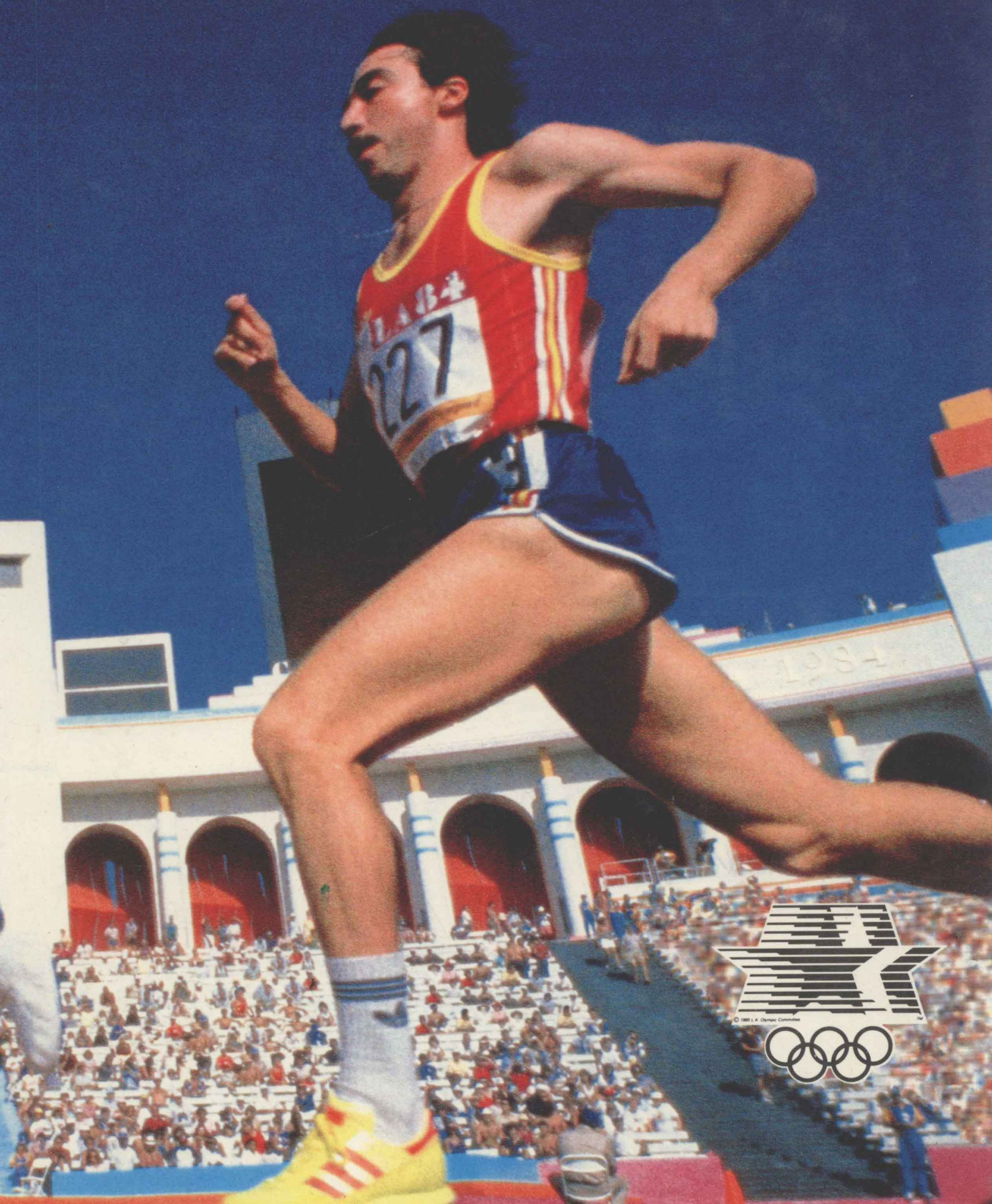
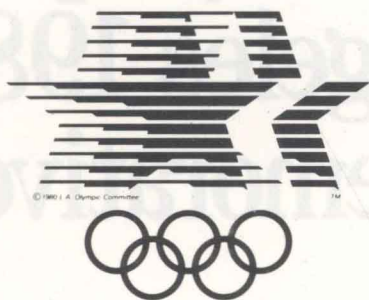


# Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad Los Angeles 1984 Commemorative Book





# Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad Los Angeles 1984 Commemorative Book



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International Olympic Committee

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# Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad Los Angeles 1984 Commemorative Book

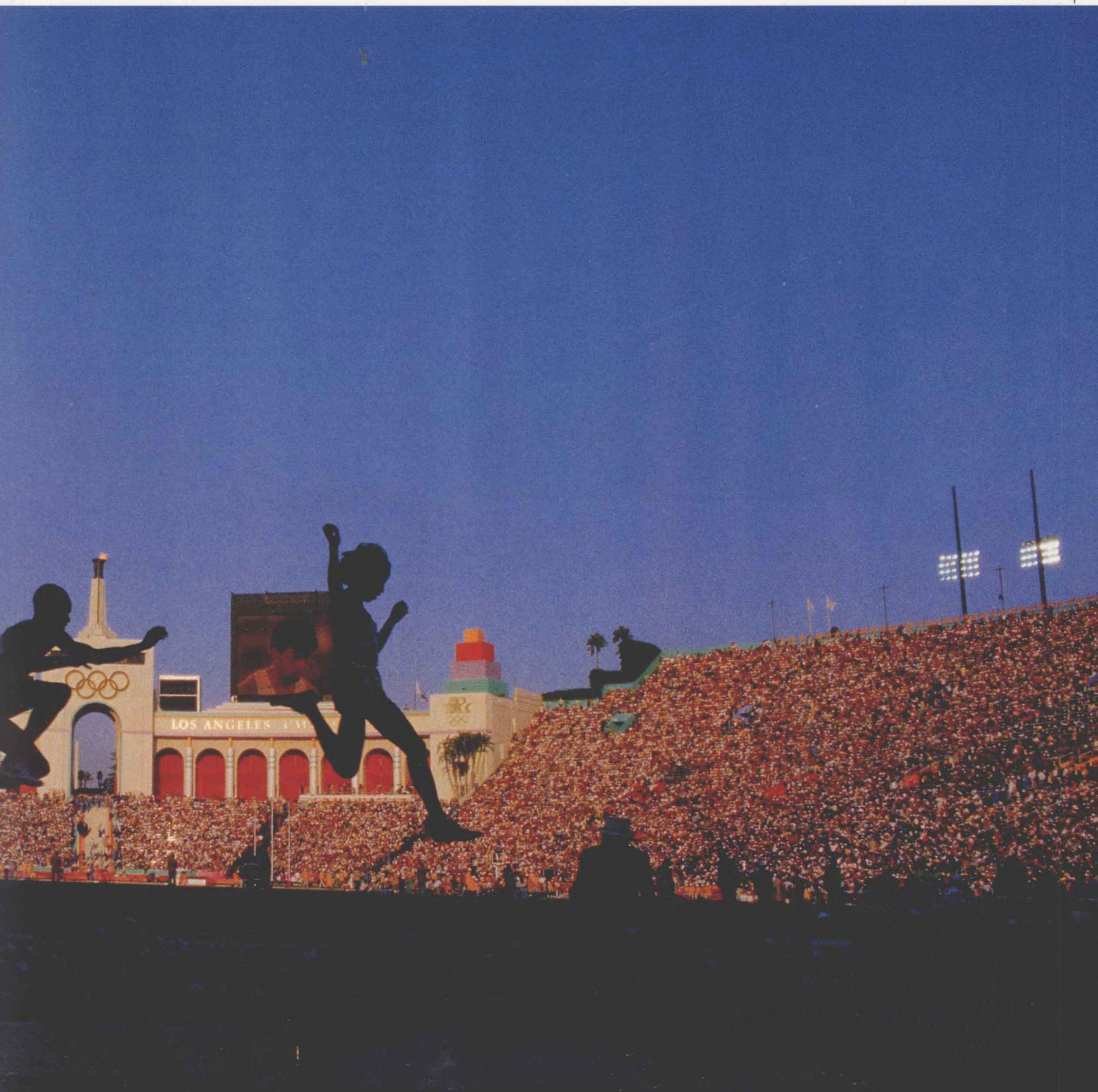
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# International Olympic Committee

Photo: C. Andersen



# International Olympic Committee

## Los Angeles 1984 Commemorative Book

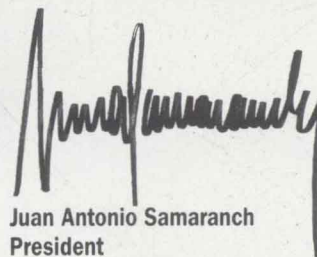


Ancient Greece gave the world the gift of beauty, proclaimed harmony and excellence, and glorified wisdom and heroism, thus achieving the Hellenic miracle. These ideas attained their highest degree of perfection at Olympia, during the festivals celebrated there every four years.

