

## ***OLYMPIC NEWS***

○ Sydney, New South Wales, Australia was selected as the site for the first Olympic Games of the 21st Century - 2000 (see story on Sydney). Eighty-nine members of the IOC began the voting process, with one member dropping out after the second round of voting. After each round of voting, the city garnering the fewest votes was dropped from the process, until one city achieved a majority of the votes (45). The voting went as follows at the IOC session in Monte Carlo on 23 September 1993:

### **First Round [89]**

Beijing	32
Sydney	30
Manchester	11
Berlin	9
Istanbul	7

### **Second Round [89]**

Beijing	37
Sydney	30
Manchester	13
Berlin	9

### **Third Round [88]**

Beijing	40
Sydney	37
Manchester	11

### **Fourth Round [88]**

Sydney	45
Beijing	43

The strength of Sydney's bid was that it will be a single central venue with all sites located within 65 miles of the main village, with a single athlete's village; the offer to pay all travel costs for athletes and officials to Australia; and the most visually appealing of the candidate cities. [See the story on Sydney and its bid in this issue.]

○ For members wishing to be in touch with the Sydney Organizing Committee, the following address is for the Bid Committee. This may remain the address for the Organizing Committee and, if not, the mail will certainly be forwarded for sometime: Sydney Olympics 2000 Bid Limited, Level 14 The Maritime Centre, 207 Kent Street, Sydney NSW, AUSTRALIA, Telephone: 61-2-931-2000; FAX: 61-2-931-2020.

- Karel Wendl, the director of research for the IOC has been appointed by President Samaranch as the IOC's liaison and new Executive Committee member of ISOH. We applaud the selection and welcome Karel to the EC, as we know he will be a productive member.

- On Monday, 25 October 1993, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution urging for recognition of an "Olympic Truce" during the Lillehammer 1994 Winter Olympics and the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. It is uncertain if warring factions in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Somalia will honor the truce. President Samaranch noted, "Two thousand years ago, the Greeks stopped fighting during the Games. We are trying to do the same. People say, 'What happens after four weeks? They will fight again.' But this is symbolic. If they can stop fighting for four weeks, maybe they will think they can stop fighting for a long time - forever."

- Speaking of Sydney, an interesting development may be the selection of the dignitary who opens the Games. Historically, Australia, as a British Commonwealth nation, has as head of state Queen Elizabeth II. The 1956 Olympics were opened by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the 1976 Olympics in Canada were opened by Queen Elizabeth II. However, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating is campaigning for Australia to become a republic independent of the British Monarchy and he does not want the Queen to open the 2000 Olympics at the opening ceremonies.

- In addition, the Olympics continues to draw publicity and attempts to use them like flies to honey. Michael Mansell, a spokesman for the Australian aborigines says that aboriginal leaders will lobby African nations to induce them to boycott the 2000 Olympics in Sydney if the government proceeds with proposed laws on aboriginal land title.

- Shortly after the IOC announcement of Sydney, it was then announced that Sydney would also host the 2000 Paralympics following the Olympics, as has been done in Seoul, Barcelona and will be done in Atlanta. Shortly thereafter, however, it was announced that a funding dispute casts doubts on those plans. The International Paralympic Committee stated that Australia will underwrite the Games to the effect of \$55 million (US), but government officials say that they have not agreed to pay those costs.

- Further reports from Sydney shortly after the Olympics indicated some early controversy concerning financing. Australian officials reported that the cost to host the 2000 Olympics would be \$2 billion (US), almost double the budget of \$1.1 billion (US) submitted to the IOC during the bid process. The \$1.1 billion figure apparently did not include building the Olympic site and sporting facilities. Documents released by the New South Wales government on 14 October show that the treasury warned the New South Wales government that the Games were unaffordable and the bid should be withdrawn. Australian Premier John Fahey predicted the Games would break even.

- In its October issue, *Condé Nast Traveler*, one of the top American travel magazines, discussed Sydney several times. The issue focused on the magazine's reader's survey on the top hotels, resorts, restaurants, cities to visit, etc. Listing the "Top 20 Destinations" as favored cities for visitors, Sydney ranked #3 in the world, trailing San Francisco, California (#1), and Vienna, Austria (#2). Further, the reader's survey also rated the friendliest cities on the planet and in this regard, Sydneysiders came out #1, with the reader's voting it the friendliest city in the world. Their approval rating was 88.6%, leading the next two cities: Dublin, Ireland (87.3%), and Auckland, New Zealand (87.2%).

