

PANORAMIC CHINA

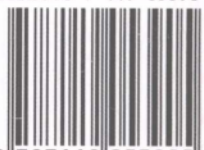
# CHINA'S SPORTS Honors and Dreams



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS



ISBN 978-7-119-05390-5



9 787119 053905 >

85-E-643P



PANORAMIC CHINA

# China's Sports Honors and Dreams



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

中国体育: 光荣与梦想: 英文/张永恒编著.

—北京: 外文出版社, 2008 (全景中国)

ISBN 978-7-119-05390-5

I. 中... II. 张... III. 体育事业—概况—中国—英文 IV. G812

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2008) 第078322号

## 全景中国—中国体育: 光荣与梦想

主 编: 张永恒

图片提供: 李石营 韩建明 CFP (排名不分先后)

中文审定: 萧师铃

英文翻译: 章挺权 周晓刚

英文审定: Solange Silverberg 黄友义

责任编辑: 刘芳念

封面设计: 蔡 荣

印刷监制: 冯 浩

© 2008 外文出版社

出版发行:

外文出版社 (中国北京百万庄大街24号)

邮政编码 100037 <http://www.flp.com.cn>

印 制:

北京外文印刷厂

中国国际图书贸易总公司发行 (中国北京车公庄西路35号)

北京邮政信箱第399号 邮政编码 100044

开本: 980mm × 710mm 1/16 (平装) 印张: 12.25

2008年6月第1版第1次印刷

(英)

ISBN 978-7-119-05390-5

09800

85-E-643P

---

版权所有 侵权必究



## PANORAMIC CHINA

**Consultants:** Cai Wu Zhao Qizheng Cai Mingzhao Zhou Mingwei

**Committee of Foreign Consultants:**

Howard Aster (Canada)

Tony McGlinchey (Australia)

Andy McKillop (Britain)

Foster Stockwell (United States)

**Editorial Committee for the Series**

**Director:** Huang Youyi

**Executive Director:** Hu Baomin

**Members:** Fang Zhenghui Lin Liangqi Li Zhenguo Shao Dong Chen Shi  
Hu Kaimin

**Editorial Committee for This Volume**

**Director:** Hu Baomin Li Zhenguo

**Members:** Zhang Yongheng Xiao Shiling

First Edition 2008

ISBN 978-7-119-05390-5

© Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, China, 2008

Published by Foreign Languages Press

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

<http://www.flp.com.cn>

Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation

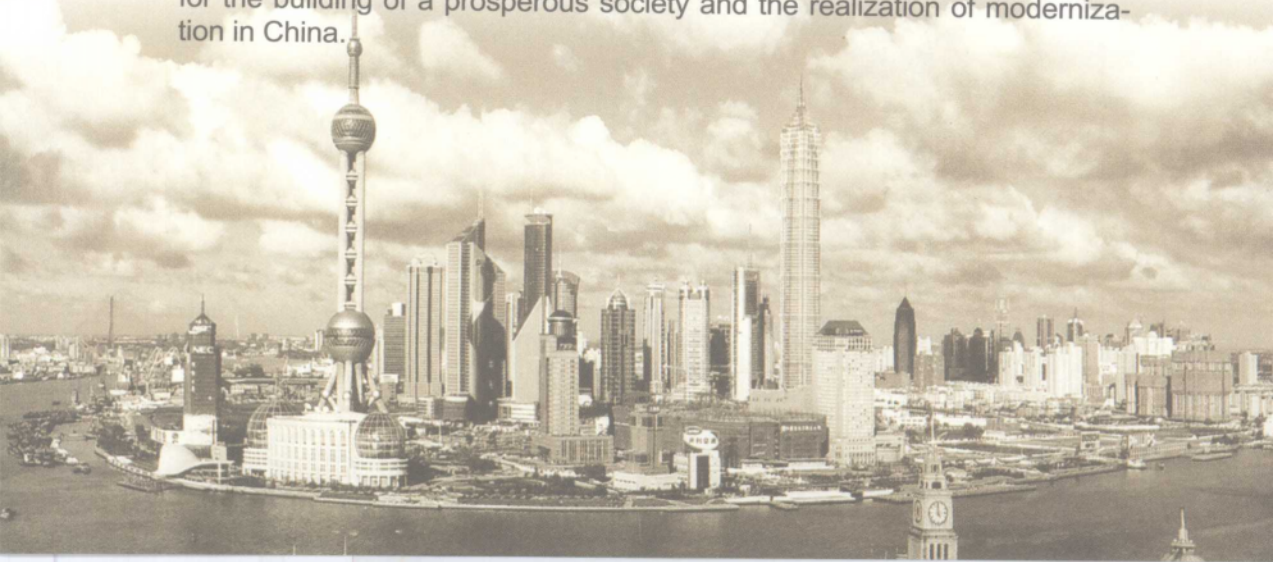
35 Chegongzhuang Xilu, Beijing 100044, China

