

# THE ATHLETES IN NAGANO

BY WOLF S. LYBERG

---

For the fifth consecutive time I have had the pleasure to make the IOC-statistics of Olympic participation, this time for the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano 1998.

For the first time since Berlin 1936, I had to stay home instead of attending the Olympic (Winter) Games - thus breaking a series of 27 Games!

But, due to a detailed and intensive planning, together with the IOC-Departments for Sports, and the NOC's it was possible to make this summary unexpectedly easy - so easy that I already on the evening of the last day of the Games, could fax a preliminary figure of 2.185 participants to the IOC-President in Nagano. I was aware that the figure was a little too high, due to the fact that I had not yet received detailed matchreports of the ice hockey games and I was sure that many of the three goaltenders per team never started.

It is funny that in these technological days, organizers have not yet come up with a program which assures the IOC that only starting athletes have been counted. It is the more important, as the IOC only pays the sum of 1.200 dollars for each starting athlete. And some of the International Federations - ice hockey as an example - count a player sitting on the bench as a reserve but not playing, as a starter!

My fax really became warm during the month of February and I received every possible and useful information from the IOC Sports Department each day from 01.30 in the early morning until around 17.00 in the midday. The result was a total of 314 metres of fax paper that had arrived!

The job had been prepared in advance - almost a year - registering all athletes in the winter sports on the Olympic program, who had started in World-, European-, and World-Cup-competitions during the winter of 1996/1997. It was an impressive list with some 5.800 names.

When the preliminary entries arrived (some 4.000), I already had 90 percent of all names with birth dates

'booked', and when the final entries arrived it was just easy to delete the surplus names - and even less were to be deleted when the accreditation-lists arrived. The new system with ready accreditation for entered athletes caused some problems, as it was impossible to establish if they were really in Nagano or not. Therefore, there are differences in figures - especially as the NAOC in some cases gave completely different figures.

It must, however, be said that IBM took a splendid revenge for its failure in Atlanta. The results were perfectly done - even if the figures used were very small to read. The NAOC also did brilliant work with its information-service and for the first time ever,

I had all birth dates ready when I finished. Many of the NOC's used to avoid typing birthdays of their athletes (or gave January 1st) -but not this time.

When the extraordinary good books with the results arrived, I checked every name from my computer against the results and I was happy to see that only small discrepancies due to bad typing had occurred.

There is much information to be found in the summary-book, which the IOC will be printing in May (I hope!).

---

IT IS FUNNY THAT  
IN THESE  
TECHNOLOGICAL DAYS,  
ORGANIZERS HAVE  
NOT YET COME UP  
WITH A PROGRAM  
WHICH ASSURES THE  
IOC THAT ONLY START-  
ING ATHLETES HAVE  
BEEN COUNTED.

---

Meanwhile, here are some of the figures . . .

ATHLETES ACCREDITED/PARTICIPATED BY SPORT FOR THE NAGANO OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

SPORT	ENTRIES	ACCREDITATIONS	STARTS
Biathlon	211 (100)	200 (95)	188 (87)
Bobsleigh	189	189	156
Curling	80 (40)	80 (40)	80 (40)
Figure Skating	147 (74)	147 (74)	145 (72)
Ice Hockey	442 (120)	441 (120)	422 (118)2
Luge	97 (30)	93 (29)	93 (29)
Alpine Skiing	265 (111)	264 (111)	249 (108)
Cross-country skiing	246 (111)	244 (110)	228 102)
Nordic combined	62	62	53
Ski jumping	83	76	68
Snowboard	125 (56)	125 (56)	125 (56)
Freestyle	121 (54)	112 (52)	110 (52)
Speedskating	177 (82)	176 (82)	171 (79)
Short track	111 (54)	110 (53)	94 (45)
Total	2.356 (832)	2.319 (822)	2.177 (788)

Notes:

1. Margareta Forsberg (SWE) started both in biathlon and cross country and the final result therefore is: 2.176 (787).
2. From the beginning, I had 442 athletes in ice-hockey The 23rd KAZ-athlete, goalkeeper Krivomasov, is accredited, but he is not mentioned in any of the detailed match- and team-statistics. He probably was never in Nagano at all!
3. Normally, the figure 2.305 is given for all accreditations, but due to "double informations" in the NAOC-reports and the impossibility to establish with certainty which athletes were actually present, I have chosen "a few more" until is 'proved' which athletes really were in Nagano.

