

Canada Weekly

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 12, No. 31
September 5 1984

Canadian Olympians win record
44 medals, 1

Southeast Asia first destination of new
External Affairs minister, 4

Hi-tech wheelchair a valuable asset
to the handicapped, 4

Natural gas pipeline, 5

New stamps mark visit of Pope
John Paul II, 5

Supercomputer for Calgary, 5

Tridon auto products thrive overseas, 6

News of the arts — exhibit, 7

News briefs, 8

Canadian Olympians win record 44 medals

Ottawa's Linda Thom set the stage for Canada's surge to fourth place in over-all medal standings and third in unofficial point standings among the 140 nations participating at the twenty-third Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles this year. Her gold-medal victory provided the inspiration for Canadian athletes and established the momentum that pushed the team to its greatest Olympic showing ever.

Defying her ranking of seventh in the world, Linda Thom beat American Ruby Fox in a dramatic one-point shoot-off to win the gold medal in the women's sports-pistol event on the first day of Olympic competition. It was the first time women's pistol events were included in the Summer Games and Linda Thom became the first woman ever to win a shooting gold medal at the Olympics. Her gold medal was also Canada's first gold medal in Los Angeles, the first won by Canada at the Summer Games since 1968 and the first by a Canadian woman since 1928.

By the end of the competition Canada's total of 44 medals — 10 gold, 18 silver and 16 bronze — was greater than the total of all the Canadian medals won from 1948 to 1976 inclusive. As the Olympic Games progressed, the momentum of the Canadian athletes continued to grow and, on August 11, the day before the closing ceremonies, Canada's Olympians captured a record 11 medals to equal the total won during the entire 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

Commenting on the effort by the Canadian team, John Lecky, the chef de mission said they "have been over-achievers" and there was "a higher percentage of our athletes in the top half of the field than in any regional or world games". In all, Canadians finished in the top eight in 113 events.

Swimming

The Canadian swim team led the drive for medals amassing a total of ten medals, four gold, three silver and three bronze. Alex Baumann of Sudbury won two gold medals



Linda Thom of Ottawa won the gold medal in the women's sports-pistol event at the twenty-third Olympic Summer Games in Los Angeles this August. She was the first woman to win this new event in the Olympics and the first Canadian to win a gold medal.

and established new world and Olympic records of 4:17.41 in the 400-metre individual medley and 2:13.34 in the 200-metre individual medley. Victor Davis of Waterloo, Ontario, captured the gold in the 200-metre breaststroke in 2:13.34, shattering his previous world record, and Anne Ottenbrite of Whitby, Ontario, won the other gold medal in the 200-metre breaststroke to become the first Canadian woman swimmer to take an Olympic gold.

Silver medallists included Victor Davis in the 100-metre breaststroke, Anne Ottenbrite in the 100-metre breaststroke and the men's team of Mike West and Victor Davis of Waterloo, Tom Ponting of Calgary and Sandy Goss of Toronto in the 4x100 medley race. Bronze medals were won by Cameron Henning of Edmonton in the 200-metre backstroke, Mike West in



External Affairs
Canada

Affaires extérieures
Canada