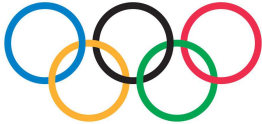




OLYMPIC GAMES



OSLO

February 14 - February 25, 1952



First time in the north...

The 1952 Winter Olympics (*Vinter-OL 1952*), officially known as the VI Olympic Winter Games, took place in Oslo, Norway, from 14 to 25 February. Discussions about Oslo hosting the Winter Olympic Games began as early as 1935; the city wanted to host the 1948 Games, but World War II made that impossible. Instead, Oslo won the right to host the 1952 Games in a contest that included Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy and Lake Placid in the United States. All of the venues were in Oslo's metropolitan area except for the alpine skiing events, which were held at Norefjell, 113 km from the capital. A new hotel was built for the press and dignitaries, along with three dormitories to house athletes and coaches, creating the first modern athlete's village. The city of Oslo bore the financial burden of hosting the Games in return for the revenue they generated.

The Games attracted 694 athletes representing 30 countries, who participated in four sports and 22 events.

Japan and Germany made their returns to winter Olympic competition, after being forced to miss the 1948 Games. Germany was represented solely by West German athletes because East Germany declined to compete as a unified team.

Norwegians were undecided about hosting a Winter Olympics. Culturally, they were opposed to competitive winter sports, particularly skiing events, despite the success of Norwegian athletes at previous Winter Games. But the organizers believed the 1952 Games could be an opportunity to promote national unity and to show the world that Norway had recovered from the war. Norway became the first Scandinavian country to host a Winter Olympics, and the 1952

Winter Games were the first to be held in a nation's capital.

In the aftermath of the German occupation of Norway during World War II, anti-German sentiment began to affect preparations for the 1952 Olympics. Discussions were held to consider whether Germany should be allowed to participate in the Games. When in 1950, the West German Olympic Committee requested recognition by the IOC, it raised the question of whether their participation would cause political boycotts in the upcoming Games. Once the IOC recognized the West German Olympic Committee, West Germany was then formally invited to compete at the 1952 Winter Games. East Germany was invited to participate with West Germany, as a unified team, but they declined.

At first Norway was reluctant to welcome German athletes and others considered Nazi sympathizers. For example, Norwegian speed skater Finn Hodt was not allowed to compete in the Norwegian speed skating team because he collaborated with the Nazis during the war. Eventually, despite the concern, Norway agreed to allow German and Japanese athletes to compete. The Soviet Union sent no athletes to Oslo, despite being recognized by the IOC. They had intended to enter a team in the ice hockey tournament, but applied too late to join the International Ice Hockey Federation.



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SPORTS

Medals were awarded in 22 events contested in four sports (eight disciplines).

***Bobsleigh (2 events)**

***Ice hockey (1 event)**

***Skating :**

Figure skating (3 events)

Speed skating (4 events)

***Skiing:**

Alpine skiing (6 events)

Nordic skiing:

Cross-country skiing (4 events)

Nordic combined (1 event)

Ski jumping (1 event)

Demonstration sport:

***Bandy**

The opening ceremonies were held in Bislett Stadium on 15 February. King George VI of Great Britain had died on 6 February 1952, eight days before the start of the Games. As a result, all national flags were flown at half-mast, and Princess Ragnhild opened the Games in place of her grandfather, King Haakon VII, who was in London attending the funeral. **This was the first time an Olympic Games had been declared open by a woman.**

The parade of nations was held according to tradition, with Greece first, the rest of the nations proceeding by Norwegian alphabetical order, with the host nation last. On 13 February, at the start of the inaugural Winter Olympics torch relay, the torch was lit in the hearth of the Morgedal House, birthplace of skiing pioneer Sondre Norheim. The torch relay lasted two days and took place entirely on skis. At the opening ceremonies the final torch bearer, Eigil Nansen, received the Olympic torch and skied to a flight of stairs where he removed his skis, ascended, and ignited the flame.

The Olympic athlete's oath was taken by Torbjorn Falkanger - a Norwegian ski jumper.

The bobsleigh and alpine skiing events were held the day before the opening ceremonies – so the competitors in these events were unable to attend the festivities in Oslo.



Venues

VENUE	SPORTS
Bislett stadion	Bandy / figure skating / speed skating
Daelenenga idrettspark	Bandy / ice hockey
Holmenkollbakken	Cross-country skiing / nordic combined / ski jumping
Jordal Amfi	Ice hockey
Kadettangen	Ice hockey
Korketrekkeren	Bobsleigh
Lillestroem stadion (Skedsmo)	Ice hockey
Marienlyst stadion (Drammen)	Ice hockey
Norefjell (Krodsherad)	Alpine skiing
Rodkleiva	Alpine skiing
Hamar stadion (reserve venue)	Ice hockey
Tryvann stadion (reserve venue)	Ice hockey
Voss (reserve venue)	Alpine skiing

HIGHLIGHTS

Norwegian truck driver Hjalmar Andersen won three out of four speed skating events to become the most decorated athlete at the Games.































Germany resumed its former prominence in bobsleigh, with wins in the four- and two-man events.

Dick Button of the United States performed the first triple jump in international competition to claim his second consecutive men's figure skating Olympic title.