PARTICIPATION FIGURES FOR THE 1998 NAGANO OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

A N D 3 (1)	ESP 12 (5)	KEN 1	RUS 112 (43)
A R G 2 (1)	EST 20 (5)	KOR 37(11)	SVK 37 (8)
A R M 7 (3)	FIN 85 (34)	KGZ 1	SLO 34 (13)
A U S 23 (8)	FRA 106 (31)	LAT 29 (8)	RSA 2 (1)
A U T 96 (23)	GEO 4 (1)	LIE 8 (3)	SWE 99 (46)
A Z E 4 (2)	GER 125 (47)	LTU 7 (2)	SUI 69 (19)
B L R 58 (15)	GBR 34 (7)	LUX 1	TPE 7 (1)
B E L 1	GRE 13 (3)	MDA 2 (1)	TRI 2
B E R 1	HUN 17 (9)	MKD 3 (1)	TUR 1
B I H 8 (1)	ISL 7 (3)	MON 4	UKR 56 (26)
B R A 1	IND 1	MGL 3	USA 186 (81)
B U L 19 (11)	IRI 1	NED 22 (12)	URU 1
C A N 144 (63)	IRL 6	NZL 8 (4)	UZB 4 (2)
C H I 3	ISR 3 (1)	NOR 76 (27)	VEN 1 (1)
C H N 55 (40)	ISV 7 (1)	POL 39 (15)	YUG 2(1)
C R O 6 (2)	ITA 113 (34)	POR 2 (1)	
C Y P 1	JAM 6	PRK 8 (6)	
C Z E 60 (13)	JPN 156 (64)	PUR 6	
D E N 12 (7)	KAZ 60 (15)	ROM 16 (4)	
TOTAL: 2.176 (787)			

PARTICIPATION PER CONTINENT: (1994/1998)					
CONTINENT	NOC'S	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
EUROPE	44/44	925/959	366/489	1.291/1.448	74.28/66.53
AMERICAS	10/14	179/216	88/149	267/365	15.36/16.78
ASIA	7/10	84/193	58/136	142/329	8.17/15.13
OCEANIA	4/2	26/19	9/12	35/31	2.02/1.43
AFRICA	2/2	2/2	1/1	3/3	0.17/0.13
TOTAL	67/72	1.216/1.449	522/787	1.738/2.176	100/100

MEDALS WON BY CONTINENT: (1994/1998)					
CONTINENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
EUROPE	45/49	44/52	49/49	138/150	75.41/73.17
AMERICAS	9/12	11/8	6/8	26/28	14.21/13.66
ASIA	7/8	6/8	5/10	18/26	9.84/12.68
OCEANIA	-/-	-/-	1/1	1/1	0.51/0.49
TOTAL	61/69	61/68	61/68	183/205	100/100

MEDAL-WINNING NATIONS BY CONTINENT: (1994/1998)					
CONTINENT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL	
EUROPE	8/11	11/13	12/14	14/17	
AMERICAS	2/2	2/2	2/2	2/2	
ASIA	4/2	4/3	3/4	5/4	
OCEANIA	-/-	-/-	1/1	1/1	
TOTAL	14/15	17/18	18/21	22/24	

AGAIN THE SUMMER OLYMPIANS - THE SUMMARY CONTINUED AND CONCLUDED

In the latest issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*, I gave a summary of my documentation on the athletes of the Games of the Olympiad. In February, 1998, I concluded my documentation on the biggest sport in the Olympic Family: ATHLETICS.

Below, you will find:

1. the number of athletes in almost all sports, as published in the *Journal of Olympic History*, Vol.6 No.1;
2. the number of athletes in athletics (track & field);
3. the overall figure, for all Olympic participants, in all sports.

Later, I will be making up a final summary of all the documentation of the athletes, participating in the Olympic Summer Games, starting with a new summary of each Games, based upon the figures mentioned in the 26 volumes of the 28 sports, which are on the Olympic pro-

Journal, Vol.6, No.1.	ATHLETICS	TOTAL COUNT
Participants in:		
one Games: 50.661 (8.270)	12.020 (2.696)	62.681 (10.966)
two Games: 10.399 (1.767)	2.735 (681)	13.134 (2.448)
three Games: 2.494 (332)	635 (169)	3.129 (501)
four Games: 484 (61)	111 (32)	595 (93)
five Games: 110 (9)	14 (4)	124 (13)
six Games: 22 (2)	2 (1)	24 (3)
seven Games: 5 (1)	- -	5 (1)
eight Games: 4 -	- -	4 -
nine Games: 1 -	- -	1 -
Total figures: 64.180(10.442)	15.517 (3.583)	79.697 (14.025)

gramme today.

Note: Information about acquiring these volumes (according to the author these volumes are available now) can be obtained from Ms. Claude Borgeaud, c/o The Documentation Department of the Olympic Museum, Villa Olympique, 1 Quay d'Ouchy, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland. Phone: (41.21)-621 65 11. Fax: (41.21)-621 65 12.

\*\*\*\*\*