OLYMPIC GAMES

CALGARY
February 13 - 28, 1988

On artificial snow

The 1988 Winter Olympics, officially known as the XV Olympic Winter Games (French: *Les XVes Jeux olympiques d'hiver*), were held in and around Calgary, Alberta, Canada, between February 13 and 28, 1988 and were the first Winter Olympics to be held over a whole two week period. The host city was selected in 1981 over Falun, Sweden, and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Most events took place in Calgary while several skiing events were held in the mountain resorts of Nakiska and Canmore, west of the city.

A then-record 57 nations competed and 1,423 athletes participated. As it had in Montreal in 1976, Canada again failed to win a gold medal in an official medal event as the host nation. Finnish ski jumper Matti Nykänen and Dutch speed skater Yvonne van Gennip were individual medal leaders with each winning three gold medals. The games are also remembered for the "heroic failure" of British ski jumper Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, and the Winter Olympic début of the Jamaica national bobsled team, both of which would be subjects of major feature films about their participation in the games.

The Calgary games were at the time one of the most expensive Olympics ever held, but the organizing committee turned record television and sponsorship revenue into a net surplus that was used to maintain the facilities built for the Olympics and develop the Calgary region into the heart of Canada's elite winter sports program. The five purpose-built venues continue to be used in their original functions, and have helped the country develop into one of the top nations in Winter Olympic competition; Canada more than quintupled the five medals it won in Calgary at the 2010 games, the next Winter Olympics hosted on Canadian soil in Vancouver. Calgary is the largest city to host the Winter Olympics; however, the census metropolitan area of Greater Vancouver could also be considered the largest metropolitan area to host the Winter Olympics. Nonetheless, this title will soon to be turned over to Beijing in 2022.

The opening ceremony was held on McMahon Stadium. The Games were officially opened by Governor General Jeanne Sauve - viceregal representative of the British monarch.

The olympic oath was delivered by Pierre Harvey - a cross-country skier.

Robyn Perry was a 12-year-old schoolgirl and figure skater who lit the Olympic Flame in the opening ceremony for the 1988 Winter Olympics. On Feb. 13, 1988, she was the final runner in the Olympic torch relay and was chosen to ignite the giant cauldron at McMahon Stadium, kicking off the Calgary Winter Olympics. Downhill skier Ken Read and speed skater Cathy Priestner handed off the torch to her. During the ascent, Perry had to yell to one of the athletes to get out of her way.

SPORTS

There were 46 events in 6 sports (10 disciplines):
*Alpine skiing (10 events)
*Biathlon (3 events)
*Bobsleigh (2 events)
*Cross-country skiing (8 events)
*Figure skating (4 events)
*Ice hockey (1 event)
*Luge (3 events)
*Nordic combined (2 events)
*Ski jumping (3 events)
*Speed skating (10 events)

Demonstration sports:
*Curling (2 events)
*Disabled skiing (4 events)
*Freestyle skiing (6 events)
*Short track speed skating (10 events)

HIGHLIGHTS:

The 1988 Winter Games began on February 13 with a $10 million opening ceremony that featured 5,500 performers.

The weather was a dominant story throughout much of the Games, as strong chinook winds that brought daily temperatures as high as 17 ℃ (63 ℉) wreaked havoc on the schedules for outdoor events. Events were delayed when winds were deemed unsafe for competitors and organizers used artificial snow making equipment to ensure skiing venues were properly prepared. It was the first time in Olympic history that alpine events were held on artificial snow.

The Games were also marred by the death of the Austrian ski team's doctor, Joerg Oberhammer, on February 25 after a collision with another skier sent him crashing into a snow grooming machine at Nakiska, crushing and killing him instantly.

The top individual competitors at the Olympics were Finnish ski jumper Matti Nykänen and Dutch speed skater Yvonne van Gennip as they each won three gold medals.

Italy's Alberto Tomba won gold in two skiing events, his first of five career Olympic medals en route to becoming the first alpine skier to win medals at three Winter Games.

