



OLYMPIC GAMES



ANTWERP

August 14 - September 12, 1920



After 8 years...

The **1916 Summer Olympics** (*Olympische Sommerspiele 1916*), officially known as the **Games of the VI Olympiad**, were scheduled to be held in Berlin, Germany, but were eventually canceled due to the outbreak of World War I. Berlin was selected as the host city during the 14th IOC Session in Stockholm on 4 July 1912, defeating bids from Alexandria, Amsterdam, Brussels, Budapest and Cleveland. Germany did not return to Olympic competition until 1928 and instead hosted a series of games called *Deutsche Kampfspiele*, starting with the Winter edition of 1922 (which predated the first Winter Olympics).

The **1920 Summer Olympics** (*Les Jeux olympiques d'été de 1920*), officially known as the **Games of the VII Olympiad**, were held in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium (The sailing events were held in Ostend, Belgium, and two in Amsterdam, Netherlands). In March 1912, during the 13th session of the IOC, Belgium's bid to host the 1920 Summer Olympics was made by Baron Édouard de Laveleye, president of the Belgian Olympic Committee and of the Royal Belgian Football As-

sociation. No fixed host city was proposed at the time.

In 1915, Lyon made a bid for the 1920 games, but after some discussion, they agreed to support Antwerp and postpone their bid until 1924 if Antwerp was liberated in time to organize the games. The support by France, then the leading country of the IOC, also meant that Amsterdam, and Budapest, in an enemy state, made no chance for the 1920 games against Antwerp. New candidacies from American cities did not have that disadvantage and bids were received from Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Atlanta, and Cuba also planned a bid for Havana. But shortly after the armistice in November 1918, the IOC decided to give Antwerp the first choice, if they still wanted to host the 1920 Games. In March 1919, the Belgian Olympic Committee decided to go ahead with the organization, and on 5 April 1919, in a meeting in Lausanne, Antwerp was officially declared the host city for the games of the VIIth Olympiad.

Based on www.wikipedia.org



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SPORTS

156 events in 29 disciplines, comprising 22 sports, were part of the Olympic program in 1920. The Sailing program was open for a total of 16 sailing classes, but actually only 14 sailing events were contested.

Aquatics:

Diving (5 events)

Swimming (10 events)

Water polo (1 event)

Archery (10 events)

Athletics (29 events)

Boxing (8 events)

Cycling:

Road (2 events)

Track (4 events)

Equestrian

Dressage (2 events)

Eventing (1 event)

Show jumping (2 events)

Vaulting (2 events)

Fencing (6 events)

Figure skating (3 events)

Football (1 event)

Gymnastics:

Artistic (4 events)

Field hockey (1 event)

Ice hockey (1 event)

Modern pentathlon (1 event)

Polo (1 event)

Rowing (5 events)

Rugby union (1 event)

Sailing (14 events)

Shooting (21 events)

Tennis (5 events)

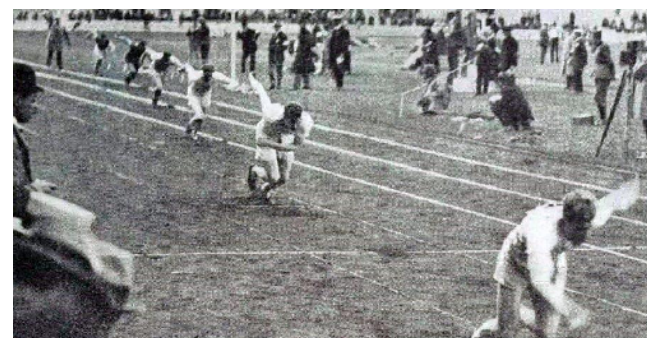
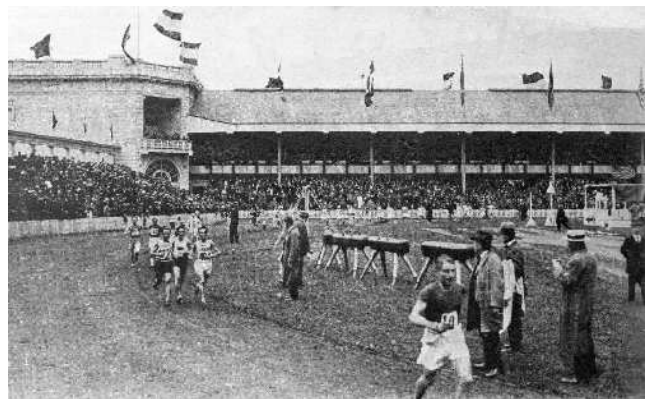
Tug of war (1 event)

