

by body-building, but had the brawn and strength of an athlete acquired through the many hours toiled in the butcher shop.

Sometimes, he was thought to be a very funny man. In Paris, one hour before a very important match against Hungary during the 1931 European championships, he went up the bleachers of the Tourelles swimming pool (the one used for the 1924 Olympic Games) to greet a friend from northern France. He was faced with a problem when wanting to return to the part of the pool destined for the competition. A stubborn policeman who was obviously unaware of the popularity attained

by the Olympic champion, decided that his goal was to prevent PADOU from rejoining his friends. *"Well, it is an emergency, I have something to say to a friend, but I promise I shall return very fast, and as a proof of my good faith, I give you my hat."*

The policeman took the hat, and waited, waited, waited. PADOU played and three hours later, they met again in the pool manager's office. Henri Padou, the no-nonsense, tough, kind hearted champion, very politely thanked the policeman for having kept an eye on his property.

OLYMPIC SPEED SKATING LAKE PLACID 1932

by Ture Widlund

Why Clas Thunberg did not enter

In the obituary of John "Jack" SHEA in no 2-2002 Steve HARRIS is writing *"when he [Clas THUNBERG] was told that the race would be run under North-American Rules Thunberg angrily dropped out of the competition"*. When reading this you get the impression that Clas THUNBERG did not learn about the mass start until in Lake Placid and then angrily dropped out. That was not at all the case.

Clas THUNBERG, FIN, was probably the greatest skater in the inter-war period and one of the all-time greatest skaters. 5 times World Champion, 1923, 1925, 1928, 1929 and 1931, 4 times European Champion, 1922, 1928, 1931 and 1932, 5 Olympic Gold medals and 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal (in spite of abstaining from the 1932 Games), 8 World Records and unbeaten for more than 10 years on his favourite distance, 1.500m.

At the congress of the International Skating Union ISU, in Vienna May 1931, an important rule change had been adopted. The new rule permitted the use of a mass start in International Competitions on a single track. The Amateur Skating Union of the United States, the ISU member organising the speed skating events of the III Olympic Winter Games, voted in favour of the North American racing rules, called pack style, and announced that mass start over a single track would apply,

not the conventional ISU rules.

Clas THUNBERG was well in advance of the 1932 Olympic Winter Games aware of this, that the races should be conducted, not under the conventional ISU rules but, under the North American pack style rules.

Clas THUNBERG had been in USA and Canada in 1925 and had then gained experience of the pack style. He knew that it was not the fastest skater over the distance that won the race, but the one with the best tactical skill over the last lap, with fair means or foul, like pushing, elbowing, interference and shirt pulling, which won the race. Even if there were rules against such unfair methods these rules were seldom enforced. He knew that the Europeans, with no pack style experience, would stand no chance against the Americans and Canadians unless they did something to



Clas THUNBERG



The mass-start

offset their tactical inexperience.

The best European skaters at the time were the Norwegians and Clas THUNBERG. So, the latter took the initiative to form a Finnish-Norwegian alliance. He has written about this in his autobiography *Isen var mitt liv (The Ice Was My Life)*:

"I wrote privately to Gerhard Karlsen in Oslo – he was at the time President of the Norwegian Skating Association. I suggested the Norwegians a certain cooperation at the Olympic Games. With Oscar Mathiesen's and my own bitter USA-experiences in mind I thought we should form a 'European group' to offset the unpleasant-nesses of the 'Yankees'. So, I suggested that I, with all imaginable America-influenced tricks, should see to it that (Bernt) Evensen won 500 and 1.500m if the Norwegians in their turn would help me win 5.000 and 10.000m. After some time Karlsen's reply arrived. It was a message, short and to the point, they were not interested. They would most likely do all right anyway."

In an other book by Clas THUNBERG, *Alene mot hele Norge (Alone against All Norway)*, he says:

"I wrote to [Ivar] Ballangrud and [Michael] Staksrud and appealed for cooperation and that we should take turns to help each other to victory. But the Norwegian skaters had confidence in themselves and meant that they should manage without the help of an old Finn."

Being unable to establish a Finnish-Norwegian pact in Lake Placid Clas THUNBERG decided not to enter the 1932 Olympic Winter Games. He summed up his reasons as follows:

"I clearly realised that without a certain kind of team cooperation from our, i.e. Finnish-

Norwegian, side we would stand no chance in the carrousel of the Yankees. I did not think for a moment that I could win a single distance alone. And not the Norwegians either with their 'European thinking'."

