



**OLYMPIABOKEN 2002, edited by Thomas Lindberg, with contributions by Lena Carlin, Roy Henriksson, Gunnar Persson and Emil Siekkinen; statistics by Ove Karlsson; published by Stroemberg Media Group, Våingby,**

**Sweden; ISSN 0567-4573; 0347-274; 367 pages, in Swedish. Reviewed by Tony Bijkerk.**

Every two years, the Stroemberg Media Group, in cooperation with the Swedish Olympic Committee publishes its report on the Olympic [Winter] Games held during that year. They did not fail in 2002, and produced an extensive report on the 19th Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America.

As usual, the report is one of the best around, but only if one can read or understand Swedish. The statistical sections are excellent and can be readily understood by everyone. In contrast to earlier editions have now been spread throughout the book, which makes them more accessible.

The photography in the book is outstanding and is enhanced by the fantastic quality of the paper used.

What really makes this report stand out is the fact that the Swedes don't concentrate excessively on their own participants. Of course, they have been covered in great detail for each sport, but Olympic participants from other nations also find their place, both in the text and in the photography.

I found one small mistake, for which I can hardly blame the publishers. The Dutch speedskater on the bottom half of page 290 is definitely not the Olympic champion in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres: Jochem Uytdehaage, but his countryman Carl Verheijen, who finished sixth in the 5,000 metres.

One chapter has been dedicated to the new IOC President Jacques Rogge; another to earlier Swedish Olympic champions, and of

course the family of Mormons in Utah and Salt Lake City is mentioned with its special character.

As good Scandinavians, the Swedish authors also pay real attention to the Olympic medallists from their neighbours from Norway and Finland.

Every event in every sport is covered and the personal details of each Olympic champion are also mentioned. At the end of the book the full results have been given, and this is preceded by the 'Svenska truppen', or in English the Swedish team for Salt Lake City. The Report of the Swedish Olympic Committee concludes this beautiful book.

The OLYMPIABOKEN 2002 can be compared to another book which found its way to me, and which completely differs from the Olympiaboken. This is: **WHITE GOLD – The U.S. Olympic Team at the XIX Olympic Winter Games, edited by Darcy Steinfeld and published by Pachyderm Press, with special Editorial Assistance by the U.S. Olympic Committee; ISBN 0-9639505-9-2; 306 pages. Price: US\$65.00.**

The quality of White Gold is at least equal to Olympiaboken 2002, but the big difference is that the American book only shows and mentions the results of the American athletes; and shows them in all their glory or in all their grief. This is a book purely meant for the American market and that is understandable because of their undiluted successes during these Games, which were the best ever for the United States.

However, the statistics of this book cannot be compared favourably with those in the Olympiaboken. Where the Swedes have full results on each sport, the American book restricts itself to the first 8 finishers, with the results of the American athletes added to the list.

Of course, the roster of the American team for Salt Lake City is also given at the end of this fine book.