Weightlifting (5 events)

Wrestling:

Freestyle (5 events)

Greco-Roman (5 events)



Venues

VENUE	SPORTS
Antwerp	Road cycling
Antwerp Zoo	Boxing / Wrestling
Beerschot Tennis Club	Tennis
Beverloo Camp	Shooting
Brussels-Scheldt Maritime Canal	Rowing
Buiten Y (Amsterdam)	Sailing
Gardens of the Egmont Palace (Brussels)	Fencing
Hoogboom Military Camp	Shooting
Jules Ottenstadion (Ghent)	Football
Nachtegalen Park	Archery
Olympisch Stadion	Athletics / Equestrian / Field hockey / Football / Gymnastics / Modern pentathlon / Rugby union / Tug of war / Weightlifting
Ostend	Polo / Sailing
Palais de Glace d'Anvers	Figure skating / Ice hockey
Stade Joseph Marien (Brussels)	Football
Stade Nautique d'Antwerp	Diving / Swimming / Water polo
Stadion Broodstraat	Football
Vélodrome d'Anvers Zuremborg	Track cycling

HIGHLIGHTS

These Olympics were the first in which **the Olympic Oath** was voiced, **the first** in which doves were released to symbolize peace, and the first in which **the Olympic Flag** was flown.

The Games also featured a week of winter sports, with figure skating appearing for the first time since the 1908 Olympics, and ice hockey making its Olympic debut.



Nedo Nadi won 5 gold medals in the fencing events.






























At the age of 72, Sweden's 100 metre running deer double-shot event champion Oscar Swahn, who had participated in the 1908 and 1912 Games, came in second in the team event to become the oldest Olympic medal winner ever.

23-year-old Paavo Nurmi won the 10,000 m and 8000 m cross country races, took another gold in team cross country, and a silver in the 5000 m run. His contributions for Finland broke the U.S. dominance record in track and field with 9 medals.

In a rather strange moment in Olympic history, the 12-foot dinghy event in sailing took place in two different countries. The final two races in the event were independently held in the Netherlands, on its own accord, supposedly because the only two competitors in the event were Dutch.

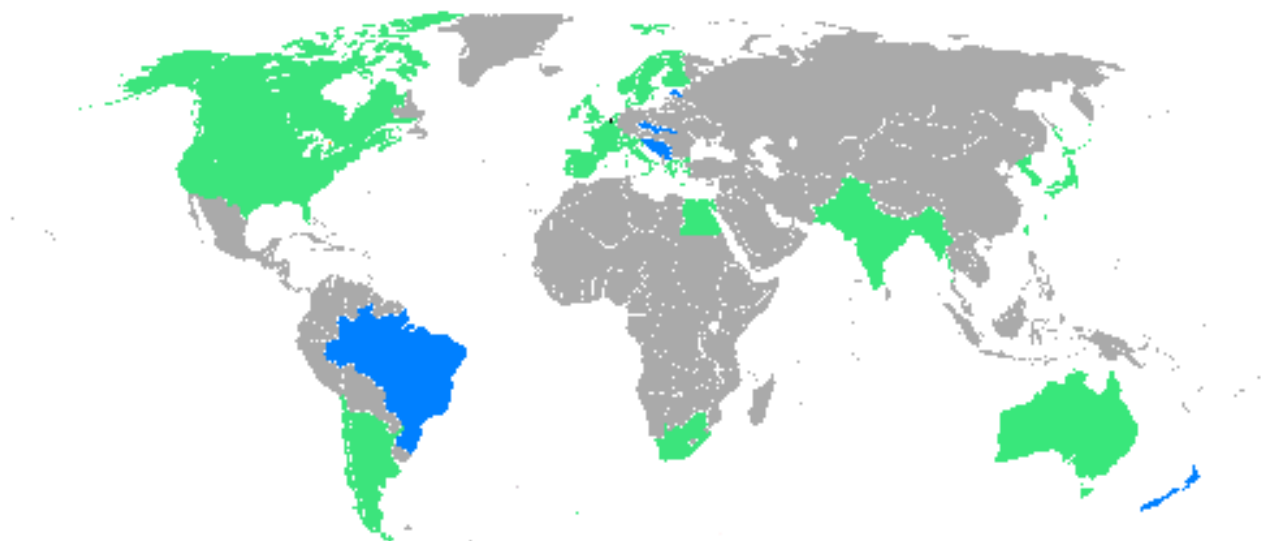
Sport shooter Guilherme Paraense won Brazil's very first gold medal at the Olympic Games.

