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The Montreal Olympics

JULY 17-AUGUST 1, 1976





Diane Jones finished 10th at Munich in 1972 but she's been improving ever since. In the 1975 Pan-Am Games she won a gold medal.

The Montreal Olympics

THE XXI Olympiad will begin, breathlessly and splendidly, July 17 in Montreal.

They will be games to remember. Two new Olympic records have been set before the torch is lit. Over 9,000 athletes will compete and a half-million spectators will watch.

Other records and precedents will be set. Coaches believe, for example, that most of the current swimming records will be broken. Women will play basketball and handball for the first time as part of an official Olympic program, and there will be two new yachting and four new canoeing events held at Kingston.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we consider the perilous development of the Montreal Games — the building of the extraordinary stadium and the problems met and conquered along the way.

We report on the prospects of Canadian and other athletes and on the past and putative future. We hear from a charming jumper named Debbie Brill, offer concise information on Olympic coins and list some odd facts about some of the less known Olympic competitions.

To those who will come to watch the Games in July we offer an early welcome, and to those who will be racing, leaping, swimming and striving against time and other strong young men and women we say, "bonne chance."

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The Olympics Considered as Political Exercise



Baron Pierre de Coubertin conceived the modern Olympics in pursuit of peace.

"We shall not have peace," he wrote, "until the prejudice which now separates the different races shall have been outlived."

The first modern Games were in Athens in 1896, and they achieved the Baron's intent: 285 young men from thirteen countries learned to measure each other by uncomplicated and friendly standards. They also served an incidental purpose. The Greek Royal Family, newly enthroned and of Germanic origin, saw an opportunity to identify with the glories of the Grecian past. The Crown Prince headed the Organizing Committee.

Since then the Games have grown enormously. Lord Killanin, President of the International Olympic Committee, says, "they have attained importance relative to the real size of the planet."

David B. Kanin, a graduate student at Tufts, suggests in a paper, "The Role of Sport in the International System" (presented before the International Studies Association in Toronto last February), that they have also acquired another purpose. He says, "politics are intrinsic to the sporting process" and considers the Olympics as a practical extension of diplomacy. He notes that

the track and field meets between the United States and the Soviet Union became a way of moving away from Cold War positions.

He also believes that the most significant participants in the Olympics are the spectators and notes that in the course of six decades spectators all over the world have learned to tune in directly, first by radio, then through television (between 900 million and a billion viewers are expected this summer). He says, "the mass public takes instant notice of contests between teams or individuals from friendly or hostile states" and "governments can use the identification between athlete and state to demonstrate the temper of relations between the countries involved."

Kanin believes that the link between the Olympics and politics is as fundamental as the one between a pole vaulter and his pole, but the young men and women participants still measure each other primarily by courage, stamina and achievements. Harold M. Wright, President of the Canadian Olympic Association, believes the Games "transcend many of the problems facing the nations of the world today." Ethologist Konrad Lorenz has written that the Games are "virtually the only occasion when the anthem of one nation can be played without arousing any hostility against another."

MANITOBA FREE PRESS
AUGUST 15, 1912

Hodgson Returns to Canada

G. R. Hodgson, winner of the world's swimming championships at the Olympic meet, returned to Canada this evening. . . .

Smilingly Hodgson acknowledged the compliments showered upon him by those who managed to get aboard the Royal George and search him out, but he was very modest about his achievements.