The 1952 Games featured one demonstration sport, bandy, but only three Nordic countries competed in the tournament.

The Games closed with the presentation of a flag that would be passed from one Winter Olympics host city to the next. The flag, which became known as the "Oslo flag", has been displayed in the host city during each subsequent Winter Games.

Thirty nations sent competitors, which was the highest number of participants at a Winter Games. New Zealand and Portugal took part in the Winter Olympic Games for the first time. Australia, Germany, and Japan returned after a 16-year absence. South Korea, Liechtenstein, and Turkey competed in 1948 but did not participate in the 1952 Games.

NATION	PARTICIPANTS	NATION	PARTICIPANTS
ARGENTINA 	12	ICELAND 	11
AUSTRALIA 	9	ITALY 	33
AUSTRIA 	39	JAPAN 	13
BELGIUM 	9	LEBANON 	1
BULGARIA 	10	NETHERLANDS 	11
CANADA 	39	NEW ZEALAND 	3
CHILE 	3	NORWAY 	73
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 	22	POLAND 	30
DENMARK 	1	PORTUGAL 	1
FINLAND 	50	ROMANIA 	16
FRANCE 	26	SPAIN 	4
GERMANY FR 	53	SWEDEN 	65
GREAT BRITAIN 	18	SWITZERLAND 	55
GREECE 	3	UNITED STATES 	65
HUNGARY 	12	YUGOSLAVIA 	6

POLISH PARTICIPATION

ALPINE SKIING

Józef Marusarz (43th – downhill; 48th – giant slalom)
Andrzej Czerniak (42nd – downhill; 71st - slalom)
Stefan Dziedzic (29th – downhill; 38th - giant slalom)
Andrzej Gąsienica Roj (22nd – downhill; 41st - giant slalom; 28th – slalom)
Jan Płonka (39th - giant slalom; 57th - slalom)
Jan Gąsienica Ciaptak (DSQ – slalom)

Teresa Kodelska (DSQ – downhill; 34th – giant slalom; 32nd - slalom)
Maria Kowalska (34th – downhill; DSQ – giant slalom; 34th - slalom)
Barbara Grocholska (13th – downhill; DSQ – giant slalom; 14th - slalom)

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Tadeusz Kwapień (41st – 18km)

ICE HOCKEY

6th place (Michał Antuszczyk, Henryk Bromowicz, Kazimierz Chodakowski, Stefan Csorich, Rudolf Czech, Alfred Gansiniec, Jan Hampel, Marian Jeżak, Eugeniusz Lewacki, Roman Penczek, Hilary Skarżyński, Tadeusz Swiczak, Stanisław Szlendak, Zdzisław Trojanowski, Antoni Wróbel, Alfred Wróbel)

Results: Czechoslovakia 2:8; Sweden 1:17; Switzerland 3:6; Canada 0:11; West Germany 4:4; USA 3:5; Finland 4:2; Norway 4:3

SKI JUMPING (Normal hill)

Leopold Tajner – 39th
Stanisław Marusarz – 27th
Jakub Węgrzynkiewicz – 33rd
Antoni Wieczorek – 24th

Stanisław Marusarz (1913-1993) - won a silver medal in ski jumping at the 1938 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Lahti — the first Pole ever to earn a medal in the championships. Marusarz was named one of the best young talents in ski jumping in the late 1920s and earned his first national title in 1931. Many skiers outside of Scandinavia, who dominated classical skiing in the early 20th century, considered Marusarz "the best Nordic combiner in the world after [the] Norwegians."

Marusarz took part in five Winter Olympics. His last Winter Olympic participation (but not competition) was at Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956, where he ski jumped as a forejumper while 43 years old.

After the German attack on Poland in 1939, he joined the AK and fought for Poland's independence until 1940, when he was captured and sentenced to death. However, Marusarz successfully escaped from a German prison and fled to Hungary, where he stayed until the end of the war.

In 1966, he was the author of a very memorable moment for Polish supporters when organizers of the Four Hills Tournament asked him to make a show jump. Marusarz jumped 66 m at 53 years of age.



Medal count

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	NORWAY	7	3	6	16
2.	UNITED STATES	4	6	1	11
3.	FINLAND	3	4	2	9
4.	GERMANY FR	3	2	2	7
5.	AUSTRIA	2	4	2	8
6.	CANADA	1	0	1	2
	ITALY	1	0	1	2
8.	GREAT BRITAIN	1	0	0	1
9.	NETHERLANDS	0	3	0	3
10.	SWEDEN	0	0	4	4
11.	SWITZERLAND	0	0	2	2
12.	FRANCE	0	0	1	1
	HUNGARY	0	0	1	1
		22	22	23	67

MAJOR STARS

Hjalmar Andersen (Norway) - he was the most successful athlete in Oslo after winning three gold medals in speed skating (photo below)

Dick Button (USA) - he won his second consecutive gold in figure skating. He was also the first to perform a triple jump in competition.

Andreas Ostler and Lorenz Nieberl (West Germany) - they both won two gold medals in bobsleighs

Andrea Mead-Lawrence (USA) - she won two gold medals in alpine skiing (on the right)