The United States sent a women's swim team for the first time, having refused during the 1912 Games on the grounds that it was "obscene". The six-woman team produced two gold medals.

NATION	PARTICIPANTS
ARGENTINA 	1
AUSTRALIA 	13
BELGIUM 	336
BRAZIL 	19
CANADA 	53
CHILE 	2
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 	121
DENMARK 	154
EGYPT 	22
ESTONIA 	14
FINLAND 	63
FRANCE 	304
GREAT BRITAIN 	235
GREECE 	57
INDIA 	5
ITALY 	174
JAPAN 	15
LUXEMBOURG 	25
MONACO 	4
NETHERLANDS 	113
NEW ZEALAND 	4
NORWAY 	194
PORTUGAL 	13
SOUTH AFRICA 	39
SPAIN 	32
SWEDEN 	260
SWITZERLAND 	77
UNITED STATES 	288
YUGOSLAVIA 	12

A total of 29 nations participated in the Antwerp Games, only one more than in 1912, as Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Ottoman Empire were not invited, having lost World War I. From the newly created European states, only Estonia took part, and Czechoslovakia, succeeding Bohemia which had sent athletes prior to World War I as part of the Austrian Empire. Poland was busy with the Polish-Soviet War and therefore was unable to form an Olympic team. Soviet Russia was also not invited as part of its political embargo by the West. Argentina, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Brazil, and Monaco competed as nations at the Olympic Games for the first time. New Zealand, which had competed as part of a combined team with Australia in 1908 and 1912, competed on its own for the first time.

The Dominion of Newfoundland had one competitor, Eric Robertson. But as the dominion had no official Olympic committee, his nationality could not be confirmed and he had to represent Britain



Medal count

Hannes Kolehmainen (Finland) - won his fourth Olympic gold

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	UNITED STATES	41	27	27	95
2.	SWEDEN	19	20	25	64
3.	GREAT BRITAIN	15	15	13	43
4.	FINLAND	15	10	9	34
5.	BELGIUM	14	11	11	36
6.	NORWAY	13	9	9	31
7.	ITALY	13	5	5	23
8.	FRANCE	9	19	13	41
9.	NETHERLANDS	4	2	5	11
10.	DENMARK	3	9	1	13
11.	SOUTH AFRICA	3	4	3	10
12.	CANADA	3	3	3	9
13.	SWITZERLAND	2	2	7	11
14.	ESTONIA	1	2	0	3
15.	BRAZIL	1	1	1	3
16.	AUSTRALIA	0	2	1	3
17.	JAPAN	0	2	0	2
	SPAIN	0	2	0	2
19.	GREECE	0	1	0	1
	LUXEMBOURG	0	1	0	1
21.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	0	0	2	2
22.	NEW ZEALAND	0	0	1	1
		156	147	136	439

MAJOR STARS

Victor Boin (Belgium) - a swimmer who was the first in history to deliver the Olympic Oath

Oscar Swahn (Sweden) - at that time 72 years old, won a silver medal in shooting.

Nedo Nadi (Italy) - (see the photo) collected five golds in fencing (he also had won a gold in 1912); his younger brother **Aldo** won three team gold and one silver to make the family total a record for any sport in one Olympic Games.