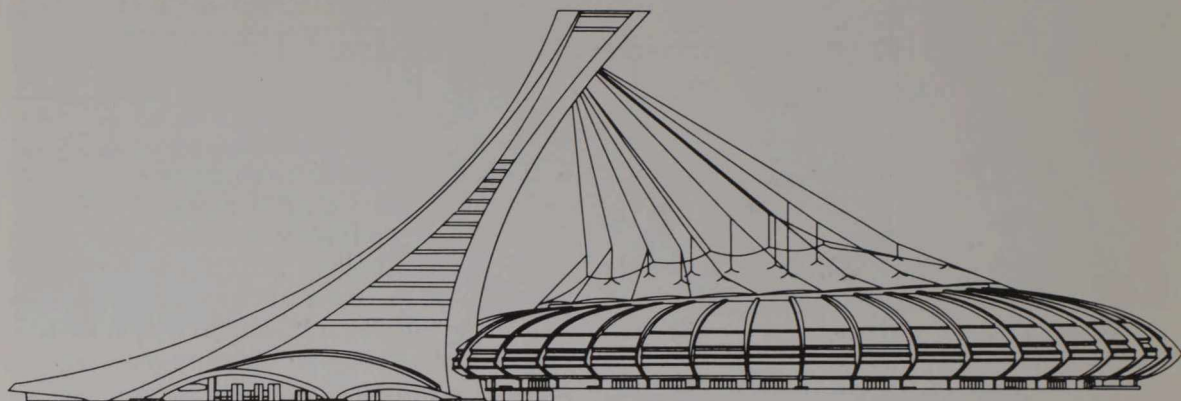
PRESCOTT TELEGRAPH, 1879

Football

Ottawa Young Ladies to the Front

There are six young ladies in the city of Ottawa, at present all unknown to fame, who are desirous of acquiring a reputation as athletes, and one of them has written us to say that they are willing to challenge any six young ladies in this town to a game of football, for a silver cup. We give their request publicity, but do not think there are any young ladies in Prescott who are ambitious to become champion football kickers.

The Plan, the Present and the Future



In May 1970, Montreal bid for the 1976 Olympics. It was one of three.

Los Angeles, site of the enormously successful Games of 1932, had solid financial arrangements, and Moscow had its huge stadium already in place.

Montreal had a plan and Mayor Jean Drapeau, a man with the natural energy of Hydro-Québec. The city made an electrifying proposal — it would produce an Olympics which would pay for itself. Many of the twenty-five sites to be used would require only slight modifications. It would show that a sizeable city in any country, rich or poor, could aspire to be the Olympic host.

Drapeau and his associates lobbied well. Montreal had produced the aesthetic and innovative triumph of Expo '67, perhaps the most successful World's Fair ever held. On the first ballot the members of the International Olympic Committee gave Moscow 28 votes, Montreal 24 and Los Angeles 17. On the second Montreal got 41, Moscow 28. The Mayor estimated the total cost of the Games at \$310 million — a sum that he believed could be easily matched by revenues from a lottery

and the sale of tickets, TV rights, memorial coins and stamps.

This concept was overwhelmed — by construction difficulties, by a harsh winter and by the brutal inflation of the seventies. The total cost rose to more than \$1.2 billion. The cost of some components soared thirtyfold. (The anticipated revenues rose too, though not enough to cancel out the cost inflation. The lottery is doing remarkably well; by March, sales had reached \$169 million — they had only been expected to reach a total of \$32 million — and the sale of Olympic coins had produced \$54 million to be used for construction of Olympic facilities. The sale of TV rights amounted to about \$65 million.)

The Montreal City Council borrowed heavily through short-term notes, but it was clear that it could not underwrite the expanding cost alone.

In November 1975, the Olympics Installation Board of the Province of Quebec took over the responsibility and Provincial Municipal Affairs Minister Victor Goldbloom became its moving force. The fiscal picture became clearer, though not

Drawing: The stadium as it eventually will look. The leaning tower is to be completed after the Games. Left: The Velodrome, site for cycling and judo competitions. Right: The Yachting Centre at Kingston. There will be six classes of yacht competing — Tornado, Flying Dutchman, 470, Soling, Finn and Tempest





Top: The uniquely splendid stadium complex in April as it entered the last stages of construction. Bottom: The Stadium in March.

markedly rosy. Premier Robert Bourassa estimated a \$750 million deficit — a conservative estimate.

The hope for a self-financing Olympics unfortunately vanished. Innsbruck's Winter Olympics expenses were nearly four times the original estimates. Munich, which spent some \$830 million (about three times the estimated cost) on the 1972 Summer Olympics, is still deeply in debt and the financing of future Olympics remains a puzzle. Moscow has its facilities already in place for the 1980 Games, but only the richest of countries (and no city alone) can build in the style of recent de-

cares. Perhaps, in the future, several countries could share a single Olympics. Perhaps the Games could rotate among cities which already have Olympic plants. Perhaps, though it seems improbable, they could return, if not to the simplicity of Athens in 1896, at least to the modesty of the Los Angeles games of 1932.