Twenty-five centuries already separate us from the first Olympic Games; soon a hundred years will have elapsed since their revival. Here we are at the dawn of the XXIIIrd Olympiad which has been crowned by the Los Angeles Games.

This work brings the Games back to life in a remarkable way. Both the novice and the initiated will find much pleasure and indeed emotion in looking through this book.

It is a great joy for me to note how well the link with Ancient Olympia has stood the test of time and offered the noble heritage of belief in the Olympic Ideal to civilizations grown more concerned with quantity than quality. May the reader share this joy, in a spirit of brotherhood!



Juan Antonio Samaranch  
President



# LAOOC

The Olympic Games have traditionally represented much more than athletic competition and the mere winning of medals; more than opening ceremonies and world records. The Olympics are—more than anything else—the expression of the human spirit.

The Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee was given a chance to play host to the whole world and through sports have taken a step nearer to world understanding. Perhaps we have moved a little closer to that most important word of all, peace.

This colorful publication should serve as a lasting reminder of one of the truly great sporting events in recent history.



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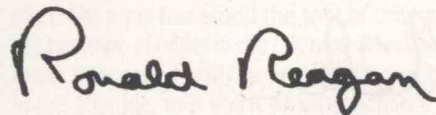


To Olympic Fans:

It was indeed an honor to officiate at the Opening Ceremonies of the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad in Los Angeles and to welcome athletes from other nations who were there to participate. The Olympic Games provide a terrific opportunity for young men and women to experience the importance of honest striving, fair play and the discipline and determination it takes to reach the top.

Thanks to the dedication of the LAOOC, the generosity of millions of Americans, and the help of thousands of volunteers, the 1984 Games were a rousing success.

I would like to congratulate everyone who was involved.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald Reagan

# Mayor City of Los Angeles

As Mayor of Los Angeles, it has been my privilege to be a part of the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad. As a former athlete and an ardent lover of sports, I appreciate the color and action that this publication brings to life.

To become an Olympic competitor requires a lifetime of dedication and sacrifice. Even so, it takes a special breed of athlete to challenge the rest of the world and climb to the top of the victory stand. This volume will serve as a lasting reminder of the Games and of the marvelous group of athletes and the Olympic spirit of competition and brotherhood that they represent.

My congratulations to all who helped make these Games a most successful Olympic contest.

*Tom Bradley*

Tom Bradley





# Foreword

*George Plimpton*

**A**lmost surely the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad would be remembered for the flags. Indeed, at the Opening Ceremonies the huge crowd in the Coliseum was asked to participate in an elaborate card-stunt which actually made everyone there part of a participating country's flag for a stunning instant. Afterwards, long after they had filed out of the Coliseum, those involved tried to figure out what country they had been briefly linked with. "I think I may have been part of Zimbabwe's flag. What were you?"

The preponderance of flags one saw at the various venues were American, of course. Hand-held. Waved at moments of triumph so that the banks of spectator seemed to shiver in patterns of red, white, and blue. These and the Olympic flags with their five linked rings were the only ones for sale at the souvenir shops. Here and there one spotted other nationalities. Japanese. German. Union Jacks. Many Australian pennants. At the women's volleyball matches, a group supporting the Chinese team sat together. They carried little square flags of red silk that at some unseen signal went up as one, as smart as a Rockettes' maneuver, shivered slightly, and then were brought back down again into their bearers' laps.

The athletes themselves were part of it. Most authorities believe that this tradition of spontaneous flagbearing by athletes started with George Foreman, the heavyweight gold-medalist, who carried an American flag into the ring in Mexico City, so small that it could have been pulled out of one of his boxing gloves. Everyone remembers Bruce Jenner's tour of the track in Montreal with his flag. Now the flags are huge. After winning the 100 meters in 9.99 seconds, Carl Lewis grabbed one out of the stands that he had to hold over his head to keep its folds from dragging on the running track. The American 100 meter relay team seemed almost tangled under its flag, like Laocoon and his sons being strangled by the serpents. The practice was by no means restricted to

American athletes. At the moment of victory the first impulse seemed to be for the winner to look around for a flag. When he won the 5000 meters, Said Aouita reached into the stands and astonishingly, like a conjuror, produced an enormous flag from his country—Morocco—a lovely vermillion with a five-pointed star in the middle.