P.O.Box 399, Beijing, China

*Printed in the People's Republic of China*

## Foreword

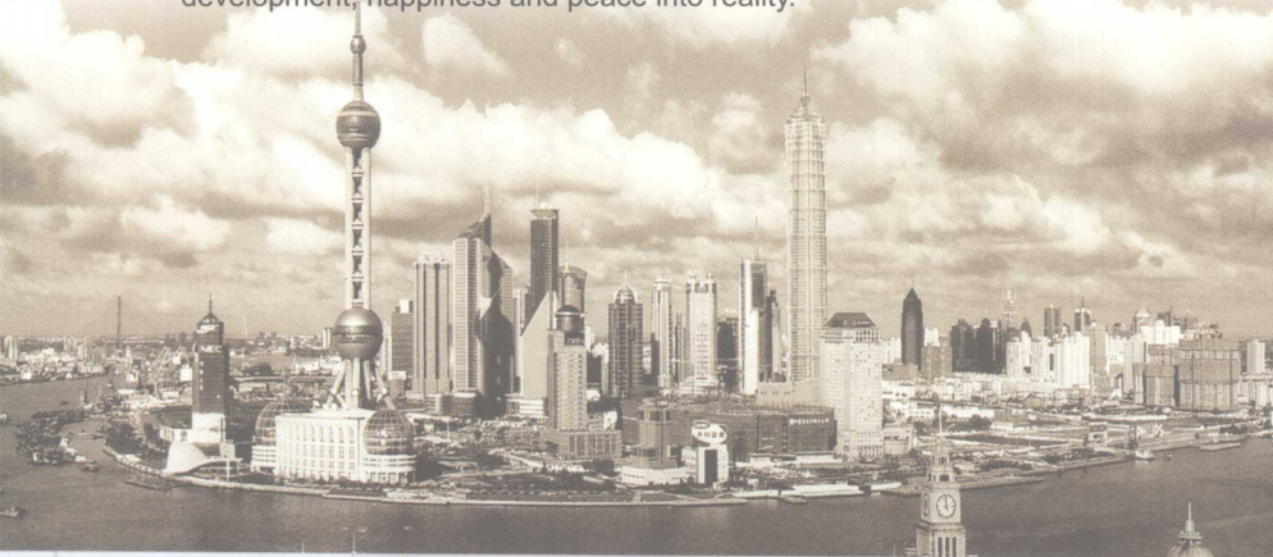
In the eight decades since the 1920s, the Chinese people have made three great achievements under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The first was the revolution. After more than 20 years of indomitable fighting and resistance, finally in 1949 the People's Republic of China was founded to represent the basic interests of the Chinese people. The Chinese nation had finally won total independence and a new China full of vitality arose in the eastern part of the world. The second great achievement was rebuilding. What the old political power structure had left behind was chaos, poverty, weakness, and damages. Exerting huge efforts, the newborn China restored the national economy within a very short period of time, and gradually stabilized and improved the social life of its citizens. Next, building on an extremely poor foundation, China carried out planned development of industry, agriculture and other sectors, establishing an independent and fairly complete industrial system and a national economic system. The third achievement was development. From the late 1970s and early 1980s on, China firmly stepped onto the road of reform and opening-up to the outside world, pressing ahead with reforms starting from agriculture and gradually moving toward industry and other sectors, and continuing the process of opening up which had originated from the coastal areas toward the inland regions. More than 20 years have passed, and China has witnessed an earth-shattering transformation. Her national economy has maintained development at a fast pace. Dramatic developments have occurred in both China's overall national strength and the standard of living of her citizens. All this has opened up broad prospects for the building of a prosperous society and the realization of modernization in China.