Needless to say Clas THUNBERG was right. The Europeans did not stand a chance against the tactics and trickery displayed by the Americans and Canadians.

They practically swept the board winning 10 of the 12 medals at stake. The outcome might have been quite different had the Norwegians been wise enough to accept the proposal of Clas THUNBERG for cooperation.

The Organisation

Were the competitions well organised and smoothly run or were the organisation faulty and did the rules give rise to unpleasant incidents? Let us look at some of the reports of the skating events.

Sven LINDHAGEN, assistant manager of the Swedish ski team and journalist at the Swedish sports paper *Idrottsbladet*, is in his book *Mina 13 olympiader (My 13 Olympiads)*, writing as follows:

"At these skating events... you noticed that everything was improvised. Among other things they had forgotten (or not bothered) to recruit officials. The Organising Committee had to inquire by the visiting teams whether they had any leaders that might officiate. Luckily there were some and it fell upon me to, for the first time in my life, act as a skating official: timekeeper. It certainly does seem strange to make one's debut as such at the Olympic Games."

Officials and timekeepers were summoned to the Stadium half an hour before the 1st start (as I recall it 10.00). It was cloudy and you were sitting shivering waiting for something to happen. The skaters were warming up but the Organising management team was missing. They arrived at about 10, accompanied by the movie people."

- It is bad light, said the movie lords looking up towards the sky. We can't get any good

pictures. We are postponing the competition an hour, then we will see whether the sun has emerged.

Whereupon they went back to the hotel to carry on with their interrupted breakfast.

After about an hour they returned. They still did not accept the light (still cloudy) and went back to their breakfast again.

After another half hour wait did, thanks to energetic European pressures, the competition start.

It would be a very gross distortion of the truth to say that these skating events were characterized by 'Olympic peace'. Strong irritation and protests were the (dis)order of the day."

In *Idrottsbladet* (IB), he wrote:

"The announcement of the results was badly handled. The press had to make do as well as it could and all journalists had to take down the results as they were called out as there were no scoreboards."

According to the *Official Report* there were 9 timekeepers, 6 Americans, 1 from Sweden, Sven LINDHAGEN, 1 from Norway, Carsten MATHESON, and 1 from Canada, P.J. MULQUEEN, President of the *Canadian Olympic Committee*. As only the times of the winners of the heats and finals were published it does indeed seem strange to have that many timekeepers. The question is whether only the times of the winners were taken (with 9 stopwatches?) or whether the times of the other skaters were also recorded but never published.

The *Official Report of the III Olympic Winter Games* does not mention any incidents save for the 10,000m. The Norwegians, however were the harsher in their criticism. They, of course, were those who were primarily affected by the unfair skating and partial judging.

The Norwegian sports journalist Per Christian ANDERSEN (PCA) has written exhaustively in his book *De olympiske leker gjennom 50 år* (*The Olympic Games through 50 Years*), about the speed skating events in Lake Placid 1932. The following account is based upon this book and the reports by Sven LINDHAGEN in the Swedish sports paper *Idrottsbladet*.

Their accounts agree, or complement each other, except for some minor matters which are accounted for in the footnotes.

Drawing of lots

How the drawing of lots for the heats should be carried out was apparently not covered, or unsatisfactorily covered, by the rules because it gave rise to long and drawn out discussions between the representatives of the participating nations. At last a proposal put forward by Norway was accepted. It first gained the support of Sweden and Finland, then of Japan and at last, after some hesitation, of Canada.

The drawing of lots took place Sunday, January 31, 1932, in the Town Hall. The heats were drawn by nation, then the nations, independently of each other, allocated their skaters to the heats as they pleased.

The order at the starting line was decided by drawing of lots immediately before each race.

500m

This was the first event of the 3rd Olympic Winter Games, taking place immediately after the Opening Ceremony.

The heats and the final were fair with the exception of the 3rd heat where Haakon PEDERSEN, NOR, was obstructed by the American John O'NEIL FARRELL. There is, however, no reports of any protest against this interference.