Then, at the Closing Ceremonies, an epidemic of flags broke out. The athletes had been urged not to bring flags or banners onto the field, the concept from the organizers being that the teams would walk in intermingled, symbolizing a brotherhood of athletes, and thus nations. Splendid idea. At first, no flags were visible. But then, heralded by homemade "Hi Mom" signs, the flags began to materialize, the larger ones ballooning out like horizontal spinakers. The largest flag carried around the running track was the Australians'—large enough, indeed, to flip a girl, carrying a knapsack for some reason, high in the air as if she were being bounced at the shore on a giant beach-blanket. The athletes' mood was joyous, tumultuous, running under their flags with the abandon of a military charge...perhaps compelled by the same mood as the hero of Stephan Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*—"as he hurled himself forward was born a love, a despairing fondness for this flag...a creation of beauty and invulnerability."

Photo W. Hunt





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And yet, while the flag is thought of as the symbol that induces nationalistic fervor, the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad were by no means the chauvinistic occasion one could have expected. From the spectators, even armed as so many of them were with flags, and bellowing "U.S.A! U.S.A!", the support given the athletes of other countries was always gracious, unconstrained, and admiring. The last marathon runner into the Coliseum, bearing a name as lovely as any flag—Dieudonne Lamothe—was a Haitian who received as enthusiastic a welcome as the Portuguese runner who won the race. Perhaps the most astonishing statistic of the Olympics was that 101,799 spectators, the largest crowd ever to watch a soccer game in the United States, turned out to watch a final in which the home country was not involved—France versus Brazil.

Naturally, there were a myriad of vignettes that would remain like freeze-frames when the XXIIIrd Olympiad was brought back to memory: the drama of Switzerland's Gabriela Andersen-Scheiss, suffering from heat prostration, and her staggering finish of the first Olympic women's marathon; the tangle during the 3000 meters at the Coliseum and Mary Decker's fall to the infield clutching the number off the back of the little barefoot runner, Zola Budd, originally from South Africa; the tears streaming down the face of Jeff Blatnick winning a gold medal two years after being treated for Hodgkin's disease; the sturdy pertness of Mary Lou Retton, arms aloft on her landing, scoring a perfect 10 with the double-twisting Tsukahara vault, and then doing another, as if to show she was incapable of a fluke; the touching immobility of the giant seven foot center on the Chinese women's basketball team—a looming figure who seemed to be used solely for intimidation. An arm stretched out stiff as if feeling her way through a dark, cobwebby room; the silence of the crowd when Greg

Louganis went to the edge of the 10 meter platform for the last dive of the Olympics—a reverse three-and-a-half tuck, the so-called Dive of Death that had killed Sergei Shalibashvili when the Soviet diver's head hit the platform—and the great roar when (earning an unheard-of 10 from one judge) the American amassed the highest total ever scored in diving competition: 710 points; the incongruous spectacle of the scuba-diver—there to take underwater camera angles—lurking in the corner of the diving pool like a monstrous aquatic predator; the first sight of Carlos Lopes emerging from the darkness of the Coliseum tunnel as the winner of the marathon; the performance of A Touch of Class in the equestrian events and the beauty of her and the other two medalist horses as they were ridden around the Coliseum track at the Closing Ceremonies.

But always the flags. Some of the spectators themselves came decked out in flag patterns—their halters, briefs, jeans spangled and striped. On the last day of the Olympics, the souvenir vendors were selling their flags for a dollar apiece. The sales were brisk—perhaps because people were getting a bargain, but more likely because they wanted a telling memento of the XXIIIrd Olympiad. American flags were not in particular demand. On this last day what everyone wanted was an Olympic flag. . .