Perhaps the world could build, jointly, a permanent international centre, where athletes could compete every four years in the essential Olympic spirit at games presented without undue national emphasis.

The Plant

Every Sunday afternoon last winter, a funeral procession of Montrealers drove slowly down Sherbrooke Street past the projecting ribs of the unfinished Olympic stadium. They saw muddy fields, massed machinery, cold workmen and — if

they were reasonably pessimistic — impossible difficulties ahead. The XXI Olympiad was clearly in trouble.

The problems began in 1974 with the intricate stadium designed by architect Robert Taillibert of



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?

CANADIAN SPORT MONTHLY
AUGUST, 1948

The Worst Olympics

This writer would like to be devoting this space to a word of congratulations to Canadian athletes who had gone abroad this past month and returned with Olympic honours. . . . Sadly, we cannot do this! Canada with a few paltry points to show for sending some 107 individuals to the Games in London has a second in canoeing and fifth in sailing.



Debbie Brill goes over the bar in her own particular way, head first, feet last.

A. We have six who made the Olympic standards, and we will take three out of those six. We haven't had that kind of depth in the past. The possibility of a medal is pretty good.

Q. *What countries are strongest in track and field?*

A. The Americans should come out on top. They didn't rank too well last year in some of their events, but they seem to get mobilized every four years and come up with something. The Russian team, strangely enough, has been — well not ex-

actly on the decline — but they certainly haven't been showing the kind of strength they showed five, six or eight years ago. The big surprise could be East Germany, their women in particular are far ahead of everybody else.

Q. *Are new records likely this summer?*

A. I think there will be some track records broken this year, I think a few records are ready to go, the 400-metre is probably one and the 800-metre another, quite conceivably the 1,500 and 5,000 could go.

Debbie Returns After Thinking Things Over

*There is — in spite of everyone's good intentions — a certain tension associated with high level sports. It irritates many young athletes and devastates some. Ms. Debbie Brill is one of the world's best high jumpers. She did not enjoy the 1972 Olympics and she decided enough was enough. But she changed her mind — a little. The article below includes quotes from *The Summer Before*, a film produced by COJO (Comité Organisateur des Jeux Olympiques de 1976) and *The Royal Bank*.*

Debbie Brill was once the third best high jumper in the world. Five years ago she became a national heroine when she was the first Canadian girl to jump six feet. She had developed a unique style which was considered suicidal in the beginning but was later accepted as the Brill Bend.

"Instead of going over sideways I started to turn around and started to go backwards. I really didn't have any control over it; it just did it all on its own. I didn't realize I was doing this strange kind of jump. I got over to Oslo and this was the

first international meet I'd ever been to. I started jumping and all those people in the stands started laughing at me. . . . I was really shy and the fact that they were laughing at me just freaked me right out. I never wanted to jump again. I was always crying."

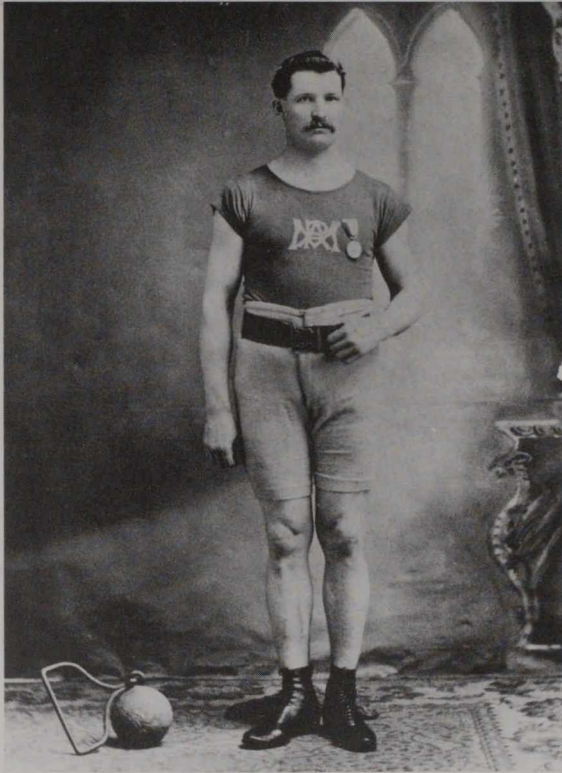
When Debbie went to Munich in 1972 Canada was hoping for a gold medal. Debbie finished eighth and a lot of Canadians were disappointed.

