OLYMPIC GAMES

SQUAW VALLEY
February 18 - 25, 1960

The smallest place ever...

The 1960 Winter Olympics, officially known as the VIII Olympic Winter Games, was a winter multi-sport event held between February 18–28, 1960 in Squaw Valley, California, United States. Squaw Valley was chosen to host the Games at the 1956 meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It was an undeveloped resort in 1955, so from 1956 to 1960 the infrastructure and all of the venues were built at a cost of US$80,000,000. It was designed to be intimate, allowing spectators and competitors to walk to nearly all the venues. Squaw Valley hosted athletes from thirty nations who competed in four sports and twenty-seven events. Women's speed skating and biathlon made their Olympic debuts. The organizers decided the bobsled events did not warrant the cost to build a venue, so for the first and only time bobsled was not on the Winter Olympic program.

Squaw Valley defeated Innsbruck, Garmisch-Partenkirchen and St. Moritz.

Cold War politics forced the IOC to debate the participation of China, Taiwan, North Korea and East Germany. In 1957 the United States government threatened to deny visas to athletes from Communist countries. The IOC responded with a threat to revoke Squaw Valley's right to host the 1960 Games. The United States conceded and allowed entry to athletes from Communist countries.

Based on www.wikipedia.org

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Squaw Valley in 1956 consisted of one chair lift, two rope tows, and a fifty-room lodge. Cushing presented the site as a blank canvas of unspoiled environment, where a world-class ski resort could be constructed. The obscurity of the location was underscored at the closing ceremonies of the 1956 Winter Olympics. Traditionally the mayor of the current host city passes a flag to the mayor of the next host city signalling the transfer of the Games. Since Squaw Valley was an unincorporated village it had no city government. John Garland, an IOC member from California, was asked to stand in and received the flag from the mayor of Cortina d'Ampezzo.

After winning the right to host the Games, the California Olympic Commission was formed. They were given four years to build venues, an Olympic Village, and expand infrastructure. With the expansion of roads, bridges, water and electrical capacity the resort of Squaw Valley became the city of Squaw Valley. Hotels, restaurants, administration buildings, a Sheriff's office and a sewage pumping and treatment plant were all constructed to support the influx of visitors for the Games. Organizers wanted the Olympics to be intimate with the venues close to one another. The Blyth Memorial Ice Arena was built along with three outdoor skating rinks, a 400-meter speed skating oval and four dormitories to house athletes. One venue deemed impractical to build was the bobsled run. Organizers felt the lack of possible entrants and the high cost of building the run were sufficient deterrents to leave the bobsled events off the 1960 Olympic program.

Several design innovations and new technologies were used for the 1960 Games. The speed skating, figure skating and ice hockey events were held on artificial ice for the first time in Olympic history. A refrigeration plant capable of heating 4,800 homes had to be built to generate and maintain the ice. The heat generated from the refrigeration plant was used to warm spectators, provide hot water, and melt the snow off of roofs. New timing equipment provided by Longines was installed that used a quartz clock to measure to the hundredths of a second. IBM provided a computer that was capable of tabulating results and printing them in English and French. Blyth Arena, site of the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the figure skating and ice hockey competitions, was built with a 22 in (56 cm) gap in the roof, which would slide closed as the cables supporting the roof contracted during cold weather.

SPORTS

The Games were held from February 18 to 28. Medals were awarded in 27 events contested in 4 sports (8 disciplines). The sport of biathlon was added to the program as were speed skating events for women. After a poll was taken indicating that only nine countries would send a bobsled team, the organizers determined that bobsled would be removed from the Olympic program. Despite petitions from the International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation to reconsider, the organizers felt they could not justify the costs of constructing a bobsled run for nine competing nations. It would be the only time in Winter Olympic history that the bobsled events were not held.

*Biathlon (1 event)

*Ice hockey (1 event)

*Skating:

- Figure skating (3 events)

- Speed skating (8 events)

*Skiing:

- Alpine skiing (6 events)

- Nordic skiing:

  - Cross-country skiing (6 events)

  - Nordic combined (1 event)

Venues

VENUE	SPORTS
Blyth Arena	Figure skating / ice hockey
McKinney Creek Stadium	Biathlon / Cross-country skiing / Nordic combined
Papoose Peak Ski jumping hill	Ski jumping / Nordic combined
Squaw Valley Olympic Skating Rink	Ice hockey / Speed skating
Squaw Valley Ski Resort	Alpine skiing