IB: *Pedersen made a false start and was penalised one meter... When Pedersen tried to pass in the last bend he was obstructed by Farrell and ended up only in 4th place.*

PCA: *In the fight for the placings on the home stretch Haakon (Pedersen) got a small push which probably put the second best sprinter at the Olympiad out of the final.*

At the start in the final the order from the inner lane, decided by lots, was: Bernt EVENSEN, NOR, John O'NEIL FARRELL, USA, John SHEA, USA, William LOGAN, CAN, Frank STACK, CAN, and Alexander HURD, CAN. There were separate lanes for the first 5 yards (4.5m). The Americans were trying to cheat by switching positions in order to secure a better starting position for their best man, John

SHEA. The Norwegians objected and the Americans had to revert to their proper starting positions.

John SHEA, USA, was first in the scramble for the first bend closely followed by Bernt EVENSEN, NOR, and that order was the same all the way to the finishing line.

An incident occurred during the awards ceremony, which took place immediately after the final. The prize giver, IOC President Henri de BAILLET-LATOURE, mixed up the medallists and handed the silver medal to the 3rd, Alexander HURD, CAN, and the bronze medal to the 2nd, Bernt EVENSEN. The reason for the mix-up was that Alexander HURD was standing on the John SHEA's right side and Bernt EVENSEN on his left side. It should have been the other way round, and has been ever since. It must have been very embarrassing for the IOC President not to recognize the Olympic medallists.

This was the first time ever that there was a victory podium as it is nowadays. It was introduced at the Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid 1932 at the instigation of the IOC President Henri de BAILLET-LATOURE.

The awards ceremonies were no highlights. They took place immediately after each final and were conducted without any glamour. No fanfares, no order, you could not see them properly. The medals were handed over casually with a bunch of people around the victory podium obstructing the view of the spectators, preventing them from seeing the prize givers and the prize winners.

5,000m

Heat 1: 1. Irving JAFFEE, USA, 9.52.0. Also qualified for the final were Edward MURPHY, USA, Ivar BALLANGRUD, NOR, and Harry SMYTH, CAN.

Heat 2: 1. Bernt EVENSEN, NOR, 10.01.4. Also qualified for the final were Herbert TAYLOR, USA, William LOGAN, CAN, and Frank STACK, CAN.

3 Americans, 3 Canadians and 2 Norwegians had qualified for the final. It was a slow race, where the eventual winner, Irving JAFFEE, USA, never was in the lead until the last lap.

PCA of the final:

"Ivar (Ballangrud) and Bernt (Evensen) went outside of the whole pack at the back stretch of the last lap to secure good positions in the last bend. Bernt (Evensen) was here close behind (Irving) Jaffee when (Harry) Smythe (CAN) suddenly put his elbow in his side, Bernt (Evensen) lost a stride, almost fell, obstructing (Ivar) Ballangrud who had to go outside of the whole pack and the positions of both (the Norwegians) were lost.

We got the first protest in this race. The Canadian (Harry) Smythe who probably expected a protest from (Bernt) Evensen forestalled it by lodging a protest against the American (Edward) Murphy. (Harry) Smythe should have lost his balance in a collision. The Referee (Joseph) Savage (USA) turned down the protest."

IB: Both Norwegians had good positions at the commencement of the last bend. In this the Canadian Smuth (!) ran into Evensen who was in 3rd place. His elbow made Berndt (!)(Evensen) lose 5 meters and even Ballangrud, who had to make a detour to pass his countryman, lost ground. Evensen probably lost 3rd place because of what happened.

Immediately after the race (Frank) Stack (CAN) lodged a protest against the 2nd, (Edward) Murphy (USA), who should have pushed the Canadian (Harry) Smyth so that he lost his balance thereby obstructing the other skaters. The protest was not upheld by the Referee (Joseph) Savage (USA).

Interviews in IB after the race:

Ingvar LINDBERG (sole Swedish speed skater): Pack style races are ridiculous. You could as well limit the races of all distances to 3 laps. We are only competing for a lap and a half at the end.

Bernt EVENSEN: I got two mighty pushes and was totally off balance.

Armas PALMROOS (Finnish team leader): (Clas) Thunberg had been a sure winner of the finish had he been here. Trust me.

Per Christian ANDERSEN: Tomorrow (1.500m and 10.000m) the Norwegians will use quite different tactics. They will set a hard pace. We will work as a team and we realise that

someone has to be sacrificed for the sake of victory.