Deng Xiaoping, one of the greatest men of our times, once said that "development is the utmost truth." In China today, every domain and every profession are continuing the implementation of the "utmost truth" as defined by Deng Xiaoping to foster further development of the nation. Through practice and experimentation over several dozens of years, China has realized that development must follow the principles of being scientific, sustainable and harmonious. Not only must development aim to continuously raise the people's standard of living, but it must also benefit our descendants and not cause disastrous consequences for our Earth while trying to better the livelihood of humanity. Not only must China succeed with these developments for herself, but she must also work with all the countries of the world for mutual benefit, developing together and building a harmonious society and a peaceful international environment. Based upon the outlook of scientific and harmonious development, China is striving to make this "Third Great Achievement."

The series on "Panoramic China" consist of two sections. The first section, which has been published, focuses on introducing provinces, cities, and autonomous regions of China over an extended period of time. The second section, which is currently being published, tells about the work of different sectors, departments, and trades of China in order to introduce the practices and concepts of various aspects of development, the accomplishment of the "Third Great Achievement," as well as the challenges and opportunities China faces today. These introductions are realistic with factual descriptions and colorful pictures. It is our sincere hope that by reading this set of books, our readers will learn more about the plan, the work and the achievements of certain sectors, departments or trades and also their efforts and experiences in the peaceful development of the country. In particular, readers will see how, step by step, the Chinese people from different walks of life are turning their dreams for development, happiness and peace into reality.



# Contents



<b>The Chinese Journey to the Olympics</b>	<b>1</b>
China and the Olympics before 1984	2
An end to zero — China's first Olympic gold medal	10
China's place in the medal tally and the world records it set at the Olympics	14
China's strong Olympic sports	28
Capturing gold medals at the Olympics	40
 <b>China's Sports Stars</b>	 <b>58</b>
China's best Olympians	60
China's athletic stars	70
China's notable coaches	84
Chinese mode of training talented athletes	92

---



## China's Sports among the People **98**

Chinese folk sports	108
Development of non-Olympic sports	122
Nationwide fitness campaign	124
Construction of stadiums and gymnasiums	128
The sports industry	134

## Beijing's Olympic Dream **138**

Bid for the 27 <sup>th</sup> Olympic Games of 2000	142
Bid for the 29 <sup>th</sup> Olympic Games of 2008	146
The blueprint for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing	156

## Appendix **164**

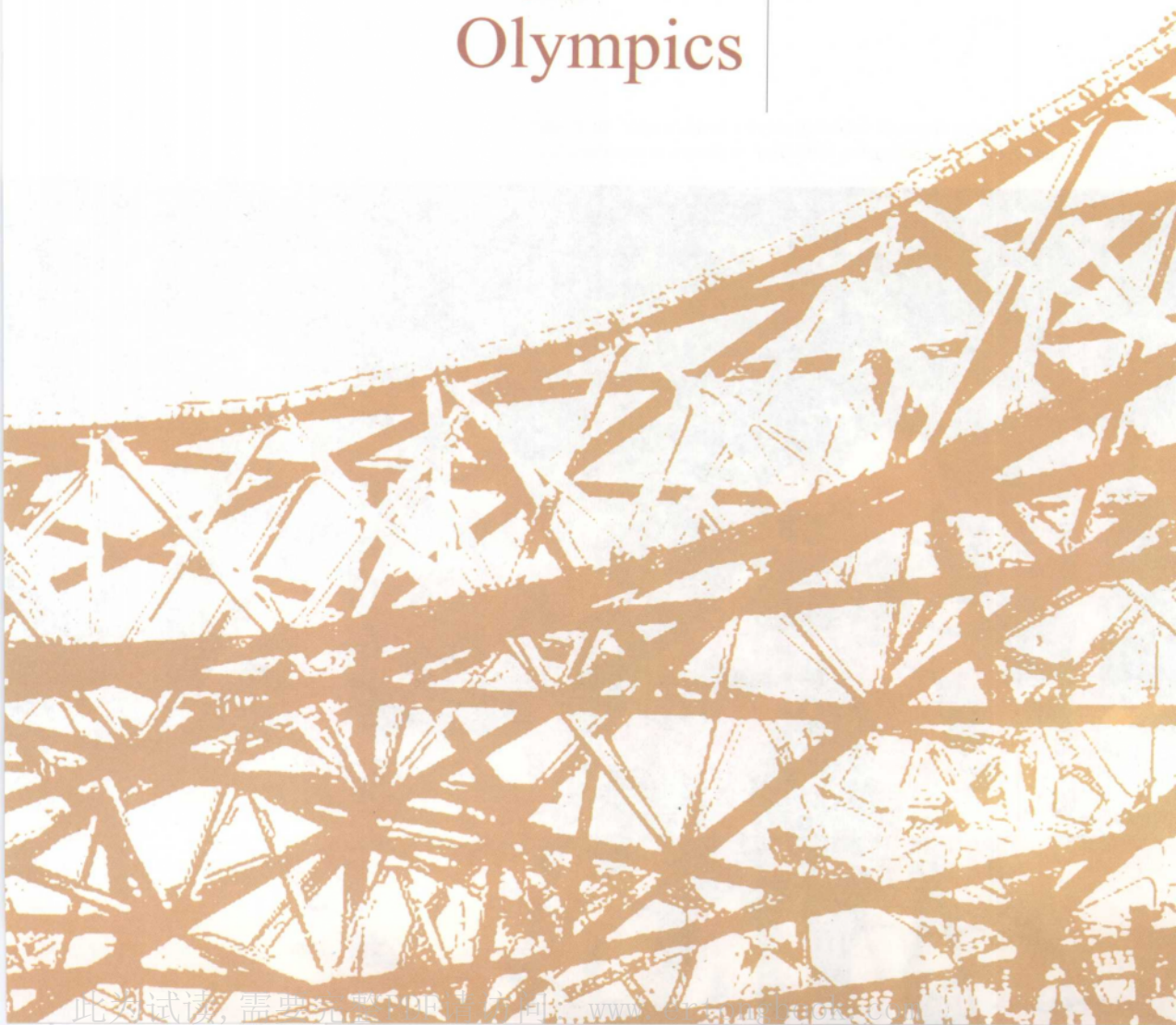
Major International Sports Events Held in China	164
China's Sports Organizations (in Chinese and English)	168







