

## Farewell to Edmonton Commonwealth Games

Culture overtook sport at the closing ceremonies of the XI Commonwealth Games on August 12, when some 250 dancers and singers of 27 Commonwealth countries streamed out of the Marathon Gate to take the stadium by storm in a performance for over 45,000 spectators and millions of television viewers round the world.

The pageant, made up of cultural groups from the festival that ran in Edmonton simultaneously with the Games, included Maoris waving spears, Samoans twirling flaming torches, Indian and Cypriot dancers, pounding Kenyan drums, and Welsh singers. Groups from every part of the world — Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and Oceania surged round the track in native costume in an exciting spectacle of colour and rhythm.

Following the performance came the parade of nations as representatives of the athletic contingents marched in a line of three abreast, with a line of their team members behind. The flag-bearer representative of Canada, for example, marched with that of Australia and New Zealand. This was an abbreviated version of the opening, where athletes from all nations had marched as groups.



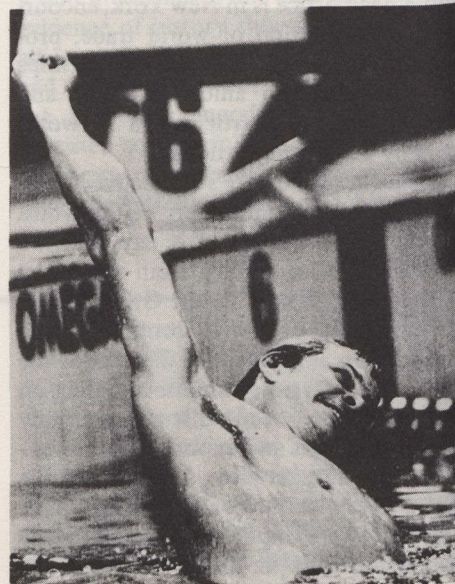
Athletes from various competing countries join hands for Auld Lang Syne at the close of the XI Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, on August 12.

With all nations in, hundreds of performers in white, blue and orange capes rushed onto the field and formed lines showing the design of the Games symbol. After a salute to the volunteers — thousands who had helped towards the success of the Games — came the skirl of pipes, and the massed pipes and drums entered the stadium to take part in the closing. The Commonwealth Games flag was struck, to be held in safe keeping for its journey to Brisbane in 1982, then Prince Philip officially closed the Games: "...in the name of the Commonwealth Games Federation, I declare the XI Commonwealth Games, Edmonton, Canada, 1978, closed and, in accordance with tradition, I call upon the sportsmen and women of the Commonwealth to assemble in Brisbane, Australia in 1982, to celebrate the XII Commonwealth Games...."

Although it was all over, no one wanted to leave. Athletes and entertainers surged back and forth on the track, singing, shouting, dancing, until they finally joined hands to sing *Auld Lang Syne* time and time again. "See you in 1982 in Brisbane", read the big electronic scoreboard; so ended the 1978 Edmonton Commonwealth Games.

## Canada shines at Games

Canadian athletes won most of the medals at the XI Commonwealth Games that ended in Edmonton, August 12 — 45 gold, 31 silver, 33 bronze — and collected 888 points denoting placings in the first six competitors to finish.



An exuberant Graham Smith after the 100-metre breaststroke event, August 9, in which he won his fifth gold medal in a time of 1:03:81. He and his team mates, Jay Tap, Dan Thompson and Bill Sawchuk, won the men's 4 x 100 medley relay in a record Commonwealth Games time of 3:49:76, assuring Smith of his sixth gold medal — another Games record.

Swimmer Graham Smith was the star of the Games with a total of six gold medals won in the new \$8.7-million aquatic centre named in memory of his late father, Donald Smith. It was a Commonwealth Games record for the 20-year-old native of Edmonton, who is a business student at the University of California. In all, the Canadian swimming team won 15 gold medals, seven silver and ten bronze.

Track events, badminton and lawn bowling were the sports in which Canada did not shine. Toronto cyclist Jocelyn Lovell won three gold medals. Four more came in shooting and, in gymnastics, Canada won gold medals in every event. Six golds were won in wrestling, two in boxing, among the eight medals won in the latter.

The last gold medal won by a Canadian came on the final day when Phil Olsen of Nanaimo, British Columbia,