Ingvar LINDBERG'S comment to PCA: *It won't help. The Americans will hang on as being glued to the pacesetters.*

May be it was here that the organisers lost control of the speed skating events. Had the offenders, Edward MURPHY, USA, and Harry SMYTH, CAN, been disqualified it would have been a clear signal to the skaters that unfair methods and infringement of the rules were not tolerated. Now it was a signal that they could get away with it. The speed skating developed exactly the way Clas THUNBERG had expected, slow races, superior American-Canadian tactics and failure of the organisers to enforce rules against unfair skating. That Armas PALMROOS thought that Clas THUNBERG would have won under these conditions is rather an expression of Finnish nationalism than of an opinion based on hard facts.

1,500m

Heat 1: 1. Herbert TAYLOR, USA, 2.49.3

PCA:

"As the Canadians and the Americans after the races of the first day realised that the only dangerous man outside of the States and Canada was (Bernt) Evensen (NOR) their tactic was to shut him out. They succeeded brilliantly – Bernt was completely closed in and could never make use of his dangerous finishing power."

Heat 2: 1. John SHEA, USA, 258.0

IB:

"No one wanted to take the lead and after a lap at a snail's pace restart was ordered. The pace was about the same as in the race annulled."

To me, who is unfamiliar with the 1932 rules of the *Amateur Skating Union of the United States*, it seems strange that, if the pace, according to the rules, was to slow there could be a restart. A more logical consequence would have been to disqualify all the skaters that exceeded the time allowed. That was the case in cycling at the Olympic Games in London 1908. Had that been done you could be pretty sure that the skaters in the ensuing races would have kept the speed at an

acceptable level.

Heat 3: 1. Raymond MURRAY, USA, 2.29.9.

The winning time in this heat is significantly better than in the other 2 heats, not to mention the final. This is all due to Ingvar LINDBERG, SWE. After a slow start he broke away from the pack after $\frac{3}{4}$ lap, in the 2nd bend, and gained a lead of 30-35m. He held on to his lead for $2\frac{1}{2}$ laps but as it transpired he had made his move about 150m to soon. With 300m to go he still had a lead of 30-35m but then he began to tire and the pack could close the gap and pass him in the last bend.

The Swede, the Finn and all the Norwegians were eliminated. There remained 3 Americans and 3 Canadians to the final.

The final: 1. John SHEA, USA, 2.57.5. A slow race. No one wanted to take the lead.

According to the printed rules, distributed by the ISU to all nations, the time of the winner in the final must not be slower than the mean of the winning times of the heats. The mean winning time of the 3 heats was 2.45.7. So, the winner of the final must have a time of 2.45.7 or better, SHEA'S winning time in the final was considerably slower.

The Norwegian leaders made the Referee, Joseph SAVAGE, USA, aware of this rule but did not lodge a formal protest. The Referee did not do anything, he maintained that this rule was valid for ordinary championships only, not for the Olympic Games. It seems to be yet another example of the haphazard application of the rules. The American Referee applied, or interpreted, the rules as it best fitted the American interests.

The IOC President intervenes

The incidents in the skating rink had now come to the attention of the IOC President, Count Henri de BAILLET-LATOUR. He instructed the Swedish IOC member Count Clarence von ROSEN to convene a meeting with the non-American-Canadian nations. The meeting took place during the lunch-break after the 1.500m final.

The meeting decided, unanimously, to send the following official letter to the Organising Committee:

We, the undersigned leaders of the Finnish,

Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish teams, wish to direct your attention to the fact that according to our opinion the rules under which the races have been held have not been a success, and we would like to put forward our opinion that these rules should not be used in future Olympic Games.

It was only reluctantly that the countries we represent sent participants to take part in the speed skating races at the 3rd Olympic Winter Games under these rules. The experience that we have from the first days of the races has further strengthened our attitude against using the rules of the Amateur Skating Union of the United States in the Olympic Games.

We would like to point out that these rules are so complicated that they, according to our opinion, can not be strictly adhered to and are impossible to supervise, and we have seen many examples where these rules have been broken without any adverse consequences but the unlucky sequels of the victims.

It has been clearly demonstrated that these rules may bring results that are not in accordance to our sporting ideals, that the best man – the one that can run the given distance in the shortest time – is the winner. The American rules clearly give room for tactics that are quite the opposite to these ideals.

According to the observations we have made during the recent 5.000m and 1.500m races, the American rules do allow tactics that apparently invalidates the distance of the longer races because they allow the participants to run most of the distance at a snail's pace with a strong finish over the last lap, and we are firmly convinced that this system not only is dangerous for the ideals of fair sport but also that races under these rules will be a travesty of what good and fair speed skating should be.