- After the historic peace treaty was signed in mid-September by Israel and Palestine, the IOC took steps at their Monte Carlo conference to confer provisional IOC Member status to a National Olympic Committee from Palestine. If full recognition is forthcoming, this would clear the way for the Palestinians to compete at Atlanta in 1996.

- Several other National Olympic Committees were given provisional status at the Monte Carlo IOC meeting in September. These were as follows: Burundi, Cape Verde, The Comoros Islands, Dominica, Sao Tome and Principe, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia. This brings to 194 the number of member nations within the IOC.

- The Israelis apparently took some umbrage with the recognition of the Palestine Olympic Committee. Wire service reports noted that the Israeli Foreign Ministry had taken the view that Palestine had not yet won IOC approval, but only provisional recognition. Though that was the official wording, the IOC countered that Palestine athletes would be allowed to compete in the Olympics.

- Another development at Monte Carlo was the re-election of ISOH Member Juan Antonio Samaranch as the President of the IOC. President Samaranch has now served in that capacity since 1980. He ran unopposed.

- Three new sports/events were added to the Olympic program for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. These will be beach volleyball, women's football (soccer), and mountain biking. Mountain biking, or *vélo tout terrain* by its French name, will replace the men's 100 kilometre team time trial, which has been eliminated as an Olympic event after the 1992 Olympics. The mountain biking event will be contested over the same course as that used for the cross-country phase of the equestrian three-day event. The event will be contested by both men and women. The men will ride seven laps of 10 kilometres each, for a race of approximately 70 kilometres. The course surface will vary from asphalt, gravel, dirt and grass in a wooded area. Downhill and slalom mountain biking will not be contested, only the cross-country event.

- In addition to the above, the women's triple jump was approved for addition to the Olympic athletics (track & field) program at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. The UCI (Union Cycliste International) has also proposed that three other Olympic events be added to the cycling program: individual time trial races for both men and women, and a women's point race. They have not yet been approved.

- Sydney has very tentative plans to add both the triathlon and taekwando to the program of the 2000 Olympics.

- Snowboarding has received a big push for inclusion on the Winter Olympics program. A World Cup circuit is planned for 1994 and it is possible that it may become a medal event by 2002.

- Women's hockey (field) will undergo a change of format for the 1996 Olympics. The International Hockey Federation plans to change the Olympic tournament to a single pool of eight teams. In 1988 and 1992, the women have had eight teams but with two pools of four teams, with the top two teams in each pool advancing to the semi-finals.

- At the September IOC meeting, some 15,000 demonstrators marched against the Berlin bid for the 2000 Olympics. Some marchers carried banners with the slogan "Berliners for the Olympics - Sydney 2000."

- A great deal of controversy accompanied the Chinese/Beijing bid for the 2000 Olympics in terms of their response to the U.S. Congress's opposition to their bid. Zhang Baifa, chief executive of the Beijing bid committee, was quoted as saying, "If Congress can pass a resolution objecting to our bid for the 2000 Olympics, we could, frankly, boycott their Atlanta Games in 1996. If our bid fails, we could write to Congress to protest about their interference and justifying our revenge." Later statements issued by Zhang reversed this position, saying that China did not intend any boycott of 1996 should they not be awarded the 2000 Olympics. He Zhenliang, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee and an IOC Member, stated, "There will be no boycott. The question of a boycott is a nonquestion."

- China did release several of its best known political prisoners prior to the 23 September election of the 2000 bid city, apparently attempting to demonstrate an improved human rights' record.

- Speaking of Beijing's Olympic bid, it appears they will make a serious effort to procure the 2004 Olympics. South Korean President Kim Young-Sam has promised to lobby U.S. President Clinton on Beijing's behalf, a promise purportedly made at the behest of President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

- The U.S. Olympic Committee has officially put forward St. Lake City as the U.S. Candidate to host the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. The IOC has issued invitations for the bids to host the 2002 Winter Games. Other cities apparently bidding with Salt Lake City include Östersund, Sweden; Quebec City, Québec, Canada; and Sion, Switzerland. The Dragon Valley in South Korea may also be one of the cities bidding for the 2002 Games. The official candidatures will be announced by the IOC on 1 February 1994. An IOC team will visit the candidate cities in April 1995, with the winning city selected at the IOC Session in Budapest on 16 June 1995.

