



Photo: Athlete Information Bureau and Canadian Olympic Association



Canada fields its largest team in Commonwealth Games

Back in 1934 few people paid attention to an 18-year-old girl from the Canadian prairies as she plunged into the Wembley pool during a training session for the Empire Games.

However, before the week was out, the name of Phyllis Dewar was a household name. She had taken four gold medals — the 100 and 400 yards freestyle, the 300 yard medley and the 400 yard relay. She was crowned Canada's golden girl of the games, and woman athlete of the year.

Since those days Canada's athletes have been well to the fore in international competition, not only in the Empire and Commonwealth Games, but the Olympics as well.

There's Alex Baumann, for instance, who picked up two gold medals in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, both in world record time. And his teammates Victor Davis, who won gold and broke a world record in the 200m breaststroke as well as winning a silver in the 100m breaststroke and 4x100m medley relay; and Anne Ottenbrite, who carried off gold, silver and bronze.

Another star at Los Angeles was the darling of the springboard, Sylvie Bernier, who became the first Canadian to win a gold in an Olympic diving event.

The 1984 Olympics was Canada's best ever, not only in water sports but in other events as well. We collected a total of 44 medals — 10 gold, 18 silver and 16 bronze.

Many of these medal winners will be again sniffing for gold when the Commonwealth Games open in Edinburgh on July 24.

The Canadian team will be made up of some 400 athletes and officials, second only in size to the English contingent. They will be participating in all ten competitive events, as well as the demonstration sports of judo and canoeing.

The Commonwealth Games have come a long way since they were inaugurated as 'The Empire Games' in Hamilton, Ontario in 1930, when eleven countries sent some 400 athletes to compete in six competitive events.

This year the Edinburgh Games will attract a family of 58 nations and territories, some 2,500 athletes and officials, with over 500,000 spectators.

And there will be gold, silver and bronze awaiting the athletes with the skill, determination and endeavour to show the way.



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Canada is sending some 400 competitors to the Commonwealth Games, second only in size to the English team. Above Alex Baumann proudly leads the Canadian team at the Los Angeles Olympics. It was a golden occasion for Alex in more ways than one.

As the cheers of 'Go Canada, Go' reverberate around the stadium and arenas of the Edinburgh Games, there'll still be the occasional critic ready to argue that the athletes of today are not what they used to be.

But proof of the pudding is in the eating and as records are smashed year after year, most heroes of the past are but shadows compared to the scientifically trained athletes of today.

Nevertheless, there are exceptions, and Montreal-born Louis Cyr is among them. Cyr died eight years before weightlifting was introduced into the 1920 Olympics, but he was a legend in his lifetime.

Billed as the "strongest man in the world" he was lionized wherever he went, particularly in London, where his showmanship, charm and friendly manner made him an instant success.



Photo: Athlete Information Bureau and Canadian Olympic Association

Canada's handicapped athletes are always well to the fore in international events and a large contingent will be participating in this Summer's wheelchair games at Stoke Mandeville.

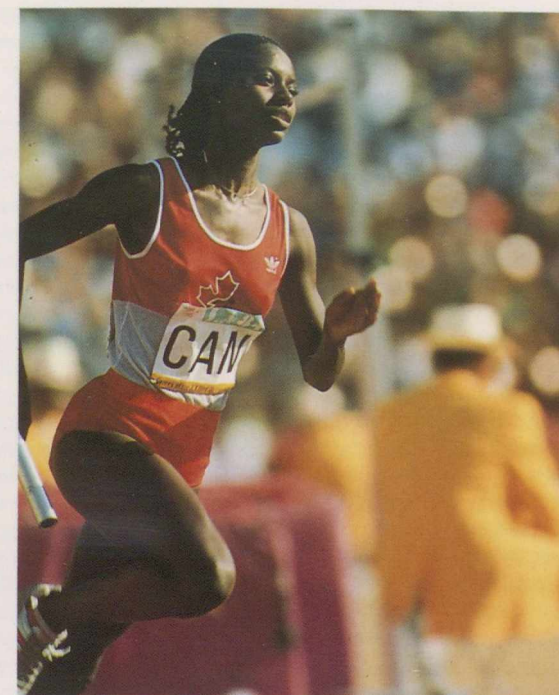


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Marita Payne has been one of Canada's top sprinters for several years. In 1982 she received a government of Canada sport excellence award.

In fact, in 1889, before a capacity theatre crowd of 5000, including the Prince of Wales, he lifted a 551-pound weight with one finger, lifted 4,100 pounds on a platform stretched across his back, lifted 273 1/4 pounds with one hand to his shoulder and then above his head, and lifted to his shoulder with one hand a barrel of cement weighing 314 pounds.

Later, the Marquis of Queensberry, who was the father of modern boxing, suggested that two of his horses should be hitched to Cyr's arms, and if the French-Canadian could hold them to a standstill, he could keep one of the horses.

Queensberry, a true betting man, kept his shirt but lost his horse.

Sport has always played a prominent part in Canadian life and sports personalities have received more accolades than many a prime minister.

From the legendary hockey genius of Howie Morenz to today's super star Wayne Gretsky; from Canada's first world heavyweight boxing champion Tommy Burns and welterweight Jimmy McLarnin to old time marathon runner Tom Longboat, who outran the immortal Italian Dorando Pietrie, Canadians can always come up with names to include in the Halls of Fame.

For sport and competitive spirit is part of the Canadian way of life. And over the years if a game or event failed to fit in with climatic or any other conditions, Canadians always had the know-how to invent their own. As a result, ice-hockey, basketball and North American football all had their start in Canada. As did lacrosse, which was developed from the Canadian Indian game of baggataway.

But wherever one goes, from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific, one can find national games from many countries still being played.

In Ontario alone there are over 100 cricket clubs,



Photo: Athlete Information Bureau and Canadian Olympic Association

Curt Harnett shows his paces as one of Canada's top cyclists. The 6ft 1" native of Thunder Bay, Ontario, was the recipient of Canada's most outstanding cyclist award for four consecutive seasons.

most of them in the Toronto area, and Canada recently sent a team to compete in an International Cricket Conference in the Midlands. Soccer, too, is played from coast to coast and received a boost this year when, for the first time ever, Canada earned a place in the World Cup in Mexico.

A form of Rugby — the fifteen-a-side variety — was probably introduced into Canada around 1823 by British Garrison troops and members of the Royal Navy and the game developed in many parts of the country, particularly in British Columbia.

But ice hockey and Canadian football still take pride of place with national titles at stake in both games — the Grey Cup for football and the Stanley Cup for ice hockey. Both trophies were presented by former governors-general.

Lord Stanley purchased his trophy in 1892 for ten guineas (\$50.00 at the time), but as clubs spend millions in their chase for the title the Cup must now be the most valuable piece of silverware in Canadian sports history.

The winners reckon Lord Stanley got a bargain!



Photo: Athlete Information Bureau and Canadian Olympic Association

Ice hockey is still Canada's No 1 national sport but over the years Scandinavian and East European countries have proven worthy opponents.



The Stanley Cup.