Lake Placid February 5 1932

Signed by Thomas FEARNLEY, Carsten MATHESON and Yngvar BRYN, NOR, Clarence von ROSEN, SWE, Walter JACOBSSON, FIN, and Professor SATO, JPN.

Runar ÖHMAN, SWE, was also present at the meeting but did not sign the letter. He was instructed not to do so by Sweden's *Chef-de-Mission*, Sixtus JANSSON.

This official letter was not a formal protest, it was a dissociation from the way the races were conducted and from the rules under which they were held and the application of

these rules.

The only practical consequence this letter had was to introduce further rules for the remaining distance, 10,000m. It was made mandatory for every participant to take the lead and it was set a minimum lap time of 45 seconds. The Organising Committee must have hoped that this would solve the problem with slow races and that all should have their fair share of leading the pack. May be it did, but nevertheless the worst scandals happened during the 10.000m races and at the meetings in connection with the 10.000m races, when protests and counter-protests were dealt with.

10,000m

The heats took place the afternoon Friday February 6, 1932. First 4 in each heat to the final.

Heat 1

The order at the finish:

1. Alexander HURD, CAN, 17.41.3, dsq
2. Valentine BIALAS, USA
3. Edwin WEDGE, USA, dsq
4. Ivar BALLANGRUD, NOR
5. Shozo ISHIHARA, JPN, dsq
6. Michael STAKSRUD, NOR
7. Ossian BLOMQVIST, FIN
8. Tomeju URUMA, JPN
Marion MCCARTHY, CAN, dnf

HURD and WEDGE were disqualified for exceeding the minimum lap time when they were in the lead and ISHIHARA was disqualified for not leading the pack the required laps. The latter was distinctly unlucky, he was too far behind and could not advance to the front when it was his turn to take the lead. Qualified for the final were BIALAS, BALLANGRUD, STAKSRUD and BLOMQVIST.

Heat 2

The order at the finish:

1. Edward SCHROEDER, USA, 17.52.2
2. Frank STACK, CAN, dsq
3. Irving JAFFEE, USA
4. Bernt EVENSEN, NOR
5. Hans ENGESTANGEN, NOR
6. Tokuo KITANI, JPN
Ingvar LINDBERG, SWE, dnf
William LOGAN, CAN, dnf
Yasuo KAWAMURA, JPN, dnf

With 4 laps remaining one of the Japanese ran into LINDBERG who fell and damaged one of his skates so badly that he had to retire. EVENSEN was in the lead at the beginning of the home stretch when STACK came on the inside and pushed him outwards. EVENSEN lost his balance, and yet another 2 skaters could pass him. EVENSEN lodged a protest and the Referee disqualified STACK. Qualified for the final were SCHROEDER, JAFFEE, EVENSEN and ENGNSTANGEN.

The Norwegians and the Finns were happy. All 4 Norwegians and the lone Finn had qualified for the final. The scene was now set for a Norwegian-Finnish team cooperation against the Americans, something of the kind Clas THUNBERG had suggested. Surely the 5 Norwegians and Finns would be able to dictate the pace against the 3 Americans. But their joy proved to be short-lived.

Canada lodged protests against the disqualifications of Alexander HURD and Frank STACK. A meeting was convened in the Olympic headquarter with representatives of the participating nations and the participants STACK, EVENSEN and ISHIHARA. The outcome of the meeting was that there was to be no change in the disqualifications. As the formal meeting was concluded the Japanese delegates left at around 21 a clock.

The other delegates remained and continued the discussions informally. Gradually these discussions developed into a formal meeting and the Canadians again demanded that the disqualifications of HURD and STACK should be lifted. Or at least the disqualification of STACK. Or else they would withdraw from all sports at the Olympic Games. USA now demanded that the disqualifications of heat 1 should be lifted. But USA and the Nordic countries were united in their stand against lifting the disqualification of STACK, his foul was too serious to go unpunished. At this new "meeting" it was decided to lift the disqualifications of heat 1 but not that of STACK in heat 2. However, the Nordic countries now demanded that, as no foul had been committed in heat 1, both those who had originally qualified and those whose disqualification had been lifted should be allowed to take part in the final. The Referee

agreed to that. All these "decisions" were taken without the presence of any Japanese delegates.

But Canada pressed on, still demanding the lifting of STACK's disqualification or else they would retire from the Olympic Games, not only in speed skating but in all sports. The Referee then referred the matter to the ISU Technical Delegates. Inexplicably the Nordic countries gave in.