"That was part of it, I really didn't like the whole idea that people expected me to win or that they thought I should win, otherwise it didn't matter. It seemed to me that that was one of the most important things about it, I wasn't mentally prepared for it at all. I just wanted to get it over with. I stepped off that field and I vowed I would never jump again . . . and I didn't jump for almost two years after that. I was just sick of it."

Sometime during this period Debbie decided she wanted to go back and try again.

"I spent a lot of time on my own. I examined

Etienne Desmarteau, a Montreal policeman, threw the 56-pound weight 10.465 meters in 1904.



Billy Sherring, of the St. Patrick's Athletic Club of Hamilton, won the 1906 marathon, losing 14 pounds along the way. He ran the 26 miles, 385 yards, in 2 hours, 51 minutes and 23.6 seconds. (The 1906 Games were odd Olympics, held in an off year in Athens to mark the tenth anniversary of the first. They were not given an official number.)



Ethel Catherwood was known as The Saskatoon Lily. She jumped 1.59 meters, set a world's record and won a gold medal at Amsterdam in 1928.



In 1928 Peerless Percy Williams won two gold medals in Amsterdam contributing to Canada's most successful Olympics.

myself a lot and just got to know myself and to understand a lot of the reasons that had made me quit trying . . . just growing up I guess. I realized that I could do track and enjoy it."

Since her style is her own, she normally works

without a coach. Her boy friend, a pianist, keeps her company. And she weeps no more.

"I started again in 1974 — not just for the Olympics but because I thought I could do better. Now I'm enjoying it more than I ever have."

Time Barrier Ahead

Olympic records have been broken every four years for eight decades. This has not been surprising. The first Games drew only a few athletes from a few countries. Naturally, as the field expanded records fell. Also the equipment and the training methods have improved, and the timing of races has become much more precise — records are now measured in hundredths of seconds. Perhaps modern athletes have benefited from advances in health and new knowledge of nutrition.

Still, logically, the day must come when a record will be made which will stand forever. No one will ever run 100 metres in five seconds, will they?

We asked two well versed Olympic figures, one from the past and one from the present, to comment:

Jessie Owens, winner of four gold medals in 1936: "Let's say this — sure there are going to be records broken in Montreal, because on those days individuals are going to reach the zenith of their careers. I never like to put a limitation on people because if we had put limitations on people we would never have gone to the moon, perhaps not have the modern facilities we have today; we would not be as healthy as we are today. When we

talk about records we've got to think in terms of the youngster today. They're bigger, they're stronger, they're more agile, very coachable, and very, very competitive — we've got more youngsters out for athletics than ever before — so when you say is there a limitation? I never want to see that."

Paul Poce, coach of Canada's distance runners: "Some day there will be an Olympic Games when all the records will stand. I wouldn't hazard a guess at how far off it is because a lot of people have said over the years that this or that mark is the limit and the athletes have proved them wrong. At one time the four-minute mile was the limit. It's only twenty years ago, now you've got it at 3.49. Remember that we're talking about some very, very small time spans. You know twenty or thirty years ago the world record for 100 metres was 10.1, well its now only down to 9.9. In the last ten years the times have come down in the 1,500-metre, the 5,000-metre, the 10,000-metre and the marathon, all these longer distances where there was a little more scope. Now they're getting too small to work with."

History (From an Egocentric Viewpoint)

[ORTON]

George Orton, the first Canadian to win a medal, was not conspicuously Canadian.

Orton was at college in the United States in 1900, and he travelled to the Paris Olympics with the US team but entered the competitions as an individual.

He won two medals — gold in the 2,500-metre steeplechase and bronze in the 400-metre hurdles — and came in fifth in the 4,000-metre steeplechase race. He did better, by himself, than did the entire Canadian team of eighty-five in Rome in 1960.