East Germany's Katarina Witt defended her 1984 gold medal in women's figure skating, capturing a second gold in Calgary.

Christa Rothenburger won the gold medal in the 1000 metre race in speed skating, then went on to win a silver medal in the team sprint cycling event at the 1988 Summer Games to become the only person in Olympic history to win medals at both Olympic Games in the same year.

The Soviet Union won gold in hockey as Scandinavian neighbours Finland and Sweden took silver and bronze, respectively.

As it had in 1976, Canada again failed to win an official gold medal as the host of an Olympic Games. Canadians won two gold medals in demonstration events, including by Sylvie Daigle as one of her five medals in short-track speed skating.

Venues

VENUE	SPORTS
Canada Olympic Park	Bobsleigh / Luge / Nordic combined / Ski jumping
Canmore Nordic Centre	Biathlon / Cross-country skiing / Nordic combined
Father David Bauer Olympic Arena	Figure skating / Ice hockey
Max Bell Arena	Curling / Short track speed skating
McMahon Stadium	Opening and closing ceremonies
Nakiska	Alpine skiing / Freestyle skiing
Olympic Oval	Speed skating
Olympic Saddledome	Figure skating / Ice hockey
Stampede Oval	Figure skating / Ice hockey

A record 57 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) entered athletes at the 1988 Calgary Olympics, 8 more than appeared at any previous Olympic Winter Games. 1,423 athletes participated in 46 events: 1,122 men and 301 women. Fiji, Guam, Guatemala, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles and the Virgin Islands had their Winter Olympics debut.

NATION	NATION	NATION
ANDORRA (4)	WEST GERMANY (90)	MOROCCO (3)
ARGENTINA (16)	GREAT BRITAIN (47)	NETHERLANDS (23)
AUSTRALIA (24)	GREECE (7)	NETHER. ANTILLES (3)
AUSTRIA (81)	GUAM (1)	NEW ZEALAND (11)
BELGIUM (4)	GUATEMALA (7)	NORWAY (80)
BOLIVIA (7)	HUNGARY (6)	PHILIPPINES (1)
BULGARIA (31)	ICELAND (3)	POLAND (33)
CANADA (113)	INDIA (3)	PORTUGAL (5)
CHILE (6)	ITALY (58)	PUERTO RICO (10)
CHINA (20)	JAMAICA (6)	ROMANIA (14)
CHINESE TAIPEI (13)	JAPAN (48)	SAN MARINO (5)
COSTA RICA (2)	NORTH KOREA (6)	SOVIET UNION (101)
CYPRUS (3)	SOUTH KOREA (33)	SPAIN (13)
CZECHOSLOVAKIA (59)	LEBANON (4)	SWEDEN (67)
DENMARK (1)	LIECHTENSTEIN (13)	SWITZERLAND (70)
FIJI (1)	LUXEMBOURG (1)	TURKEY (8)
FINLAND (53)	MEXICO (12)	UNITED STATES (118)
FRANCE (68)	MONACO (4)	VIRGIN ISLANDS (8)
EAST GERMANY (53)	MONGOLIA (4)	YUGOSLAVIA (23)

REGGAE ON ICE

The Jamaican bobsleigh team, consisting of Devon Harris, Dudley Stokes, Michael White, Freddy Powell, and last minute replacement Chris Stokes, debuted at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta. The team was coached by Howard Siler, an Olympic bobsledder for the United States in 1972 and 1980 They quickly became very popular, largely because of their status as the ultimate "underdog" story of the games. Alongside the novelty of a tropical country competing in a cold-weather sport, the team had very little experience going down a bobsled track, and borrowed spare sleds from other countries to compete. In a show of sporting camaraderie across national boundaries, other bobsledders were quick to give them guidance and support. They did not officially finish after losing control of the sled and crashing during one of their qualifiers. The movie *Cool Runnings* is loosely based on their experience at the 1988 games.

