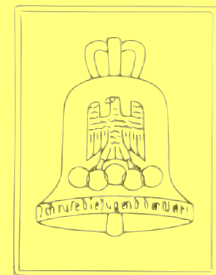
## JAMES WORRALL

James Worrall, IOC member from 1967 to 1989 and honorary member since 1989, represented Canadian athletics at the Commonwealth Games in 1934 and the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936.

Mr Worrall served as president of the Canadian Olympic Association from 1964 to 1968, and was on the Board of Directors of the Organizing Committees for the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976, and for the XV Olympic Winter Games in Calgary in 1988.

When he became an IOC member, he sat on the Legislation and Juridical Commissions and chaired the Commission on Revision of the Char-

ter from 1982 to 1990. Mr Worrall was a member of the Executive Board from 1974 to 1979.



THE  
XI<sup>TH</sup> OLYMPIC GAMES  
BERLIN 1936

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

My earliest recollection of the Olympic Games probably dates back to those of 1928 in Amsterdam. The performances of the Canadian track and field athletes were well covered in Montreal newspapers. Women were competing for the first time. Canada won the women's high jump, the 400-metre relay, with silver and bronze in the 100 metres. Percy Williams won the gold in men's 100 and 200 metres. At the age of 14, I was much impressed by the possibility of some day competing in the Olympics.

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

I have so many memories, having attended all Summer Games since 1936 and Winter Games since 1964, that it is difficult to choose one in particular. I suppose the biggest personal thrill occurred in 1936 in Berlin when I was selected to be the Canadian flag-bearer in the opening ceremony. I shall never forget emerging at the head of the team, through a semi-dark tunnel into the huge stadium with a cheering crowd of 100,000. It was indeed a stirring experience.

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

The hosting of the Centennial Games in Atlanta epitomizes the durability of the Olympic Movement and the Olympic ideals as perceived by de Coubertin. The Olympic Games, including the Winter Games, are not merely a series of great sporting events held every four years. They would not have survived through all these years and world upheavals without the binding force of Olympic ideals, principles, and organization by the IOC, running continuously throughout the century.

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

Sport is indeed one of the most important manifestations of human activity and endeavour throughout the world. Sport of one kind or another exists in every country. The physical and health benefits of sport are obvious and well established. Sport transcends various cultures, and politically or racially biased societies. Olympism helps to develop and encourage the development of human beings through fair play and individual effort.

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

I would and do encourage young people of today in my own community and of course internationally, to participate in sport, to do the best they can whether or not they will ever get to the Olympics, to enjoy their sport and have fun doing it, to play the games in accordance with the rules and with respect for their fellows. I would encourage them to incorporate what they learn in sport into their daily lives, and into their community and their own country.

*James Worrall, flag-bearer of the Canadian team at the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936.*