- The first announcement we have seen of a city formally proclaiming a bid for the Olympic Games of 2004 arrived in the mail recently. This would be for Stockholm, Sweden. The bid committee is led by Göran Långsved. Address for the committee is Stockholm 2004-kommittén, Box 7542, 103 93 Stockholm, SWEDEN

- IOC President Samaranch, meeting with U.S. reporters at the U.S. Olympic Congress, said he expected at least one bid from an African city for the 2004 Olympics - Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town, all from South Africa, and Cairo, Egypt, were the cities mentioned. He also stated that if an African city bids, Beijing may back off on its expected bid for 2004 because of the "special relationship" between Beijing and African capitals. Cape Town is actually being assisted in its bid by Lord Howell, who led the British bid for Birmingham in 1996. His reasoning, "In my view the Games should go round the five continents. That's what the five rings are supposed to represent, and the black ring is Africa. Cape Town will have a phenomenal bid and, if the security position is all right, they'll have an overwhelming case to stage the Games. Imagine 30,000 volunteers, black and white, all working together."

- In addition to the above, Buenos Aires and Brasília have both announced plans to bid for 2004. Istanbul is also planning to run again for that year. In addition to the African rumblings, Stuttgart, Germany, has been toying with the idea as well.

- Lahti, Finland has announced plans to bid for the Olympic Winter Games of 2006. There are no mountains near Lahti, however, and tentative plans may include holding the mountain events, such as alpine skiing, bobsled, and luge, in either Norway or Sweden if Lahti were to be chosen.

- Innsbruck, Austria, which hosted the Olympic Winter Games in 1964 and 1976, will not be hosting them in the near future. Citizens there overwhelmingly rejected a city council proposal to bid for the Winter Games of 2002 or 2006.

- Halfway to the 1996 Olympics (since the 1990 selection of Atlanta), opinions are mixed in the United States on the progress of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG). The television contract signed with NBC was helpful. The total budget was planned as \$1.59 billion (US), split between television rights (35%), corporate sponsorship (34%), ticket sales (14%), the Top III marketing program (7%), merchandising (2%), and miscellaneous (8%). The television contract was worth \$456 million, of which 60% (\$273.6 million) goes to the organizing committee. Six corporate sponsorships worth about \$215 million have been awarded. Bill Payne, President of ACOG, says he anticipates signing up about \$160 million dollars of corporate sponsors within the next year. In addition, international television rights fees will likely be settled within the next year. George Berry, chairman of the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority, a governmental watchdog group, states, "1993 is an absolutely critical year in terms of ACOG's efforts to raise the billion-and-a-half dollars necessary to stage the Games." Payne optimistically noted, "If construction was finished, we could doggone nearly put on the Games tomorrow." (From a *USA Today* story by Steve Woodward)

- The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) has announced that the football (soccer) finals will be held in Athens, Georgia. Currently, the following events will be held outside of Atlanta: Yachting (Savannah, Georgia); Beach Volleyball (Tybee Island off the coast of Savannah, Georgia); Women's Softball (Columbus, Georgia); Football (Soccer) Finals (Athens, Georgia); Whitewater Canoeing (Tennessee); and Football (Soccer) Preliminaries (Birmingham, Alabama [Legion Field]; Miami., Florida [Orange Bowl]; Orlando, Florida [Citrus Bowl]; and Washington, DC [RFK Stadium]). ACOG has declared that "The Centennial Games are truly America's Games."

- Not all members of the IOC are happy with the selection of sites for the Atlanta Olympics. One unnamed IOC member was reported in wire service reports as losing his patience with frequent relocation of sites in and around Atlanta. ACOG President Billy Payne said that they are trying to come up with sites that can handle permanent structures so that the 1996 Olympics will leave a legacy. On a recent visit to Atlanta by the IOC Coordination Commission, Commission Head Richard Pound noted that the IOC was not pleased that the Atlanta Organizing Committee, in trying to save money, had moved the rowing venue from Stone Mountain Park near Atlanta to a suburban reservoir. Pound was quoted, "They've had to devote much more time making sure the finances are there, because you can't spend what you don't have."

- Atlanta has changed the name of their computer-generated mascot. Formerly *Whatizit*, his/her/it's new name is *Izzy*. This was done after a poll of children was done suggesting that a change might be a good idea. The mascot has also been redrawn slightly to be a bit more appealing. The name can be changed for various sports, such as *Itzaboxer*, and *Itzabiker*. *The European* newspaper suggested that a better name for the mascot might be *Itzaflop*.

- The Lillehammer Organizing Committee is replacing their original slogan after a contest was held to find a new one. “They Said It Couldn’t Be Done. But We’ll Do It,” has often been shortened to “We’ll Do It.” The final new slogan has not been announced, but critics said the slogan was too long and made the organizers seem unconvinced that they could manage the project.