[WE MET THEM IN ST. LOUIS]

Canadian athletes had one of their finest Olympics in St. Louis in 1904. They won four gold and one silver medal.

The City of Montreal had declined to give Etienne Desmarteau, a policeman, time off to go to throw the 56-pound weight, so he quit and hitchhiked south. He threw it 10.465 metres and won the gold medal. The city, ashamed of itself, gave him back his job.

[AMSTERDAM WELL DONE]

Canadians had their finest hours, to date, in Amsterdam in 1928, winning four gold medals, four

silvers and seven bronzes. The Canadian women, competing in the first Olympics in which women were admitted in track and field and gymnastics, did particularly well. Ethel Catherwood (known as The Saskatoon Lily) won a gold medal in the high jump and the Canadian women's 4 x 100-metre relay team won another. Fanny Rosenfeld took the silver in the 100-metre race, followed by Ethel Smith who took the bronze. Peerless Percy Williams won gold medals in the 100-metre and the 200-metre races after practicing in his hotel room by leaping off starting blocks and crashing into a pile of mattresses his coach had stacked against the wall.

[SCULL DUGGERY]

Canada's only gold medallist in 1936, Frank Amyot, took up canoeing because he could not afford a shell for sculling. He was proud of his stroke.

"My stroke is a peculiar one, long and not as many strokes to the minute as the majority of paddlers. Even when I'm going all out, I seem to be putting out comparatively little effort and if I break in front, those behind seeing me get ahead with seeming ease tend to become a little discouraged. In a championship event the morale effect of this tactic is highly important."

[LONG DISTANCE]

In 1906, a special Olympiad held in Athens featured a marathon race of 26 miles, 385 yards from the site of the battle of Marathon to Athens. Billy Sherring, a 112-pound Canadian from the St. Patrick's Athletic Club of Hamilton, won weighing 98 pounds at the finish.

[THE LONELINESS OF THE SHORT DISTANCE RUNNER]

Some athletes have glory thrust upon them. Some do not. Harry Jerome did not. Jerome, of Vancouver, British Columbia, was once joint holder of the records for 100 yards and 100 metres. At eighteen he ran the 100-yard in 9.5 seconds. Sensational. At nineteen he ran the 100-metre in 10 seconds flat. Then he went on to the Rome Olympics in 1960 and pulled a muscle. He was back in 1964 in Tokyo and took a disappointing bronze. But in Edmonton in 1966 he ran a record 100 yards in 9.1. In 1968 in Mexico City he had his last Olympic chance. But he was twenty-eight, old for a sprinter. He ran the 100-metre in 10.1 — a very respectable time but not a winner in Olympic competition. He came in seventh.

Coins



There are twenty-nine Canadian Olympic Coins — seven series of four silver coins and a single gold coin issued separately.

Each silver series has its own theme. Each has two \$5 and two \$10 sterling silver coins. A complete set costs \$48 encapsulated but not boxed, \$56 in single coin cases and \$65 in a custom case or a prestige case. The coins in a special double-struck proof set, in a case of white birch and specially tanned steer hide, cost \$85.

The \$5 and \$10 coins contain 92.5 per cent pure silver. They are legal tender in Canada.

The Olympic gold coin has a face value of \$100. It is available in uncirculated form, containing 58.3 per cent gold, at a cost of \$110 and in proof form, containing 91.66 per cent gold, at a cost of \$150. The gold coin is now sold only to persons who have already bought the complete silver sets.

There are small extra charges for shipping and handling.

Hooper Rating

Jack Donohue coaches Canada's Olympic basketball team. He is optimistic:

Q. *How well should Canada's national basketball team do?*

A. I feel very, very optimistic. We've got two

boys injured, and that's a problem, but we expect to do very well. I've been talking about a medal for the past three years, and nothing has happened that would change my mind.

Q. *Who will play?*

Frautz Saves Bather

Mr. Andrew Frautz, who was beaten in the swimming match at Saratoga last year, by Johnson, was bathing the other day. He heard a sudden call for help, and after a hard struggle succeeded in rescuing Mrs. George Richardson of Newbury, who had been bathing and was carried to sea by the undertow.