# The Chinese Journey to the Olympics



# China and the Olympics before 1984 |

The Chinese women's volleyball players hugging each other after taking the gold medal at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles



China put an end to its “zero” gold medal record at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Games in Los Angeles in the United States in 1984 by taking 15 gold medals, 8 silver medals and 9 bronze medals. This initiated a new era in Chinese Olympic history. Since then, Chinese athletes have kept winning Olympic medals and breaking world records on the same occasions.

It can be said that the year 1984 was a significant watershed so far as China’s participation in the Olympic Games is concerned. For most Chinese, their memory of the Olympics begins with that year. However, if we turn back the pages of Olympic history, we discover that China’s relationship with the Olympic Games began far earlier. It went on intermittently like a hidden current flowing in the long river of Olympic history, sometimes visible and sometimes invisible.

## ■ The earliest connection between China and the Olympic Games

The earliest connection between China and the Olympic Games was made at the time of the first Olympic Games. Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement and the first secretary-general of the International Olympic Committee at the time, wrote a letter to the government of the Qing Dynasty in 1894, inviting China to participate in the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. If this is the case, it can be said that Emperor Guangxu was the first Chinese individual to receive an Olympic invitation.

China missed the first Olympic Games because of domestic troubles and foreign invasion, but the Chinese sports lovers at home and abroad never gave up their pursuit of sports and the Olympic Games. Their interest in the Olympic Games began from the time of the Third Olympic Games held in St. Louis, the United States in 1904. Many Chinese newspapers and magazines carried reports on the Third Games, but it did not arouse any response for political, economic, cultural and educational factors. In October 1907, China’s physical educationist Zhang Bailing suggested in his address at the fifth school games of the Young Men’s Christian Association in Tianjin that China should also make preparations in the near future to participate in the Olympic Games. He stressed that many European countries sent their athletes to the Olympic Games although they had few chances of winning medals. In an article entitled “Competitive Sports” published in 1908, the journal *Tianjin Youth* put forward the suggestion that the Olympic Games could be hosted in China. This perhaps was the first time that any Chinese expressed the idea of hosting the Olympic Games in China. After 1910, China’s first national games



were held in Nanjing under the slogans of “Strive to participate in the Olympic Games in the near future” and “Strive to host the Olympic Games in China in the near future”. This was the first fruit borne of the persistent pursuit of the Olympic Games by the Chinese people, but it was only a beginning.