- With Lillehammer on the horizon for 12-27 February 1994, 73 nations have signed up to compete. Recall that 64 nations competed at Albertville in 1992. The first-time Olympic Winter participants may include Central African Republic, Georgia, Israel, The Sudan, and Thailand. South Africa is expected to compete in the Olympic Winter Games for the second time, the first and only to date occurring in 1960.

- There will be only two changes to the Lillehammer program from the Albertville one. One will be the addition of a second individual short-track speedskating event for both men and women. They will now compete at both 500 and 1,000 metres, while in Albertville men competed at 1,000 metres only, and women competed at 500 metres only. The second will be the addition of an aeriels event in freestyle skiing for both men and women.

- The Lillehammer Olympic medals, which have been reported to be made of Norwegian granite, will actually be made from a stone termed *gråstein* in Norwegian, and termed *sparagmite* by rock connoisseurs. The medals were designed by Ingjerd Hanevold, a 38-year-old artist and art teacher. She is internationally known for her jewelry design and metal art.

- Organizers of the 1994 Winter Olympics offered 1,000 businesses near Lillehammer an “Olympic Service Course” in hopes of inspiring improved, and more cheerful, service in stores and restaurants. However, only six people showed up - two from Lillehammer and four from neighboring towns.

- It has been announced that Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl (of *Kon-Tiki* and *Ra* fame, also the author of *Aku-Aku: The Secret of Easter Island*) and actress Liv Ullmann (her multiple movie credits include *Autumn Sonata* [78], *A Bridge Too Far* [77], *Dangerous Moves* [84], and *Scenes from a Marriage* [73]), will lead the opening and closing ceremonies at the Lillehammer Olympics.

- The Norwegians lit “an” Olympic flame on Saturday, 27 November. The lighting and its location were the matter of some controversy and difficulty, however. The flame was lit by Olav Bekken who rubbed two sticks together but the bitter cold in Morgedal, Norway, made the flame go out repeatedly before the fire could be maintained to start a national torch relay. The flame was started outside the cabin of Sondre Norheim, an 18th century skier regarded as the father of modern skiing by the Norwegians. The first two times that an Olympic torch relay was used for the Olympic Winter Games, the flame was lit at the hearth of Sondre Norheim’s cabin in Morgedal, symbolizing the beginning of competitive winter sports. It was first used at the 1952 Olympic Winter Games in Oslo. It was not until 1960 at Squaw Valley that the Olympia flame was used for the Olympic Winter Games, but that practice has continued through 1992.

The flame is regarded as a rogue by the Hellenic (Greek) Olympic Committee, who consider the only “true” Olympic flame to be that lighted at Olympia on the Greek Peloponessus. The Greeks plan a ceremony in January to light that flame in the usual manner, using the rays of the sun at Olympia. Both flames will apparently be transported to Lillehammer. It should also be noted that the Norwegian flame lit in Morgedal may be a violation of the *Olympic Charter* as the most recent edition of the *Olympic Charter* states on page 25, Rule 18.1, “The Olympic flame is the flame which is kindled in Olympia under the authority of the IOC.”

○ It appears that American and Canadian NHL ice hockey players will be available to form “Dream Teams” for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games ice hockey tournament. This possibility was broached for the 1994 Games in Lillehammer but it could not be arranged. U.S. Olympic coach Tim Taylor noted, “It was awfully close to happening this year, and they just couldn’t get it done.” The new NHL Commissioner, Gary Bettman, favors interrupting the NHL season in 1997-1998 to allow NHL players to compete at Nagano, according to David Ogrea, executive director of USA Hockey.

○ Not only Atlanta is having some difficulty and concern about fund-raising. An article in the *International Herald Tribune* discussed the money woes which are facing 1998 Olympic Winter host, Nagano, Japan. The Nagano bid campaign was launched during Japan’s boom years of the late 1980’s, but the recession has affected the Nagano Organizing Committee. “The bubble has burst and we are very worried about how many sponsors will participate. We must strengthen our efforts to entice them,” noted Katsuya Hayashi, secretary-general of the Japanese Olympic Committee. Organizers of the Nagano Olympics are officially banned from marketing efforts until after the Lillehammer Games. But some Japanese construction companies are already showing decreased interest in Olympic projects and many believe economic trends over the next year could determine whether the Games are a fiscal success or failure. The Games are targeted to cost about ¥76 billion, of which about 85% is expected to come from television rights and corporate sponsorships. With the decrease in U.S. television right fees for sporting events, even that income is speculative. Only about 20% of the facilities for the 1998 Games have been completed. Nagano also promised to improve highways and the airport and link the city with Tokyo via high-speed trains, projects which remain unfinished as well.

