

MEDAL HOPES FOR CANADA'S OLYMPIC TEAM

Canada's 306-member Olympic team includes 16 medalists from the 1992 Barcelona Games and 11 current world champions.

Canada carried home 18 medals from Barcelona—seven gold, four silver and seven bronze, and many of the medalists are competing in Atlanta. Sylvie Fréchette, a member of this year's synchronized swimming team, won a gold for the solo event in 1992. Cyclist Curt Harnett won a bronze in the individual sprint in Barcelona and placed second in the 1995 world championships. Nicolas Gill, entered in the 86-kg judo competition, won a bronze in 1992 as did the yachting pair of Ross MacDonald and Eric Jespersen and the men's 100-metre relay swimming team.

One of the most anticipated races this year in Atlanta is the men's 100-metre athletics (track and field) sprint. It will pit Canadians Donovan Bailey and Bruny Surin, who placed first and second in the 100-metres at the 1995 world championships, against American Dennis Mitchell, who came in third, and the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, Linford Christie of Great Britain. Bailey won the 100-metres at the Canadian athletics championships last year with the fastest time recorded to date, 9.91 seconds, a record recently broken by Namibia's Frankie Fredericks, who ran it in 9.86 seconds. Dennis Mitchell's best time is 9.92. Donovan Bailey and Bruny Surin are also members of the world-champion 100-metre relay team. The individual



Canapress Photo/Ron Palang

The Canadian women's eights team with coxswain captured a gold medal in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

100-metre final will be run in Atlanta on July 27 and the 100-metre relay final on August 3. Canada's Michael Smith, who placed third in the decathlon at the 1995 worlds, is also in contention for an Olympic medal.

Canadian rowers are expected to do well this year, after collecting four golds and a bronze in Barcelona. The women's team includes Marnie McBean and Kathleen Heddle, who paired to win a gold medal in the double sculls in Barcelona as well as in the 1995 world championships. They are also on the quadruple sculls team, which ranks second in the world. Silken Laumann, who won a bronze in the 1992 women's single sculls, will compete again, as will Wendy Wiebe and Colleen Miller, who

placed first in the world in the lightweight double sculls in 1993, 1994 and 1995. Both the Canadian women's eights and fours teams won golds in Barcelona as did the men's eights. The rowing events will be held July 21-28 in Gainesville, Georgia.

Canada's 1996 Olympic contingent also includes a pair of fencing brothers, Jean-Paul and Jean-Marie Banos, who will compete against each other in the sabre class; husband-and-wife Joanne and Bill Abbott, who are teaming up with Brad Boston in the yachting competition, soling class (27-foot single-masted boats); and show jumper Ian Miller, a member of Canada's national equestrian team for 25 years.

Canada

CANADA QUARTERLY

Canadian Embassy
501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel.: (202) 682-1740
Fax: (202) 682-7791

Edited by Judith Webster
Designed by Sharon Musikar

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