A suggestion that the 10,000m heats should be annulled and rerun the following morning was accepted by all nations, including Japan, which now had been resummoned, and clubbed by the Referee, Joseph SAVAGE, USA.

The *Official Report* does not mention anything about all these discussions, deliberations, negotiations, disqualifications, lifting of disqualifications &c. Its version is a very simplified one, one that rather covers up than is informative of what actually happened:

Shift Date for the 10,000-meters Final

Following the first heat of the 10,000-meter race on Friday afternoon, Feb 5, a protest was lodged against two of the skaters for not setting the pace for the agreed number of laps.

After the second heat the same afternoon a protest was lodged against another skater for interference on the home stretch.

After considering the protests, Referee Joseph K. SAVAGE, United States, referred the matter to the three technical delegates: Herbert J. CLARKE, Great Britain, Walter JAKOBSSON, Finland; and Hermann KLEEGERG, Germany. At their meeting the delegates decided, in fairness to all concerned, to have both heats of the 10,000-meter race re-skated the following morning, Saturday, Feb 6, and to have all the original starters Friday compete in the re-skated heats. It is interesting to note that exactly the same 8 skaters qualified in the re-skated preliminary heats.

Because of the situation it was necessary to defer skating the final of the 10,000-meter race until Monday afternoon, Feb 8.

No mention of the disqualifications, no

mention of the Canadian counter-protests that the Referee turned down, no mention of the meetings with the leaders of the participating nations, no mention of the lifting of the disqualification of heat 1, no mention of allowing both those who originally qualified and those whose disqualifications were lifted in heat 1 to take part in the final, no mention of the Canadian threats to withdraw from the Olympic Games unless the disqualification of their skaters were lifted. Just shifting the responsibility of the final decision from the Referee to the Technical Delegates.

The Technical Delegates were appointed by the *International Skating Union*, ISU, and were the same for both figure and speed skating. All 3 Technical Delegates were from the figure skating camp. Herbert CLARKE had been a member of the ISU Council since 1925 and Vice President since 1927. Walter JAKOBSSON was a member of the ISU Council since 1931, he was Olympic Gold Medallist 1920 and Olympic Silver Medallist 1924 in figure skating, pairs. Hermann KLEEBERG was a member of the ISU Council since 1929. The ISU President, Ulrich SALCHOW, SWE, Olympic Gold Medallist in figure skating 1908 and 10 times World Champion, was not in Lake Placid during the Olympic Games.

The Referee, Joseph SAVAGE, was President of the *Amateur Skating Union of the United States*, but did not hold any position within the ISU.

The Canadians had got it their way by threatening to retire all their athletes from the Olympic Games unless the disqualifications of the 2 Canadians were lifted. It is difficult to assess how serious that threat was. Were they really prepared to withdraw entirely from the Olympic Games or was it an empty threat? Will we ever know? Anyway, the Canadians managed to put forward the threat in such a manner that the Referee perceived as serious. The Referee was not up to the responsibility bestowed upon him, he dithered, changed his decisions time and again, and tried to avoid making decisions by referring the matter to the ISU Technical Delegates.

One is left wondering what would have happened if the Norwegians and the Finns

had stood firm, no change in the original disqualifications, as upheld by the Referee after the original counter-protests of the Canadians, or else we will withdraw from the Olympic Games. The Norwegians and the Finns could probably also have persuaded Sweden to join them in withdrawing their team from the Olympic Games. Faced with the prospect of the withdrawal of the 2, may be the 3, at the time, most important winter sport nations, would the Referee really have dared to change his original decision. And if so, the withdrawal of those 2 or 3 countries must have come to the immediate attention of the IOC President, who then had been forced to intervene.

Re-skated heats 10,000m

As the "meetings" had dragged on until very late the skaters had already gone to bed when the final decision was taken. Those that had originally qualified for the final could not be informed of the decision of re-racing the heats until Saturday morning. They, quite natural, was furious when they learnt that instead of racing in the final they had to run the qualifying heats again. The 3 Americans flatly refused to enter the qualifying heats again and the 4 Norwegians seemed to join them. I have not seen any report on Blomqvist's reaction, but he most probably followed the Norwegians.

Now a bickering started that lasted for more than an hour. The US team management in vain tried to persuade their skaters to enter the heats. Eventually they called on the Mayor of Lake Placid, Martin RYAN. With his help and by slipping dollar bills into the pockets of the American skaters (noticed by some of the Norwegian skaters), they at last managed to induce them to enter the re-races. When the Americans at last gave in the Norwegians, reluctantly, followed suit.