POLISH PARTICIPATION

There were 30 competitors (24 men and 6 women) in 6 sports

RESULTS:

There were 32 competitors (28 men and 4 women) in 6 sports:

ALPINE SKIING:
Katarzyna SZAFRAŃSKA – 16 (giant slalom); 17 (slalom)

FIGURE SKATING:
Grzegorz FILIPOWSKI – 5 (men individual) - *photo on the left*
Honorata GÓRNA, Andrzej DOSTATNI – 17 (ice dancing)

ICE HOCKEY:
9th place – Andrzej HANISZ, Gabriel SAMOLEJ, Franciszek KUKLA, Robert SZOPIŃSKI, Marek CHOLEWA, Henryk GRUTH, Andrzej KĄDZIOŁKA, Jerzy POTZ, Andrzej ŚWIĄTEK, Jacek SZOPIŃSKI, Janusz ADAMIEC, Roman STEBLECKI, Jerzy CHRIST, Mirosław COPIJA, Leszek JACHNA, Marek STEBNICKI, Piotr KWASIGROCH, Ireneusz PACUŁA, Krzysztof PODSIADŁO, Krystian SIKORSKI, Jan STOPCZYK, Jarosław MORAWIECKI

Results: CANADA 0:1, SWEDEN 1:1, FRANCE 6:2 (the team was stripped of the victory after Jarosław Morawiecki tested positive for testosterone; France was recorded as winning 2:0 but received no points); SWITZERLAND 1:4, FINLAND 1:5, AUSTRIA 2:3

NORDIC COMBINED:
Tadeusz BAFIA -18 (individual event) - *photo on the right*

SKI JUMPING:
Jan KOWAL – 34 (normal hill); 37 (large hill)
Piotr FIJAS - 10 (normal hill); 13 (large hill)

SPEED SKATING:
Jerzy DOMINIK – 25 (500m); 28 (1000m); 36 (1500m)
Erwina RYŚ-FERENS – 19 (500m); 10 (1000m); **7** (1500m); **5** (3000m)
Zofia TOKARCZYK – 18 (500m); 13 (1000m); 17 (1500m); 21 (3000m)

Medal count

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	SOVIET UNION	11	9	9	29
2.	EAST GERMANY	9	10	6	25
3.	SWITZERLAND	5	5	5	15
4.	FINLAND	4	1	2	7
5.	SWEDEN	4	0	2	6
6.	AUSTRIA	3	5	2	10
7.	NETHERLANDS	3	2	2	7
8.	WEST GERMANY	2	4	2	8
9.	UNITED STATES	2	1	3	6
10.	ITALY	2	1	2	5
11.	FRANCE	1	0	1	2
12.	NORWAY	0	3	2	5
13.	CANADA	0	2	3	5
14.	YUGOSLAVIA	0	2	1	3
15.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	0	1	2	3
16.	JAPAN	0	0	1	1
	LIECHTENSTEIN	0	0	1	1
		46	46	46	138

MAJOR STARS

Alberto TOMBA (Italy) – two gold medals in alpine skiing - *photo on the right*

Vreni SCHNEIDER (Switzerland) – two gold medals in alpine skiing

Frank-Peter ROETSCH (GDR) – two golds in biathlon (all olympic medals: 2-1-0)

Gunde SVAN (Sweden) – two golds in cross-country skiing (all olympic medals: 4-1-1)

Thomas WASSBERG (Sweden) – gold medal in cross-country skiing (all olympic medals: 4-0-0)

Tamara TIKHONOVA (USSR) – two golds and one silver in cross-country skiing

Katarina WITT (GDR) – she won her second gold in figure skating

Matti NYKÄNEN (Finland) – three golds in ski jumping (all olympic medals: 4-1-0)

Tomas GUSTAFSON (Sweden) – two golds in speed skating (all olympic medals: 3-1-0)

Yvonne VAN GENNIP (Netherlands) – three golds in speed skating