



The XI Commonwealth Games

Edmonton, August 3-12, 1978

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The Commonwealth Games "shall be merrier and less stern, and will substitute the stimulus of a novel adventure for the pressure of international rivalry". That is how Canadian M.M. (Bobby) Robinson proposed the games to amateur sports leaders at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. And so these games became known as "The Friendly Games": with the emphasis on individual competition—man against man, woman against woman, rather than nation versus nation.

As originally conceived, these games were designed to permit top class athletes from what are now the Commonwealth countries to enjoy the challenge of individual competition with their peers in an atmosphere free of international rivalry and without a confusing proliferation of events. As the number of members in the Commonwealth family grew with the emergence of independent Asian, African and Caribbean nations, the competition grew more challenging and the games took on added prestige. It is no exaggeration to say that today the Commonwealth games rank among the top world sports competitions for individuals.

So it is that from August 3-12, 1978 the Commonwealth sporting community will come together for the eleventh time, this time in Edmonton, Alberta just as it had first, in Hamilton, Ontario in 1930, in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1954 and in eight other cities of Commonwealth countries over the past 50 years. It is indeed fitting that the country where the games originated—CANADA—also has the opportunity to host their 50th anniversary, two years early since the true date falls between games celebrations.

While the Commonwealth Games have grown considerably in terms of the number of participating athletes and world wide interest, their basic structure remains unchanged. However, one addition does occur in 1978. Although to date the games consisted of only nine different sports, Canada was asked to consider a tenth event and chose gymnastics because of its increasing popularity and also because, in the spirit of the games, it is a sport which can be

continued by devotees through much of a life time.

The ten amateur sports which will be presented in Edmonton are:

Athletics	Lawn Bowls
Badminton	Shooting
Boxing	Swimming and Diving
Cycling	Weightlifting
Gymnastics	Wrestling

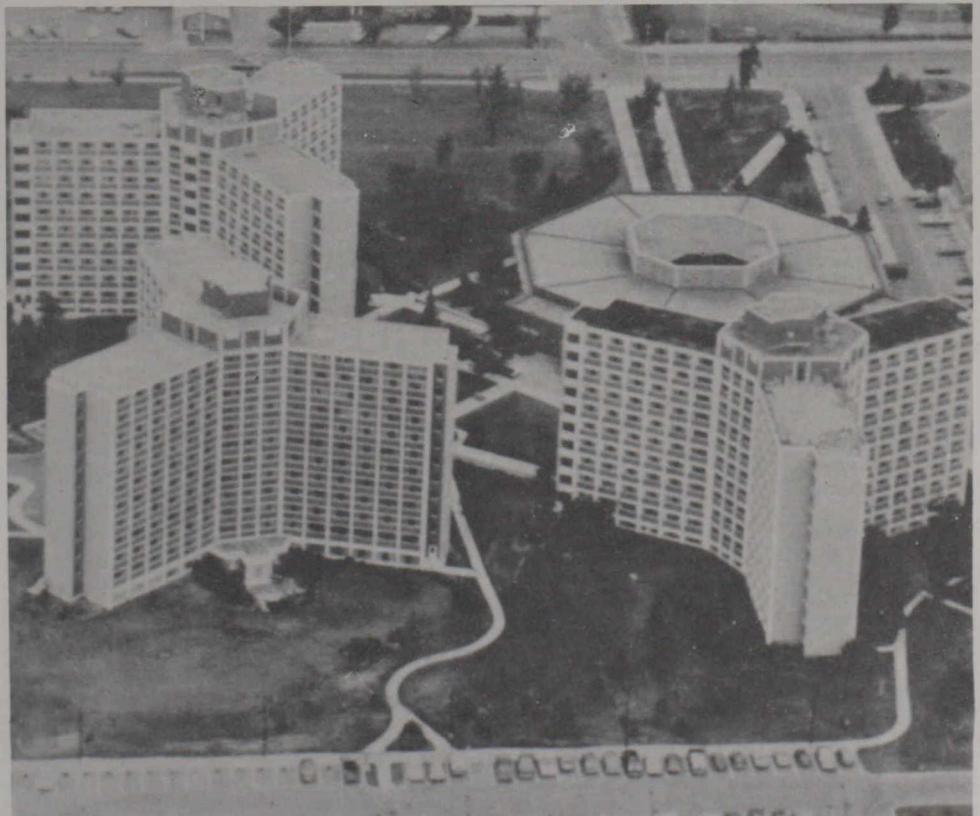
For the interest and entertainment of the visiting nations, Canada has chosen Lacrosse, the game of its original people, as a demonstration sport.

One of the keys that opened the door to Edmonton's hosting of the Commonwealth games was the presence of an "Instant Athletes' Village" in that city. The Lister Hall Residential complex on the University of Alberta campus consists of three ten-storey bedroom towers capable of housing up to 2,000 athletes and all linked by underground passage-way to a two-floor hall housing food and general services. In addition to a lounge, showers and washroom facilities on each floor of each wing of the three towers, other amenities such as laundry services, recreation rooms, a post office

and local transportation terminals will be readily available to the participating athletes. With no more than two athletes to a bedroom, the accommodation at the Edmonton Games will be second to none.

Added to the attractiveness of the living quarters is the proximity of training venues for the athletes. Since the Village is located on the University of Alberta campus, the University's full complement of sports facilities will be at the disposal of all athletes. A number of training sites will be located on the campus while other practice venues will be situated a short walking distance from the competition sites. In all, over 30 sites will be made available to the athletes for practice purposes.

In hosting the Games, the city of Edmonton, in addition to its excellent existing facilities, will also provide through a capital construction programme an outdoor stadium, an aquatic centre, a velodrome, lawn bowling facilities with clubhouse and a shooting range. The construction programme, which is supported through grants from the Government of Canada, the province



The "Instant Athletes' Village" will be able to accommodate up to 2000 people in convenient, comfortable surroundings.