

ON THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

by *Bill Mallon*

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recently announced that at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, no Official Results Booklets will be produced, either for the media or anyone else so requesting them. Instead, the results will be made available only a CD, to save the Organizing Committee the cost of having to print several millions of pages of results. The announcement made it seem that the Official Results Booklets were fairly standard fare, having been published at almost all Olympic Games. Such is decidedly not the case.

Since the dawn of the Olympics, we assume that there have always been Official Results, of some sort, kept. It is likely that all Organizing Committees have kept the original results sheets or score sheets. But the first known Official Results to be published occurred at the 1906 Olympic Games, when a monograph of about 85 pages was produced, giving almost complete details of all the events at the 1906 Olympics. It has come to light in the past two decades, but was never apparently produced on a mass basis.

A large time gap then ensues before Official Results appear again outside of the archives of the Organizing Committees (OCOGs). Again, we would assume that the archives contain some version of original results or scoresheets. We know this is the case in 1912, with the original results sheets contained at the Swedish National Archives, the Riksarkivet. Unfortunately, the IOC and the pertinent NOCs do not even know where the archives of all the previous Olympic Games are held.

Production of the Official Results on a mass basis would wait until the early computer age. In 1960 at Squaw Valley, the Organizing Committee compiled a single booklet of Official Results, containing the computerized print-outs of the results. They contain more information than the results contained in the Official Report.

Since that time, it should never be assumed that the Official Results are the same as the results contained in the Official Report. In a few years they have been. And in a few years, they were close to the same results. But more recently, the Official Results have been far more detailed than anything found in the Official Reports.

In 1964, both the Tokyo and Innsbruck OCOGs produced separate Official Results. Innsbruck's Results were a single book, containing almost the same information as in the Official Report. But Tokyo produced four spiral-bound books with very detailed results. Unfortunately, in several cases,

the 1964 Official Report and Official Results contradict each other. It is difficult to know precisely which one is correct.

In 1968 Grenoble produced a single booklet of Official Results, which are far more detailed than the results contained in the Official Report. Mexico City published Official Results as well. They cover two volumes, with a third volume listing an index of all the competitors, including full names, and dates and places of birth. The Mexico City Official Results are identical to those in the Official Report, although maddeningly, neither is complete for all events. Notably, the Mexico City OCOG would lead one to believe that in the decathlon and pentathlon (in track & field), all competitors finished the event – that there were no non-finishers. This is completely incorrect, and only by relying on other sources can we deduce the complete results of these events.

The 1972 Sapporo Official Results fill one relatively large book (about 350 pp.). These results are not the same as those in the Official Report, but are more detailed. The 1972 Munich OCOG produced the first set of Official Results, which resembles those of the 21st century, containing exhaustive detail. These results are contained in two large volumes, with a third volume devoted to an index of the athletes.

The 1976 Innsbruck Winter Olympics were held on relatively short notice, as the Games were shifted from Denver only three years prior to their start. And given the paucity of time at the Organizers' disposal, the 1976 Winter Official Results are a bit smaller than their previous two counterparts. They consist of a single volume, but do contain slightly more information than in the 1976 Winter Olympic Official Report.

At Montréal in 1976, the OCOG became the first to produce what the IOC has recently declared to be the standard of a series of Official Results booklets. Each sport had its own booklet – archery, athletics, basketball, boxing, etc. It would seem that these results would be far more detailed than that of the Official Report, but in fact they are not. Only some minor additional details are found in the Official Results.

In 1980, both OCOGs reverted to differing strategies concerning the Official Results. It could be argued that at Lake Placid in 1980, there were no Official Results published separately. The 1980 Lake Placid Official Report is two volumes, a hardbound one containing the details of the organization, and a softbound one containing the Official Results. That is all that has been left to us,

and the results lack much of the detail we now consider standard.

It is not certain how the 1980 Moscow Official Results should be considered. A small single volume, previously available from the IOC, contains a series of results of the 1980 Lake Placid and Moscow Olympics. The results in this booklet are exactly the same as those in the Moscow Official Report. But there are separate results booklets available from the Moscow Olympics, although no one is certain how many. I have separate results booklets for athletics, gymnastics, and hockey (field), but no more. The IOC and Russian OC do not know if these were produced for all sports, nor do other Olympic collectors. The results booklets are slightly more detailed than the Official Report, and the small volume of results.