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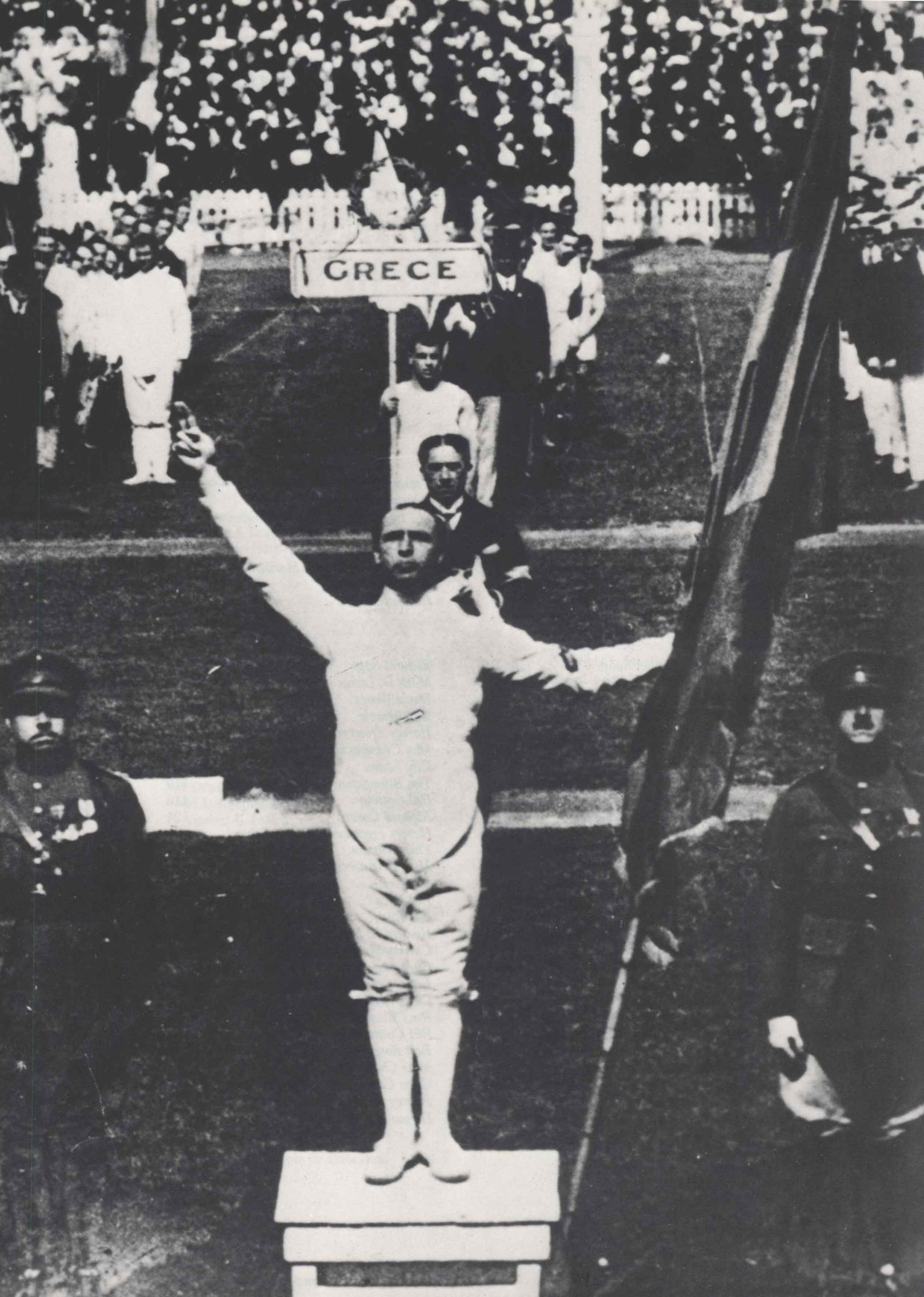
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# 1896-1984: From Athens to Los Angeles

*Monique Berlioux*  
*Director, International*  
*Olympic Committee*

A single 192 meter race, won at Olympia, by a certain Koreobos in 776 B.C. would turn out to be the source of a marvelous epic. Solemnly dedicated to Zeus, this event in itself constituted the first Olympic Games. From then on, for almost twelve centuries, the Games at Olympia were to take place every four years. Soon they spread over five days, with increasingly varied competitions. The interval between the Games bore the name of an "Olympiad".