In 1913, China participated in the Far East Games (also called as the Far East Olympic Games) as one of its initiators. The Games received recognition from the International Olympic Committee in 1915. As China actively organized and participated in the Far East Games, it had more contacts with the IOC. After recognizing the Far East Games, the IOC invited China to participate in the Sixth Olympic Games to be held in Berlin, Germany in 1916, but the Olympic dream did not come true for the Chinese people because of World War I. After Wang Zhengting, an official of the Northern Government, became a member of the IOC, China began its direct contact with the IOC. The National Sports Association was established in 1924, and China was also admitted into several international sports federations, including the athletic, swimming and gymnastics federations, as well as five other international sports federations. The IOC formally recognized the Chinese National Sports Federation as a member association in 1931. From then on, China had closer relations with the IOC, and participated in the major competitions organized by the IOC.

Wang Zhengting played a major role during these years. Born in Fenghua, Zhejiang Province, in 1882, he was a council member of the All-China Sports Promotion Association, and held important positions in the national sports organizations and in organizing important domestic and international competitions. He was also an initiator of the Far East Sports Association and one of the sponsors of the Far East Games. He was the president of the second, fifth and eighth Far East Games. In 1922, he was elected a member of the IOC, thus becoming China's first IOC member. As head of the Chinese delegation, he took part in the 11<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany, in 1936 and the 14<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in London, Britain, in 1948.

## ■ The Chinese and the Olympic Games in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

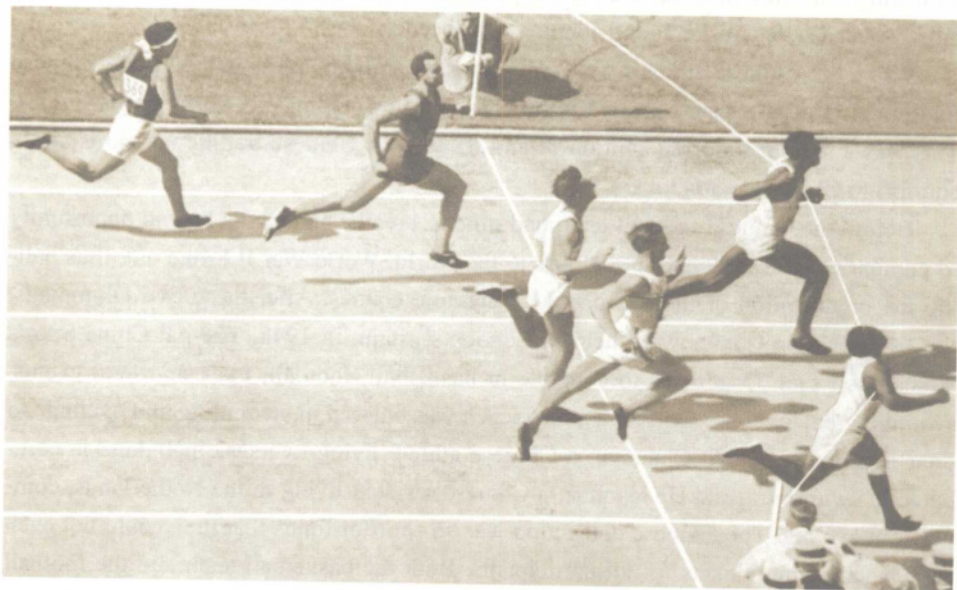
The first Chinese athlete to appear at the Olympic Games was Liu Changchun. Born in Dalian, Liaoning, in 1909, he was good at sprints with big and fast strides. He broke three national records in the 100m, 200m and 400m races at the 14<sup>th</sup> North China Games held in Shenyang from May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 2, 1929 by clocking 10.8 seconds, 22.4

seconds and 52.4 seconds respectively. His records were very encouraging. The 100m Olympic gold medal time at the 1928 Olympic Games held in Amsterdam was also 10.8 seconds. So far as his strength was concerned, he was already a world-class athlete.

The Chinese government made hasty entries at the 10<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in 1932, and Liu Changchun was the athlete representing China. At the opening ceremony, Liu was the flag bearer at the head of the Chinese delegation, which included Shen Ciliang, secretary-general of the All-China Sports Association, coach Song Junfu, and some Chinese from Los Angeles, as well as a clerk from the YMCA.

As he had spent 25 days on a ship on the Pacific Ocean, Liu Changchun was very fatigued by the long journey. He failed to achieve good results on the track. Liu Changchun should have had the strength to be among the finalists in the 100m and 200m races, but he was eliminated in the heats for his fifth and sixth places. He was entered in the 400m race, but was too fatigued to appear in it. After the races, Liu Changchun found himself in an awkward situation as he had no money for the fare to travel back home. Later he managed to get home only because of the money donated by local Chinese.