○ The controversy concerning the 1992 solo synchronized swimming event continues to swirl. The winner of the event was Kristen Babb-Sprague of the United States (see *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, 1(4): pp. 23-24, 1993 for details). But the controversy exists because a Brazilian judge gave Canada’s Sylvie Fréchette a score of 8.7 in an early round, when she meant to award her a 9.7. The score was not changed and eventually provided the margin of victory which stood despite Canadian protests. Now it appears that Babb-Sprague and Fréchette will be declared co-champions. The Canadian Olympic Association appealed to FINA on Fréchette’s behalf, an appeal supported by IOC executive board member (and ISOH member) Richard Pound. In a recent column in the *Chicago Tribune*, Phil Hersh opined, “What if Fréchette came from a country that did not have one of the most powerful IOC members to back her? What if FINA cared not a whit about Fréchette but was just trying to curry favor with the IOC, since the swimming federation often is forced to defend synchronized swimming’s place on the Olympic program?”

○ On 31 October, two U.S. Luge Team members were assaulted at a bar in Oberhof, Germany by a group of cowardly, idiotic neo-Nazi skinheads. Robert Pipkins, a black man, was the main target but when defending him, his teammate Duncan Kennedy, was assaulted by a gang of about 15 right-wing skinheads and sustained multiple cuts and bruises. The lugers were in Oberhof for a World Cup Meet. The mayor of Oberhoff apologized profusely the next day and assured the athletes that they would be safe to return to Germany and Oberhof. The citizens of Oberhof also sent a letter of apology to U.S. President Clinton. The lugers plan to return to Oberhof for a World Cup race in January.

○ Singapore Olympians who win a medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics can look forward to being rewarded by the government with the equivalent of \$628,000. Singapore has won only one medal in the Olympics, that a silver medal in 1960 lightweight weightlifting which was won by Tan Howe-Liang.

○ Katarina Witt, attempting a competitive comeback for Lillehammer, is planning on skating her free program to “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” The song was a popular American song of the 1960’s, sung by the folk trio Peter, Paul, and Mary. Apparently the original tune had been popularized in Germany by Marlene Dietrich. The song’s words discuss the loss of flowers, as they are now growing over the graves of young men killed at war. Witt said that she is using the song to make a statement about the war in the former Yugoslavia and Sarajevo, where she won her first of two gold medals. She commented, “It is a heartbreaking situation, especially for those of us who were in that Olympics. Everything we knew in Sarajevo has been destroyed. I want to say something about that and end with some optimism.”

○ For the first time, the IOC has released an analysis of the television viewership of the 1992 Olympic Games. They estimated the gross cumulative audience at 24.6 billion people (16.6 billion for Barcelona and 8.0 billion for Albertville), compared to an estimated 17 billion total in 1988 - an approximate increase of 45%. It was estimated that 85% of all people with televisions tuned in at some time to watch the 1992 Olympics. In the surveyed countries (United States, United Kingdom, and Spain), 7/10 people watched the Olympic Winter Games and 9/10 people watched the Olympic Games. The IOC report noted that 86 countries televised the Albertville Games (up 34% from 1988) and 190 nations televised the Barcelona Olympics (up 21%). This would make the 1992 Barcelona Olympics the most watched sporting event ever, by the IOC’s reckoning.

● The next issue of *Citius, Altius, Fortius* will be coming to you around May 1994. As mentioned in the last issue of 1993, plans are to publish three issues per year, although Volume 1 consisted of four issues spread out over 1½ years. Articles currently planned for future issues include one about Ethelbert Talbott (by Ture Widlund [SWE]), one on Wolf Lyberg’s research into the Olympic competitor database (by Arild Gjerde [NOR]), an article on Olympic apocrypha (by Donald Sayenga [USA]), an article on wrestling rules and controversies at the Olympics (by Glynn Leyshon [CAN]), the history of the Czechoslovak and Czech Olympic Committees (by Jiri Kössl [CZE], more information on Sydney and the bid package (by Stephen Don [AUS]), a story about korfbal at the Olympics (by Tony Bijkerk [BEL]), information on academic dissertations available from University Microfilms in the United States, and probably more . . . We’ll see you!