To the Commercial Grads, Past and Present

"Permit me to add my hearty congratulations. . . . Your record is without parallel in the history of basketball." JAMES NAISMITH, 1936, A CANADIAN WHO INVENTED THE GAME IN 1891.

[The all-female team from Edmonton won all twenty-seven of the exhibition games it played at the Olympics of 1924, 28, 32 and 36.]

A. The teams which have already qualified are the Soviet Union, the United States and Cuba from the last Olympics, Canada and Puerto Rico from the Pan-American Games, Japan from the Asian Games. Egypt came out of the African Games, Australia came out of Oceania. Three are coming out of the pre-Olympic tournament in Halifax and those should be Spain, Italy and Brazil or Czechoslovakia.

Q. Which teams have the best chances?

A. Japan and Egypt should be easy teams but you don't know. I think the final four will be the Soviet Union, the United States, Yugoslavia and Canada.

Q. Have you had a hard time bringing your players up to a high pitch?

A. Amateur sport isn't taken seriously. The amateurs are the people who really sacrifice, who really represent the country. The guy who plays baseball for Montreal could be an American or an Arab. These kids come from right straight across the country and they've given up, on and off, three years of their lives.

Q. Where do most of the best come from?

A. There are three areas. One is Ontario where a lot of our universities are, British Columbia is the second, and Manitoba is the third. We have one player from Alberta and that's it.

Incidental Information Which Will Permit You to Sound Wonderfully Knowledgeable While Watching the Olympics on TV

Water Polo: Watch for players who hold the ball underwater while under attack. Watch for ones who hold other players underwater, pull them, hit them or throw water at them. They are all illegal.

Diving: Diving skills cannot be measured in metres. It is an art of controlled movement. There are seventy combinations of possible movements, and the beauty as well as the difficulty of execution is of primary importance.

Swimming: Time is of the essence and time is kept electronically with plates at each pool end activated by simple touch. Breaststrokes and butterflyers must touch with both hands at the same

height when turning. Backstrokers may touch with one arm and free stylers with any part of the body.

Greco-Roman Wrestling: Only holds to the upper body (above the belt) are allowed. Use of the legs is forbidden.

Field Hockey: Players may not play "dangerously." They may not raise their sticks above the shoulder or hit, hook or hold an opponent's stick. They may not kick the ball or hit it in the air.

Weight Lifting: Each lifter is allowed three tries in each method and his best performance is

counted. In case of a tie the competitor who weighs the least wins.

Fencing: The final bouts last five hits or six minutes. If the maximum number of hits is not made during the maximum number of minutes, the score is corrected. If, for example, one fencer scores four hits and his opponent three, the score is five to four.

Walking: The greatest fear of any walker is that he will be disqualified for running. All winners win at a walk.

Discus: The primary skill is control of the discus. The thrower whirls around one-and-a-half times and only centrifugal force and the slight pressure of the fingertips keeps the discus in its appropriate position — beneath the hand and the wrist.

Hurdles: Early hurdlers (at Eton in '83) landed on both feet after each jump, breaking their stride. Hurdlers may knock over the hurdle with their feet (although they will be unlikely to win any Olympic medals if they do), but they are disqualified if they knock one over by hand or by trailing a foot or leg that touches the hurdle's side.

Addresses for Further Information

Tickets go off sale May 14 for inventory audit and go on sale June 7 at:

T. Eaton Company
677 Ste. Catherine Street W.
Montreal, Que. H3B 3Y6
or at Olympic sites during the Games if available.

Reservations for lodging from May 1 to August 31 are available only through:

Hébergement Québec-Olympiques 76
201 Est, Rue Crémazie
Montréal, Que. H2M 1L2

Full Olympic coins particulars and order forms may be obtained by writing:

Canadian Olympic Coins Program
Canadian Consulate General
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

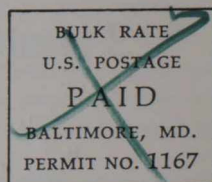
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CANADA

Today/D' Aujourd'hui

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Public Affairs Division
1771 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202:785-1400

Address Correction
Requested



This symbol is designed to identify Canadian participation in the US Bicentennial celebrations.