



Russ Prior is Canada's premier weight lifter, ranking fourth in the world. He won three gold medals in the 1975 Pan-Am Games.



Fanny Rosenfeld was part of Canada's marvelously successful women's track team in 1928. She won a silver medal in the 100-metre dash and was a member of the gold medal relay team.

Paris. Subcontractors were baffled by the arcane details, and for weeks cranes, trucks and workers stood idly by while the engineers puzzled over them. The work, once begun, was often interrupted by strikes — seventeen weeks of production were lost by the end of 1975.

Five workmen died in a series of tragic accidents. In August of 1975 a precast concrete beam fell seventy feet. In February 1976 a support beam fell at the swimming pool site. In March a hollow concrete slab crashed down.

A twenty-one-foot high concrete tube, one of thirty-six in the "technical ring" housing wiring for lighting and communications, was found to be six inches short of junction. Bad weather stopped work twice — once blizzard winds gusted to sixty miles an hour and the temperature fell to -30°C (-22°F).

But by early spring, hope was blooming. Dr. Victor Goldbloom, of the Olympic Installation Board, choosing the word carefully, said the stadium would be "ready" in time for the Games. He was correct.

By late March the basic structures were complete. On Easter weekend 175,000 Montrealers visited Olympic Park and inspected the principal buildings. The stadium proper, an elliptical doughnut supported by thirty-six cantilever beams, was large enough to hold St. Paul's Cathedral. It lacked

what was to have been its most prominent feature — a retractable silver roof hoisted by cables hanging from a leaning tower — but it had the hemisphere's most magnificent swimming pool housed in the base of its tower. There was also the cycling arena — the Velodrome — looking like a gigantic seashell tossed up from the oceans of space. The Olympic Village had four handsome apartment houses shaped like slices of a pyramid.

The Easter weekend visitors were enthusiastic. Arthur Takac, who has been directly involved in the Olympics since he was a member of the Yugoslavian team in 1936, believes, "the stadium creates a unique unity between spectators and athletes. . . . In the last three years my European colleagues have thought me overly optimistic about the Montreal Olympics. Now, with three months to go, they concede I have been realistic all along."

The United States' gold medal high jumper Dwight Stones says the Olympic Village is "much better than at Munich. . . . neater, more functional. There's room to breathe."

The *Journal de Montréal* summed up the spring-time feelings of many who had predicted disaster last winter — "the miracles multiply."

Hope Springs

Paul Poce coaches the Canadian distance runners. Below are his cautious prophecies of things to come:

Q. How well will Canada's athletes perform?

A. We are living in the land of hope. We have some who quite conceivably are going to be well up there, but there are only 474 medals and there are 11,000 [sic.] athletes. Our best chances are

with our relay teams. We've used the European method of picking a team well in advance. These boys and girls have been together for about a year and have done tremendously well. The men's relay is strongest in the sprint, 400 metres, and the women's in the 1,600-metre.

Q. You've mentioned runners, how are the jumpers shaping up?