Paavo Nurmi (Finland) - three golds in long-distance running

Duke Kahanamoku (USA) - won 2 more Olympic golds in swimming.

Ethelda Bleibtrey (USA) - 3 golds in swimming

Norman Ross (USA) - 3 golds in swimming

Edmond Cloetens (Belgium) - three golds in archery (large bird individual and team, small bird team)

Dennis Fenton, Morris Fisher, Joseph Jackson, Karl Frederick, Ollie Schriver (USA) - all won three golds in shooting

Willis A. Lee (USA) - 5 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze in shooting (all in team events)

Alfred Lane (USA) - 2 golds and 1 silver added to 3 golds won in 1912 (shooting)

Carl Osburn (USA) - 4 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze in shooting (added to 1 gold, 2 silvers and 1 bronze won in 1912)

Lloyd Spooner (USA) - 4 golds, 1 silver, 2 bronzes (shooting - just team events)

Suzanne Lenglen (France) - 2 golds and 1 bronze in tennis

Canadian ice hockey team - won all 3 games scoring 29 goals (only one goal lost)



The Mask of ... Nedo

Nedo Nadi (1894 – 1940) was one of the best Italian fencers of all time. He is the only fencer to win a gold medal in each of the three weapons at a single Olympic Games and won the most fencing gold medals ever at a single Games—five. Until Mark Spitz won seven swimming championships at the 1972 Summer Olympics,

Nedo Nadi was born in Livorno, Italy, the elder son of famous Italian fencing master, Giuseppe (Beppe) Nadi. He had a younger brother, Aldo who was an olympic gold medallist in his own right. Nedo had his first fencing lesson with a foil at the age of seven in his father's gymnasium at Livorno. His father taught him foil and sabre but believed the épée to be an "undisciplined" weapon and refused to teach it. The brothers therefore used to go and practice by themselves and were essentially self-taught. At the age of fourteen Nedo won a solid silver trophy for his three weapon work during the Jubilee celebration of Emperor Franz Joseph at Vienna.

Competing for his country at 1912 Stockholm Olympics, Nadi became the youngest fencer to win a foil gold medal. Aged 18 years and 29 days, he beat teammate Pietro Speciale and Richard Verderber of Austria for the individual gold with seven straight victories in the final pool.

Nadi served in the Italian Army during World War I and was decorated for bravery.

Nadi resumed his competitive career after World War I was over. Defeated central European countries and the Soviet Union did not attend the Antwerp games. This meant that Hungary, one of the strongest fencing nations, would be absent. Nadi therefore decided to expand his chances for gold and entered all three fencing disciplines. Nedo Nadi's 1920 Olympic performances were

acclaimed as near to perfection as a fencer could execute. Nadi won the individual foil gold medal with a record 10 wins in the final pool. Frenchman, Roger Ducret, who won bronze went on to win the individual gold in 1924, after Nadi had retired from the Olympic arena.

Nadi's entry in the épée event annoyed his father, who regarded the épée as "a crude and undisciplined weapon". Unlike the foil, where a fencer could only score off a hit which landed on the trunk of the opponent's body, or the sabre where the upper torso and face mask count as scoring hits, in épée any part of the body is a legitimate hit. Nevertheless, Nedo Nadi led the Italian épée team, which included his brother Aldo, to the Olympic team gold medal.

Nedo Nadi's perfect balance, timing and rapid reflexes were an advantage in any style of fencing, so without much difficulty he won the individual sabre gold medal by 11 victories to 9. His brother Aldo won the silver medal. In the team sabre event, the Italian team supported their star fencer and cruised to an easy victory. Nadi, carried in triumph by his opponents, added three team victories to his tally of two individual golds and his younger brother Aldo won three team gold and one silver to make the family total a record for any sport in one Olympic Games.

Aldo and Nedo only fenced each other once in public and that match was drawn.(citation needed) Aldo moved to Hollywood where he worked in the film industry.

After his Antwerp Olympic victories Nadi turned professional and took up coaching at the Buenos Aires Jockey Club. He returned to Rome some years later and was reinstated as an amateur. From 1935 to his death in January 1940 he served as president of the Italian Fencing Federation.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