Although Liu did not win a medal at the Olympics, nor did he even compete in the semi-finals, his presence represented the Chinese debut at the Olympics, and his appearance was of epoch-making significance in Chinese Olympic history. By his presence, he



Liu Changchun failed to qualify for the semi-finals in the 1932 Olympic sprints

announced the existence of the Olympic Movement in China to the world.

Soon after Liu Changchun became the first Chinese athlete to appear in the competition arena of the Olympic Games, the Kuomintang government began to make preparations for participation in the 11<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games, issuing an order to the All-China Sports Association to select and train athletes.

In 1936, China sent an extraordinarily large sports delegation of several hundred people, including 63 athletes, along with coaches and staff members to the Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Chinese athletes competed in basketball, track and field, football, swimming, weightlifting, boxing and cycling, and demonstrated the Chinese martial arts. They arrived in Europe in the company of a 34-member sports study group. However, except for a pole vaulter who qualified for the semi-finals, all the athletes were eliminated in the preliminaries and heats. It is especially worthy of mention that a Chinese football team appeared for the first time in history at the Olympics. According to the draw, China played against Britain in the first round. The British team was a strong one in the world at that time and its players had outstanding skills and physique. The Chinese players knew that they had little chance of winning the match, but they played stubbornly with a 0:0 tie in the first half. Although the Chinese team lost the match 0:2 after 90 minutes of play, the players received favorable comments from the local press indicating that they demonstrated good personal skills and good teamwork. They lost mostly because they lacked good stamina and speed.

While the Chinese athletes were in an awkward and helpless position, the Chinese traditional martial artists captured particular attention within the world sports circles. This was a sign of their recognition of and respect for Chinese traditional sports and a comfort to Chinese sports lovers.

Before the Chinese football team had time to breathe and China had an opportunity to popularize its traditional martial arts to the world, World War II broke out, thus halting the organization of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games. After these two Olympiads, the 14<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games were held in London, Britain, in 1948. The All-China Sports Association sent 33 athletes to compete in basketball, football, track and field events, swimming and cycling. Only one athlete each was entered in swimming and cycling. At their own expense, Wu Chuanyu, a Chinese athlete living overseas in Indonesia competed in swimming, and He Haohua, a Chinese resident living in the Netherlands, competed in cycling. The Chinese delegation was so short of funds that they could not even cover their airline tickets for all participants. Both the basketball team and the football team played exhibition matches in Southeast Asian countries to earn money for their



traveling costs. While all athletes from other countries lived in the Olympic Village, the financially strapped Chinese delegation was accommodated in the humble premises of a local primary school. He Haohua led the pack all the way in the road cycling race and was about to finish in the first place, but was knocked down by an overtaking cyclist and ended up with a serious bone fracture.

China had participated in the Olympic Games several times before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, but had finished with undesirable results. This was a reflection of the underdeveloped politics, economy, culture and education in the country. The development of the modern economy is the social foundation for the modern Olympic movement in China, and this is an objective fact. If not for the dramatic change in the underdeveloped political and economic situation, it would have been very difficult for the Olympic movement in China to develop so quickly.

## ■ New China's Journey to the Olympics

From the time that New China was founded to its capture of the first Olympic gold medal, namely during the period from 1949 to 1984, nine Olympic summer games and nine Olympic winter games were held, but China participated in only two summer Olympics and two winter Olympics. During this period, the Chinese Olympic Committee was forced to suspend its ties with the International Olympic Committee. Nevertheless, the Chinese athletes never gave up the goals and spirit of the Olympic movement, but contributed their positive efforts to the development of the Olympic movement within the scope of their own capabilities.

## ■ The 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Olympics in 1952

The 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Olympics were held in Helsinki, Finland, in 1952. The Chinese delegation received an invitation cable from the Organizing Committee of the 15<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games only one day before the opening ceremony.

China quickly formed a 40-member delegation in the subsequent three or four days. The delegation included a 15-member men's football team, a 10-member men's basketball team, male swimmer Wu Chuanyu, interpreters, doctors and journalists. It was already noon on July 29 when the first Olympic delegation from New China arrived at the Olympic Village, and the Games were already starting to close down.