

future International Olympic Committee, however changes were obviously eminent. The first would be the inclusion of women, eleven of whom competed in the Paris Games of 1900. Athletes then questioned the necessity in being amateurs since it allowed for an almost unbearably poor lifestyle. Recently, the use of performance enhancing drugs and commercialism has caused many nations and viewers to question the purpose of the Olympics. Perhaps the most dramatic change can be seen in the use of the Olympic Games as a nationalistic tool. The Baron's original Games are now morphed into quite a different event.

The 1980s are the perfect example of the effects of these changes. It was the last decade of the Cold War. President Jimmy Carter decided to boycott the 1980 Games held in Moscow to the dismay of many of the athletes. This provoked a refusal by both the Soviet Union and East Germany to take part in the 1984 Los Angeles Games. This left the East and West not only with feelings of animosity, but also fostered an atmosphere ripe for nationalistic pride. What good could possibly come from this?

The answer lies in the smiles and faces of American female Olympians. This was their time to become national heroes in the face of "the other," the foreign female athlete. In 1984 and 1988, there is an emergence in the American media of female Olympians as athletic icons and national heroes. From Mary Lou Retton to Flo Jo, these female Olympians could be seen covered in the red, white and blue. From headlines to photographs, the Olympics became a stage to rally around the flag as well as welcome women into a large part of the sporting world. This is not to say that before 1984, female Olympians were ignored, but with the onset of commercialism, sponsorship, and in the face of the cold War, the American female athlete became as recognizable as her male counterparts thanks to the media.

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## **Adding New Sports to the Olympic Games: Is More Better?**

With a burgeoning number of International Sports Federations awaiting entrance to a future Olympic Games, what are the potential problems facing the International Olympic Committee (IOC) members and future organizers of Olympic

Games? The IOC must address the ever-increasing size of the Olympic program, and “gigantism” appears at the forefront of the problem. Exactly what numbers are we dealing with, in terms of sports, for the Olympic Games? As of February 2002, there are 35 International Olympic Sports Federations on the medal program, comprised of 28 Olympic Summer Sports Federations and seven Olympic Winter Sports Federations. The summer Olympic Games pose the real threat with regard to gigantism; not only are there 28 different sports contested, there are several events within each sport in most instances. This brings to mind what IOC member Anita Defrantz said in 1997, “The bus is crowded, and in order to keep the Games to a maximum of 10,000 athletes, which is our goal, some are going to have to get off.”

The Sydney 2000 Olympic Games proved to be highly successful, but waiting to step onto the bus today are 26 Recognized International Sports Federations and five Provisional International Sports Federations. Examples of these diverse “sports in limbo” include the following: Billiards, Bridge, Chess, DanceSport (Ballroom Dancing), Golf, Racquetball, Squash, and Water Skiing. The question is: will these additional sports ever be invited to the Olympic Games? Was former IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, truly ready to “welcome the world” into the Olympic Family? Was he aware of the challenge he was creating for his successor, Dr. Jacques Rogge, and how will this new IOC president cope?

From an historical perspective, how did the Olympic Games grow from a limited number of unheralded competitions in the early years to the largest and most prestigious sporting festival of all time? The answer is relatively simple: by adding new sports, and new events within disciplines, over the past 106 years. One of the most determined of the Recognized federations in recent years is the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF). Since its formal recognition by the IOC in 1997, DanceSport (the competitive aspect of ballroom dancing) has raised its hopes for being placed on the Olympic Games program for Beijing 2008.

Suggestions from key figures within the academic and sporting world for addressing the overall problem of “gigantism” produced the following: return to the demonstration model, reduce the number of events with sports, eliminate sports that already have prestigious world championships, utilize the World Games as

a competition venue for sports removed from the Olympic Games, allow some sports to move to the Winter program, and affirm a commitment to multiculturalism by including indigenous sports. Eliminating, instead of adding, sports will not be an easy task. If the recently elected IOC President, Dr. Jacques Rogge, is genuinely committed to limiting the size of the Games, he must be prepared to act in a timely fashion, and in the best interests of the athletes, those for whom the Games are intended.

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### **Kyniska of Sparta- Engendering Olympic Victory?**

Ironically, one of the most famous ancient Olympic victors, Kyniska of Sparta, the first woman to win an Olympic victory, because of the ban on women during the festival, was not allowed to be present at Olympia during the games in which she was proclaimed the winner of the four-horse chariot event. Perceptive recent discussions (e.g. Golden, Scanlon), from the perspective of social and cultural history, have agreed in seeing Kyniska's win as exceptional, a notable aberration, but further investigation is needed. The heightened interest in women's sport history in recent years should not lead us to see Kyniska as a champion of women's rights in sport.

This paper reexamines the ancient evidence on Kyniska (an epigram on a base at Olympia; Pausanias, Plutarch, Xenophon) from the traditional but not irrelevant perspective of military and political history. Rather than trying to connect Kyniska to early mythological figures, or to footraces for virgin girls in the Heraia and elsewhere, the paper sets Kyniska's participation in the Olympics against traditions of equestrian competition by elite males from Sparta and rival states. It assesses the initiative of Kyniska, and it suggests more than athletic motivations behind her involvement. The paper contextualizes Kyniska within the political and military relations of Sparta, Elis, and other Greek states in the late fifth and early fourth century BC. More specifically, the reigns of Kyniska's brothers, the Spartan kings Agis (427-400 BC) (e.g. the exclusion of Sparta from Olympia in 420, the flogging of Lichas for defying the ban, Agis' experiences with Alcibiades, the war between Sparta and Elis in 402-400) and Agesilaus (400-359 BC) (e.g. his awkward succession, his