

PERIOD OF UNIFICATION, RECORDS, AND ANTI-DOPING

The XXIV Summer Olympic Games are held in the capital of South Korea - Seoul from September 17 to October 2, 1988. In the selection of games during an IOC meeting in Baden-Baden on September 30, 1981, Seoul won against the Japanese city of Nagoya. 8,391 athletes from 159 countries are participating, which is an improvement on the previous record for the number of participants.

The 1988 Summer Olympics were the first to feature professional athletes and marked the end of boycotts, following the last of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, and 1984 in Los Angeles. However, Albania, Ethiopia, Cuba, Madagascar, Nicaragua, North Korea, and Seychelles do not send teams to the Games. Doping has been the dominant theme since the capture of athlete Ben Johnson. The Olympic Games lead to the "discovery" of South Korea and contribute to the subsequent political change.

Leading in the final ranking are the USSR, GDR, and USA in third place. For the first time, there are demonstration competitions in Badminton, Baseball, Judo (women), Taekwondo, Bowling, Wheelchair competitions.

The XXV Summer Olympic Games were held in Barcelona, Spain from July 25 to August 9, 1992. Barcelona was chosen to host the birthplace of IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. The other cities that have applied to host are Amsterdam, Brisbane, Birmingham, Paris, Lausanne, and Belgrade. The games are attended by 250,000 tourists. For the first time in 20 years, all IOC countries are participating in the Olympics.

In basketball, the US team has complete hegemony. The team became known as the "Dream Team". At the time, it featured Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and Larry Bird. They won the gold medal with 8 wins and 0 losses. After 20 years, South Africa has the right to participate in the Olympics again after the ban imposed on it due to the country's apartheid policy. Germany participated with a joint team for the first time since 1960. After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania participated for the first time with their teams after 1936. The other former Soviet countries participate in a "joint team". It consists of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The break-up of Yugoslavia led to the debut of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, and Croatia. Baseball is an official Olympic sport for the first time. Badminton and women's judo make their debut in the Olympic program.

The XXVI Summer Olympics are held in Atlanta, the United States from July 19 to August 4, 1996. The other cities that have applied to host are Athens, Belgrade, Manchester, Melbourne, and Toronto. On the occasion of the centenary of the Olympic anniversary, the oldest living Olympic medalist - the Slovenian Leon Stukel - was invited to the opening ceremony. The sports of beach volleyball, mountain biking, and softball make their debut in the Olympic program.

On July 27, two people were killed and 111 were injured in a bomb attack in the Olympic Park. Journalist Lawrence Donegan describes the games as "organizational chaos" and "commercial greed."

The XXVII Summer Olympics are held in 2000 in Sydney, Australia. Sydney was chosen to host the Games in 1993, with the other candidates being Beijing, Berlin, Istanbul, and Manchester. They are held under the motto "Millennium Games". The dominant country in the final distribution of medals in the United States, followed by a small difference from Russia.

The XXVIII Summer Olympic Games are being held in Athens, Greece in August 2004.

They are the result of huge investments (about 10 billion euros), overcoming serious problems (the security system is the cause of controversy), and especially the desire of the Greeks to return the games to their ancient homeland. About 11,000 athletes take part, of which about 100 are Bulgarians. The city was visited by 150,000 tourists during the Games. 31 athletes have been convicted of doping.

The host city was elected on September 5, 1997, during the 106th session of the IOC in Lausanne, Switzerland. Candidate host cities are Athens, Rome, Cape Town, Stockholm, and Buenos Aires.

The ranking by medals from the 2004 Summer Olympics shows the number of victories of the national Olympic committees during the Olympic competitions. The organizers handed out 301 sets of medals, as many as the number of competitions for which 10,625 competed (of which athletes from 201 countries between August 13 and August 29, 2004). Athletes from 74 countries won at least one medal, leaving another 127 without distinction. The US Olympic team has won the most medals (102), as well as the most gold (36) and silver (27) medals. These are China's best performances at the Summer Olympics until Beijing 2008. Several doping scandals have led to changes in the overall medal standings since the end of Athens in 2004. Greek weightlifter Leonidas Sampanis is the first to be convicted of doping and loses Venezuelan Jose Rubio of Venezuela has lost a bronze medal to Russian athlete Irina Korzhanenko in the gold medal in shot put, which goes to Cuban Yumileidi Kumba Jai, and silver to Germany. Nadine Kleinert, and bronze for the Russian Svetlana Krylyova. Hungarian Robert Fajekas, convicted of doping, lost his gold medal in the discus throw to Virgilius Alekna of Lithuania. The silver was awarded to Zoltan Kovago from Hungary and the bronze to the Estonian Alexander Tamert. Another Hungarian athlete, Adrian Annus, was also convicted of doping and stripped of his hammer-throwing gold medal, which was awarded to Japan's Koji Murofushi. The silver was given to Ivan Tikhon from Belarus and the bronze to Esref Apak from Turkey. After illicit substances were found in the Waterford Crystal horse, Irish rider Sian O'Connor lost his gold medal in the individual hurdles. The medal was awarded to Rodrigo Pessoa of Brazil. The silver goes to Chris Kepler from the USA and the bronze to Marco Kutcher from Germany. Kiribati and East Timor are participating in the Olympic Games for the first time. Eritrea, Paraguay, and the United Arab Emirates won their first medals, and Israel, Chile, and Taiwan won their first gold medals. Bulgaria ranks 33rd with a total of 12 medals won, of which only two are Olympic titles and only one is a silver medal. Maria Grozdeva and Yordan Yovchev won two medals each from this Olympics. Georgi Georgiev won bronze in **judo**, category up to 66 kg, 24 years after the First Medal for Bulgaria - Dimitar Zapryanov - silver, from Moscow in 1980.

LITERATURE AND SOURCES

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