OPENING CEREMONY

The chairman of the Pageantry Committee was Walt Disney, who was responsible for producing both the opening and closing ceremonies. He organized an opening that included 5,000 entertainers, the release of 2,000 pigeons, and a military gun salute of eight shots, one for each of the previous Winter Olympic Games. The opening ceremonies were held on February 18, 1960, at Blyth Arena in the midst of a blizzard. The heavy snow fall caused traffic problems that delayed the ceremony by an hour. The festivities began with a sustained drum roll as the flags of each participating nation were raised on specially designed flag poles. Vice President Richard Nixon represented the United States government and declared the Games open. The Olympic cauldron was lit by Kenneth Henry, Olympic champion of the 500 meter speed skating race at the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo. The Olympic oath was taken by Carol Heiss on behalf of all the athletes. As the national delegations left the stadium fireworks concluded the ceremonies.

Athletes from 30 nations competed at the 1960 Games. South Africa competed at the Winter Games for the first time; it would be the last for many years, as apartheid policies prevented South African participation until 1994. Athletes from West Germany (FRG) and East Germany (GDR) competed together as the United Team of Germany from 1956 to 1964. The number at the end of each country denotes the number of athletes each country sent.

NATION	PARTICIPANTS	NATION	PARTICIPANTS
ARGENTINA	6	JAPAN	41
AUSTRALIA	30	LEBANON	2
AUSTRIA	26	LIECHTENSTEIN	5
BULGARIA	7	NETHERLANDS	7
CANADA	44	NEW ZEALAND	4
CHILE	5	NORWAY	29
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	21	POLAND	13
DENMARK	1	SOUTH AFRICA	4
FINLAND	48	SOUTH KOREA	7
FRANCE	26	SOVIET UNION	62
*GERMANY	74	SPAIN	4
GREAT BRITAIN	17	SWEDEN	47
HUNGARY	3	SWITZERLAND	21
ICELAND	4	TURKEY	2
ITALY	28	UNITED STATES	79

*United Team of Germany

POLISH PARTICIPATION

There were 13 athletes from Poland in 2 sports.

SILVER MEDAL:
Elwira Seroczyńska – speed skating (1500m)

BRONZE MEDAL:
Helena Pilejczyk – speed skating (1500m)

OTHER RESULTS:

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Andzej Mateja – 43 (15km); 23 (30km); DNF (50km)
Józef Gut Misiaga – 41 (15km)
Kazimierz Zelek – 28 (15km); 22 (30km)
Józef Rysula – 18 (15km)
Józef Gąsienica Sobczak – 34 (30km)
Andrzej Mateja, Józef Rysula, Józef Gut Misiaga, Kazimierz Zelek – 6 (4x10km relay)
Helena Gąsienica Daniel – 21 (10km)
Anna Krzeptowska-Żebracka- 20 (10km)
Józefa Czerniawska-Pęksa – 14 (10km)
Stefania Biegun – 13 (10km)
Stefania Biegun, Helena Gąsienica Daniel, Józefa Czerniawska-Pęksa – 4 (3x5km relay)

NORDIC COMBINED
Józef Karpiel – 19

SKI JUMPING
Władysław Tajner – 31

SPEED SKATING
Helena Pilejczyk – 12 (500m); DNF (1000m); 7 (3000m)
Elwira Seroczyńska – 6 (500m); 5 (1000m); 6 (3000m)

Polish medalists

Medal count

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	SOVIET UNION	7	5	9	21
2.	UNITED TEAM OF GERMANY	4	3	1	8
3.	UNITED STATES	3	4	3	10
4.	NORWAY	3	3	0	6
5.	SWEDEN	3	2	2	7
6.	FINLAND	2	3	3	8
7.	CANADA	2	1	1	4
8.	SWITZERLAND	2	0	0	2
9.	AUSTRIA	1	2	3	6
10.	FRANCE	1	0	2	3
11.	NETHERLANDS	0	1	1	2
11.	POLAND	0	1	1	2
13.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	0	1	0	1
14.	ITALY	0	0	1	1
		28	26	27	81

MAJOR STARS

Sixten JERNBERG (Sweden) – one gold and one silver medal in cross-country skiing (his overall Olympic achievement was then: 2 golds, 3 silvers, 1 bronze)

Veikko HAKULINEN (Finland) – one gold, one silver and one bronze in cross-country skiing (his overall Olympic achievement was then: 3 golds, 3 silvers, 1 bronze)

Yevgeny GRISHIN (Soviet Union) – two golds in speed skating (his overall medal achievement was: 4 golds)

Lidia SKOBLIKOVA (Soviet Union) – two gold medals in speed skating