

# The Moscow Olympics: A Personal Encounter

Those who at all care have long since found out who won what events at the Moscow Olympics. Few of us, however, have talked with anyone who was there and saw more than the games.

Sandy Smith of the Gazette recently interviewed two Halifax residents, Derek and David Tissington, about what they saw during their stay in the U. S. S. R.

One must remember that these men are not experts about sport or the Olympics and have been asked only to give their opinions and impressions.

Gazette: Okay, let's, as they say, get down to the nitty gritty. As far as you could tell when you were there, did the boycott seem to work

Derek Tissington: Well, I'll speak from my own personal point of view as I saw it...I am convinced that the boycott didn't work, as I saw it. I have no doubt that there must have been some loss of income in Russia as a result of maybe twenty thousand Americans that had planned to go and didn't go and of the forty-five hundred Canadians that had initially said they would go and only four hundred going, I have no doubt there was a loss of income. But from a Games point of view, from a general reaction of the public, as I saw it, visiting my first Olympic games, it was nothing but excitement.

Gazette: Here on our side of the Atlantic it seemed that the stories in the American Press were quite...perhaps we could say...sensational. It seemed that they went out of their way to make it seem that there were Soviets were westerners there to hear and see their protests. Did you see any of these protests?

Derek Tissington: ...No, in all truthfulness there was no protesting as I could see it, or as my son could see it. As a matter of fact we found that Russian people, per se, that is the man on the street, was just as nice to us as we would be to them if they were over here.

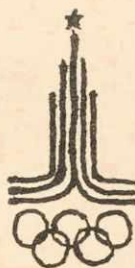
There was, no doubt, a lot of press talk...and I wouldn't say propaganda...Before we went we were a little concerned that we would be restricted in our activities, we would see nothing but armed troops with our point of view, there was nothing further from the truth.

I would like to reiterate one thing, there were a lot of police in their white jackets, there were a lot of uniformed soldiers...but I can honestly say that the whole time that we were in Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev, we never saw a gun.

“...as I saw it...the boycott didn't work...”

Gazette: Did anyone seem interested in the west as to why the U.S. and Canada and some of the other nations weren't at the games?

Derek Tissington: No, I don't think that I can recollect anybody ever intimating any problems or even any discussion at all about why the western nations, or any other nations, because I think we had eastern nations, that didn't get themselves involved, i.e. Japan. I think the only conversation we had was between a morning period of the Olympics outside Lenin Stadium where my son and I were having our brunch, when we were joined by a Russian policeman...(he) spoke a damn side better English than we spoke Russian, that I can assure you. I have no idea what his rank was, he had five stars on his shoulder...He asked us specifically what we thought of the games, what we thought was happening, and again it was very pleasant, he seemed to have a fair understanding, within reason, of what was going on in...ah, on the North American continent. He talked about President Carter, he talked about Mr. Reagan, asked us if we had any idea as to who might get the Presidency nod. Of course we couldn't answer him



because we don't know. He mentioned Mr. Trudeau, he mentioned Mr. Clark, and surprisingly enough, for a very brief moment, he mentioned the problems that we might be facing with the province of Quebec.

Q: Did day to day life seem any different in the Soviet Union than ours here in Canada?

A: Oh well, that's a tall one... People move around, they seem to be unobstructed, they go about their way. In Moscow I found the people somewhat drab... the ladies in their dress design appear to be about thirty five years behind the times. They didn't appear to smile too much, but maybe that is the nature of their way of life. But, they went around, doing what they had to do. Being an old retailer, I must tell you this, I have never seen such an amazing system of retail life in all my life. Everybody queues, it doesn't matter what you want, they queue for it. And if nothing else I will say that they are extremely patient, and well disciplined.

“...all of the Canadians agreed...our athletes missed out...”

Gazette: I guess getting back to the political question of the games, do you think that Canada should have sent a team?

Derek Tissington: Well...you know, I don't wish to be political, and I'm not political. I said this when I was over there. But I think most of the other Canadians, in fact all of the Canadians agreed on one common thing, that our athletes missed out. The American athletes missed out. I think they were missed at the games. I think it was really a pity that they weren't there.

David Tissington: I think everybody from the western world missed out on everything. All the audiences that were going to watch and everything missed out on quite an event.

Gazette: Is there anything that you'd like to add that we haven't already mentioned in the interview that struck you about your trip?

David Tissington: I'd like to mention about the people there how friendly we found them. Dad didn't mention it when you asked about how...ah, if we talked to them or not, there was a lady, an instance when we were at the Winter Palace, and...an elderly lady...missed our bus, and her purse was on the bus, and she had no way to get to the hotel and didn't know how, and a Russian woman helped her and took her on the trolley and transferred everywhere she had to and gave her money.

Gazette: Well if you gentlemen have nothing further to say...

(Derek Tissington): May I say one more thing?

Gazette: Certainly you may.

Derek Tissington: Truthfully, I would like to say that there was no restriction as far as we could see. We went into Moscow, during the day, during the night, and we were in no way apprehended by anybody at anytime wherever we wanted to go.

We had people in our group that had been to the Olympic games in Tokyo, Mexico City, Montreal, and one gentleman who had seen them all had nothing but good to say about the organization, the crowd control, the discipline and the way the games were run generally. He had seen most of the closing ceremonies, we hadn't. All we had seen was Montreal on TV and Tokyo on TV, which we thought were great, but seeing the Moscow closing I can say without a doubt that it was a very, very exciting and...it truly was just a remarkable experience, don't you agree David.

David Tissington: Yes it was, very worthwhile seeing.

## Soccer Tigers score mild upset

by Sandy Smith

The Dalhousie men's soccer team planned, according to coach Terry McDonald, "to get on top early and then batten down the hatches" against UNB this past weekend in Fredericton. Batten down the hatches they did as they hatched out to a 2-0 lead before the half, and won the game 2-1.

McDonald said the win was an especially gratifying one

when you consider that, in the coaches estimation, "UNB was the best team in the AUAA last year. They had nine wins, no losses, and two ties and only allowed four goals all year. And they only lost two players from that team. So, to beat them at home...was something."

Phil Hill scored both of the goals for the Tigers. His first came with only five minutes gone in the game. He scored

again before the half, and coach McDonald said that after that, "It was over."

The coach was eager to point out that playing such a defensive game, "puts pressure on the club's defensive squad." He added that, "Greg Forbes, in goal, was outstanding, and Jack Hutchinson, the stopper, was just outstanding too."

In his final comments the Tigers' mention said, "UNB is a

very big team — a tall team. One of the secrets to our success was our beating them in the air. Both goals resulted from us winning balls out of the air that their taller players should have gotten. Dave Riddell, Ron Robinson, and Phil Hill were the players doing this best."

The Tigers second game is here Saturday against Memorial at two. This game should be another tough test

for the team as Memorial is one of the best teams in the conference. The Tigers also play again Sunday, this time hosting UPEI at one.



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