It was a great festival, highlighted by religious ceremonies. All the celebrities made appearances. Theatre, poetry and eloquence were just as popular as banquets. Visitors came by the hundreds and thousands from all over the Mediterranean basin and slept on the spot during the cool Elidian summers. Other Hellenic cities organized similar events, but none had the same brilliance.

The very success of the Games was their undoing, especially from the beginning of the first century of our era onward. The power, prestige, and wealth which surely followed every victory, slowly but surely led to their deterioration. Political rivalries did the rest. The Games lost their reason for being. In 392 A.D., the Roman Emperor Theodosius II issued an edict banning all non-Christian religious events. With this decree the quadrennial gathering at Olympia, received its death-blow. No doubt it was in 393 A.D. that the last of the ancient Games were celebrated, those of the 293rd Olympiad. They were brutally interrupted, and disappeared through indifference. Invasions, pillage, fire, earthquakes and floods in turn devastated the ancient holy place. Mud and stones covered it over.

The Olympic idea still remained alive in the hearts of men, however. At different times, in other civilizations, other festivals and tournaments glorified emulation, physical performance, the beauty of effort, and the values of the soul. After the rebirth of the notion of sport in the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe, several attempts were made to bring the Games at Olympia back to life.

It is to a Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin, that the honour of re-establishing the cycle of Antiquity once and for all, is due. First, this tireless young pioneer managed to mastermind the organization of a Congress for the re-establishment of the Olympic Games. It was a triumph. From amongst the delegates present from seventeen countries Coubertin had the first members of the International Olympic Committee elected, the cornerstone of his edifice. The I.O.C., having met decided to select Athens to host the first Games of the Modern Era in April 1896. The splendor of the Attic spring, the magnificent installations, the classic beauty of the main stadium with its marble tiers, the quality of the competitions held in nine

sports, conquered the hearts of tens of thousands of spectators from the thirteen countries taking part. A Greek shepherd, Spiridon Loues, winner of the first Marathon, entered the annals of legend. The press was loud in its praises.

The Greeks wanted to keep the Games at Athens, but Coubertin brought about a triumph for the universality of the Olympic Movement. His unique ideal was symbolized by the white flag with the five intertwined rings, which flew for the first time at Paris in 1914 at the third Olympic Congress. The I.O.C. has always awarded the celebration of the Games to cities scattered as widely as possible throughout the world. And so, after Athens, the Games took place at Paris (1900), St. Louis (1904) and London (1908). All three were linked to international exhibitions and thus lost some of their splendour. It was a faltering period with many material problems.

The Games of the Vth Olympiad at Stockholm (1912), perfectly planned and enthusiastically received, saved the tottering institution and enabled it to be reborn without difficulty after the First World War. During the conflict, it was of course necessary to cancel the 1916 Games planned for Berlin. From 1920 to 1932, the Games were celebrated four times: at Antwerp, Paris, Amsterdam and then Los Angeles, consolidating once and for all their popularity. The symbols appeared: the motto, *Citius, Altius, Fortius* (faster, higher, stronger), the design for the medals, the raising of the flags for the first three competitors, the athletes' village, and the Olympic flame relay were but a few. More and more sport smen took part in the Games. The most famous Olympic champions of the time were Paavo Nurmi, Johnny Weissmuller, Mildred "Babe" Didrikson, Nedo Nadi and Lord Burghley.

The Games of the Xth Olympiad at Los Angeles marked an important stage. With the exception of St. Louis in 1904, where there were very few foreigners present, this was the first time that the Games left Europe. The world in 1932 was in the throes of an economic crisis. Nonetheless, thirty-eight nations travelled to California. A sports complex which was quite extraordinary for the time and included a swimming pool and a 100,000 seat stadium, the Memorial Coliseum, had been specially constructed. It was to serve yet again half a century later. The Memorial Coliseum is thus in 1984 the only one to have accommodated the opening and closing ceremonies on two occasions.

Then came the Berlin Games in August 1936. Another first—the organizers had the total support of the government. Hitler's Germany saw an opportunity to impress the entire world with the efficiency of their ideology. However, under the hard gaze of the Fuhrer, it was a black American, Jesse



**Opposite Page**  
**Antwerp 1920:**  
**Fencer, Buin (BEL),**  
**takes the first**  
**Olympic oath.**  
**Photo: Courtesy IOC**



**1932 Opening  
Ceremonies:  
Los Angeles  
Memorial Coliseum.  
Photo: Allsport**

**Opposite Page  
Paavo Nurmi (FIN)  
10,000M winner.  
Photo: Allsport**



the hard gaze of the Fuhrer, it was a black American, Jesse Owens, who carried off four gold medals in athletics while at the same time beating a world record and three Olympic records. Three years later, the second World War broke out. In the midst of the firing there was no question of organizing the Games planned for 1940 and 1944.