At last the races could start, 1 hour and 10 minutes late.

2nd race heat 1

1. Alexander HURD, CAN, 17.56.2
2. Ivar BALLANGRUD, NOR
3. Valentine BIALAS, USA
4. Edwin WEDGE, USA
5. Ossian BLOMQVIST, FIN

6. Michael STAKSRUD, NOR
Shozo ISHIHARA, JPN, dnf
Tomejo URUMA, JPN, dnf
Marion MCCARTHY, CAN, dns

STAKSRUD fell on the 22nd lap, but managed to catch up with the pack.

2nd race heat 2

1. Irving JAFFEE, USA, 18.05.4
2. Frank STACK, CAN,
- 3= Bernt EVENSEN, NOR
- 3= Edward SCHROEDER, USA
5. William LOGAN, CAN
6. Hans ENGESTANGEN, NOR
Tokuo KITANI, JPN, dnf
Ingvar LINDBERG, SWE, dnf
Yasuo KAWAMURA, JPN, dnf

LINDBERG and KAWAMURA retired after 13 laps. LINDBERG was hampered by his skates. He could not race in his best skates as these had been damaged in the 1st race of heat 1 and his reserve skates were not of same quality.

The balance of power in the final had shifted completely from after the original heats. Then it was 5 Norwegians and Finns against 3 Americans, now there were 4 Americans and 2 Canadians against 2 Norwegians. The scene was set for the Americans and Canadians, not the Norwegians and the Finn, to dictate the speed and tactics of the final.

The 10,000m Final

The weather conditions were not favourable. It was snowing during the early morning hours followed by half an hour's rain. A cold spell an hour before the race made the ice hard but rough. At the time of the start it was zero degrees with a raw and chilly wind. The skaters were nervous. Irving JAFFEE, USA, made a false start, but there is no mention of him being penalised a meter (or 20m as it ought to have been if the penalty for a false start in 500m was 1m).

A ruling had been issued that each finalist must lead the pack for (at least) 2 laps during the first 16 laps. There was also a minimum lap time, but I have not found any mention of it. It could not, however, have been 45 seconds as in the heats, as the winning time of 19.13.6 means an average lap time of 46.14.

The leaders of the laps were:

1. HURD, 2. STACK, 3.-5. EVENSEN, 6.-7. BALLANGRUD, 8. WEDGE, 9. JAFFEE, 10.-11. BIALAS, 12.-13. STACK, 14. SCHROEDER, 15.-16. JAFFEE, 17. EVENSEN, 18. BALLANGRUD, 19.-21. EVENSEN, 22. JAFFEE, 23. STACK, 24. BALLANGRUD.

BALLANGRUD increased the speed considerably in the 24th lap but was passed by JAFFEE at the bell of the final lap. All 8 were in the pack in the back stretch of the last lap. They kicked each other, pushed each other and tripped on each other's skates. EVENSEN was shut in at the entrance to the final bend, Hurd tripped in the final bend and was close to falling but ran into Schroeder who fell and finished last.

JAFFEE fell, or threw himself, across the finishing line and was about 1 meter ahead of BALLANGRUD. Wedge was totally exhausted, fell across the finishing line and glided 15m along the ice on his stomach. Evensen passed HURD, and the falling SCHROEDER, on the home stretch.

1. Irving JAFFEE, USA, 19.13.6
2. Ivar BALLANGRUD, NOR
3. Frank STACK, CAN
4. Edwin WEDGE, USA
5. Valentine BIALAS, USA
6. Bernt EVENSEN, NOR
7. Alexander HURD, CAN
8. Edward SCHROEDER, USA

The last comment of the race by PCA is worth noting: *"The fight between the skaters in the last bend developed in a way that must be characterized as unworthy a genuine sporting competition."*

Conclusions

Never before, and never since, has there been so much trouble, so many incidents, so much discussions, so much bickering and so much controversy at the Olympic speed skating events as in Lake Placid 1932. Why was it so? There is, of course, no single answer to that question, but you can point at a number of factors that contributed.

1. The application of the mass start rules
2. The failure of the skaters to adhere to the rules
3. The failure of the officials to uphold the

rules

4. The highest authority, the Referee, was weak, partial and susceptible to pressures
5. No Jury of Appeal
6. The Technical Delegates were all from the figure skating camp
7. No ISU Official with sufficient authority and sense of responsibility present
8. The IOC President did not intervene directly

The pack style rules were, of course, the main cause of all the trouble, the other points were just consequences of these rules.