The 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympic OCOG produced a volume of Official Results separate from the Official Report. But the results in the two works are identical. At Los Angeles, separate results booklets for each sport were never produced. The 1984 Los Angeles OCOG published a newspaper-size soft-cover volume, entitled The Olympic Record, which contains the complete results of the 1984 Summer Olympics. These results are reproduced identically in the Official Report. The Olympic Record was actually produced daily during the 1984 Olympic Games as an Olympic newspaper. It contained entries, daily start lists and results. In addition to the results volume, a small paper-bound copy of all the entries was also produced.

In 1988 at Calgary the OCOG published separate Official Results and an Official Report. The results fill a single, relatively thick volume, and contain more information than that in the Official Report's results. The Seoul OCOG pursued a similar tactic to the 1984 Los Angeles OCOG. Seoul produced a newspaper-sized soft-cover volume of results after the Olympics, entitled The Seoul Olympian. Purportedly, it contains the Official Results. Unfortunately, it is woefully incomplete, as many early rounds of competitions are not included. In this case, rare since 1960, the 1988 Seoul Official Report contains far more complete results information. As did Moscow, Seoul also produced results booklets for individual sports. But again, it is not certain if these were printed for all sports, and if they are available. I have seen separate results booklets for athletics, basketball, cycling, football, hockey, and volleyball, but not for the other sports. A full set is not available at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. The booklets I have seen are exhaustive in their detail of the results.

In 1992 at Albertville, the OCOG became the first

to produce individual sports results booklets for the Winter Olympics. They contain much more information on the results than that available in the 1992 Olympic Winter Official Report. (Unfortunately, these are the only Official Results booklets I do not have in my own collection, save for the unknown, or missing, booklets of 1980 and 1988.)

The Barcelona Olympic OCOG of 1992 made available Official Results in a series of individual sports booklets. They are basically complete, with the main exceptions being that the fencing booklet omitted the team foil competition, and that the individual archery results were computed incorrectly. This occurred in both the results and the Official Report, but has since been corrected by FITA. The most maddening problem with the 1992 Official Results and Official Report is that it does not contain full names in many cases. Many of the athletes are listed, as an example, only as "A. Schwartz." The Barcelona Official Report is usually listed as being of four volumes, all of differing colors. While somewhat correct, there is a fifth volume, in black, that contains the results. This could be assumed to be a separate volume of Official Results, but I would consider it to be the 5th volume of the Official Report, with the Official Results being the sports results booklets. The black volume contains the same results as the individual sports booklets, and repeats the vexing problem of not listing all of the full names.

In 1994, the IOC separated the Summer and Winter Olympic Games so that they did not occur in the same year. In 1994 at Lillehammer, the OCOG did produce Official Results, but it is slightly unusual. The main volume contains all the results of all the sports and events. The ice hockey results in this volume are rather brief, not containing the results of any of the individual matches. But a separate second volume containing only the minute details of all ice hockey matches was also made available.

In 1996 at Atlanta, 1998 at Nagano, 2000 at Sydney, and 2002 at Salt Lake City, the OCOGs printed separate results booklets for each individual sport, the "standard" to which the IOC has apparently recently referred. In fact, beginning at Atlanta, they began to go further, and actually produced booklets for each discipline. Thus, in both 1996 and 2000, there are separate booklets for artistic gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics, and in 2000, also for trampoline. At Salt Lake City, booklets were produced separately for bobsledding and skeleton, although skeleton was considered a discipline of bobsledding.

So in actuality, there has been a "standard" of Official Results booklets since only about 1992.



Separate booklets for each sport on the Olympic Program have only been known definitively to be produced seven times: Winter – 1992, 1998, and 2002; and Summer – 1976, 1992, 1996, and 2000. There are some questions about 1980 Moscow and 1988 Seoul, but by no means can the production of separate Official Results Sports Booklets be considered anything but a very recent occurrence at the Olympic Games.

Author's Note: We would very much like to hear from anyone who has further information concerning the "missing" sports results booklets for the 1980 Moscow and 1988 Seoul Olympics.