In the period between the wars, Olympism began a new adventure, quite foreign to the hot sun of Elida—the Winter Games. The first, recognized only a posteriori by the I.O.C.—were held at Chamonix, (France) bringing together 294 participants from 16 countries. A discreet beginning! But the importance of the “White Games” grew quickly. Celebrated in the same year as the Olympic Games, the Winter Games were open to every major winter sport with great success. The XVth Winter Games, which took place at Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) in February 1984, brought together 1,490 competitors representing 49 nations.

Let us return to the summer Olympic Games. Their history since the end of the last world conflict may be divided into two parts, the turning point being in 1960. From London (1948) to Melbourne (1956), via Helsinki (1952) the Games rapidly rediscovered their influence and growth. A record number of 58 nations and 4,072 athletes came to London, which had barely recovered from the war. The Soviet Union rejoined the Olympic Movement at the Helsinki games, which, in the eyes of many, were the purest of all.

Olympic universality was affirmed when the Games were held at Melbourne on a third continent, Oceania. The most famous champions of this period are Fanny-Blankers-Koen, Emil Zatopek, Bob Mathias, Wilma Rudolph, Pierre Jonquieres d'Oriola and Vladimir Kutz. In 1952, Avery Brundage was elected President of the International Olympic Committee, a post which he was to hold for twenty years. Pierre de Coubertin retired voluntarily in 1925 and was succeeded by the Belgian, Henri de Baillet Latour, who died in 1942 having heard that his son had been killed in action. His place was taken by the Swede, Sigfrid Edstrom.

Rome in July/August 1960, represented another turning point. Africa with its newly-emancipated nations made its entry into the Games. And for the first time the competitions were broadcast by television, a phenomenon which was to play an ever greater role. The next three celebrations, Tokyo (October 1964), Mexico (October 1968) and Munich (August-September 1972) were in tune with their times when economic growth seemed unbounded. Each of these Games surpassed every kind of record.

The athletes' performances, the infrastructures, broadcasting by the mass media, all of these continued to spiral up-

wards. Munich brought together 7,465 participants representing 123 nations, and its program covered 21 sports. Host cities devoted increasingly enormous budgets to organization and set up splendid integrated sports and communication complexes which brought them years ahead in terms of progress. Dawn Fraser, Mark Spitz and Roland Matthes in swimming; Al Oerter, Bob Beamon, Abebe Bikila, Kep Keino and Valery Borzov in athletics were the top ranking stars in sport at this time. Sadly, a tragic shadow was cast over the festivities at Munich by killing of thirteen people. The I.O.C. suspended competitions for a day and organized expiatory ceremonies in honour of the victims. From then on, the gigantic profile of the Games was to expose them to the temptations of violence.

From autumn 1973 onwards a worldwide petroleum shortage made itself felt and criticism grew of the “colossal” costs under which the Games labored. Candidates for their organization became few and far between. For very different reasons the Montreal Games (August-September 1976), the Moscow Games (August- September 1980) and the Los Angeles Games (July-August 1984) suffered boycotts of varying degrees. This did not prevent a crop of prodigious gold medals: Sara Simeoni, Olga Korbut, Irena Szewinska, Cornelia Ender, Daley Thompson, Edwin Moses and many others rendered performances that will long remain in our memories.

While some may hold doubts about the future of the Olympic Games, 139 nations and 7,458 athletes met in Los Angeles to celebrate the XXIIIrd Olympiad. It need hardly be pointed out that this is a record—one among many others which will be set during these Games.







IOC Members  
assembled for the  
first Olympic Games:  
Seated, Coubertin  
(FRA), Vikelas (GRE),  
Boutowski  
(URS), Standing,  
Gebhardt  
(FRG), Guth-Jarovsky  
(FRG), Kemeny  
(HUN), Balck (SWE).  
Photo: Courtesy IOC



Athens 1896:  
The Olympiad.  
Photo: Courtesy IOC