The rules were complicated and were made even more complicated by the introduction of new rulings during the Games. It must have been difficult for the judges to observe all skaters, 6-9, in the pack and notice all the fouls that were committed. And the fouls that were noticed did not lead to disqualifications. Not counting the original heats of 10,000m, not one skater was disqualified, although reports of fouls were frequent.

The final decision in all matters rested with the Referee. Protests and appeals should be made directly to him. The Referee handed the matter to the Technical Delegates when he came in for pressures that he could not handle. The task of the Technical Delegates is not to act as a Jury of Appeal, their task is to see to it that the organisation and technical installations are according to the ISU regulations and the standard required for Olympic competitions, that the track and the ice surface is OK, that the starting and timing devices are OK, that there are a sufficient number of judges and timekeepers, that they are correctly positioned &c, &c.

It is also remarkable that all the Technical Delegates had figure skating background. Speed skating was completely unknown in the United Kingdom at the time and hardly practiced in Germany. The only one with any real knowledge of speed skating must have been Walter JAKOBSSON, FIN. Although a figure skater himself he, as Finland was a prominent speed skating nation at the time, most certainly had a good understanding of speed skating.

The Referee was an American. He must inevitably be biased in favour of his own

countrymen. It seems strange that there was no Jury of Appeal, as e.g. in skiing. A Jury of Appeal with representatives of several nations led by a President of sufficient authority can see things differently and more impartially.

What was missing in Lake Placid was an ISU Official with authority to see to it that the rules were enforced. The ISU President, Ulrich SALCHOW, SWE, was such a person, but he did not attend the Games. The ISU Vice President, Herbert CLARKE, GBR, who was present, ought to have been such a person, but being from a country where speed skating was nonexistent he apparently did not have the will, the interest, the know-how and the audacity to intervene.

I doubt that the speed skating events had developed the way they did had the ISU President, Ulrich SALCHOW, been present. Although he too was from the figure skating camp, he was from a country where speed skating was widely practiced and he had a good understanding of it. As President of ISU, and thereby the one that was ultimately responsible for the fairness and good reputation of skating, he would in all probability have intervened before things got out of hand.

There were only 5 IOC members in Lake Placid during the Games. IOC President Henri de BAILLET-LATOUR, BEL, Thomas FEARNLEY, NOR, Clarence von ROSEN, SWE, William May GARLAND, USA, and Charles SHERRILL, USA. So, the IOC as such could not intervene, it had to be the IOC President. When he intervened he delegated the matter to Clarence von ROSEN. The only result of his actions was a letter which had practically no influence at all on the only remaining event, 10.000m.

This was the first, and the last, time that international competitions were held under the mass start rules. At the following ISU congress, at the initiative of Norway, ISU rescinded its 1931 decision and abolished the mass start rules. The incidents and controversies at the 1932 Olympic Games had effectively killed the mass start rules for ever in international skating competitions.

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WATERPOLO TOURNAMENT, GAMES OF THE IXTH OLYMPIAD, AMSTERDAM 1928

by Tony Bijkerk



The German Team

Like the Fieldhockey and the Football tournaments of the Olympic Games in Amsterdam in 1928, the water polo tournament also lacked many details in the Official Report.

No information was recorded on who scored the goals and in general the recorded information on each games was very sparse. Just as I did for the Fieldhockey and Football tournaments, I decided to start looking for the missing information in the various newspapers and with the assistance of some of our collectors found the information recorded below.

There are still quite a few details missing,

especially from the matches played by the French water polo team. I would be much obliged for any further help in finding the results of those matches!

As one can surmise from the list below, it concerns the following:

- The full score in the match Spain against France in the first round;
- Two British scores in the match between Great Britain and the Netherlands in the second round;
- The full score in the match Malta against France in the second round;
- The full score in the match for third place between Great Britain against France; and
- The full score in the match for third place between France against Argentine.

Here follow the results found up to this moment:

First Round:

CZECHOSLOVAKIA – GREAT BRITAIN:
2:4; (0:1 at halftime);

N.V. BEAMAN 0:1; P. RADMILOVIC 0:2; J.E.C. BUDD 1:2 (this must have been a score in his own goal!); F. SCHULZ 2:2; E.P. PETER 2:3; J.G.