



OLYMPIC GAMES



TURIN

February 10 - 26, 2006

PASSION LIVES HERE

The 2006 Winter Olympics, officially known as the XX Olympic Winter Games (*XX Giochi olimpici invernali*) and commonly known as Turin 2006 or Torino 2006, were held in Turin, Piedmont, Italy from February 10 to 26, 2006. This marked the second time Italy hosted the Olympic Winter Games, the first being the VII Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956. Italy also hosted the Games of the XVII Olympiad in Rome in 1960. Turin was selected as the host city for the 2006 games in June 1999.

The official logo displayed the name "Torino", the Italian name of the city; the city is known as "Turin" in both English and the local traditional language, Piedmontese. The Olympic mascots of the games were Neve ("snow" in Italian), a female snowball, and Gliz, a male ice cube. The official motto of the XX Olympic Winter Games was "Passion lives here".

The full IOC Session then voted on the cities chosen as finalist cities by the Selection College. Although six cities launched candidacies and made presentations to the full IOC Session, the Selection College chose only two cities to go forward to be voted upon by the full IOC Session: Sion and Turin. The candidacies of Helsinki, Finland; Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia; Zakopane, Poland; and Klagenfurt, Austria were dropped by the Selection

College after all six candidate cities made their candidate presentations.

The selection of Turin over Sion came as a surprise, since Sion was the overwhelming favorite in part because the IOC is based in Switzerland.



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SPORTS

There were 84 events (15 disciplines in 7 sports)

- *ALPINE SKIING (10 events)
- *BIATHLON (10 events)
- *BOBSLEIGH (3 events)
- *CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING (12 events)
- *CURLING (2 events)
- *FIGURE SKATING (4 events)
- *FREESTYLE SKIING (4 events)
- *ICE HOCKEY (2 events)
- *LUGE (3 events)
- *NORDIC COMBINED (3 events)
- *SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING (8 events)
- *SKELETON (2 events)
- *SKI JUMPING (3 events)
- *SNOWBOARDING (5 events)
- *SPEED SKATING (12 events)

MASCOTS

The Olympic mascots of the games were Neve ("snow" in Italian), a female snowball, and Gliz, a male ice cube.



HIGHLIGHTS

Latvia won its first winter Olympic medal when Mārtiņš Rubenis took the bronze in the men's luge.

Chinese figure skating pair Zhang Dan and Zhang Hao, trailing a dominant Russian pair, attempted a throw quadruple salchow jump—an element which had never been successfully completed in competition. Zhang Dan fell, injuring her knee, but the pair finished their program to a standing ovation and took the silver medal.

The fourth day saw the two North American women's hockey teams finish out pool play with their third win each. Evgeni Plushenko of Russia set a world record score in the men's figure skating short program; his 90.66 points was more 10 points better than the nearest opponent's score.

Duff Gibson of Canada took gold in the skeleton becoming the oldest individual gold medalist in Winter Olympics history (39 years old).

Lascelles Brown became the first Jamaican-born competitor to win a medal at the Winter Olympics, competing on the Canadian 2-man bobsleigh team which finished second in an extremely tight competition.

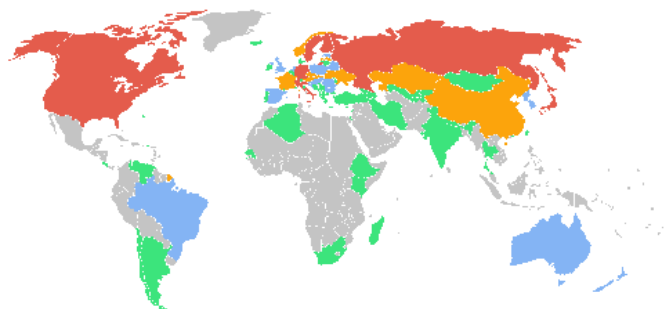
In the closing ceremony, Manuela Di Centa, a seven-time Olympic medalist from Italy and then-member of the International Olympic Committee, was scheduled to present the medals for the men's 50-kilometre cross-country skiing event. This resulted in her presenting the gold medal to her own brother when Giorgio Di Centa won the event to take his second gold medal.

Venues

VENUE	SPORTS
Oval Lingotto	Speed skating
Palavela	Figure skating / Short track speed skating
Palasport Olimpico	Ice hockey
Stadio Olimpico Grande Torino	Ceremonies
Torino Esposizioni	Ice hockey
Barnodecchia	Snowboarding
Cesana Pariol	Bobsleigh / Luge / Skeleton
Cesana San Sicario	Biathlon
Pinerolo Palaghiaccio	Curling
Pragelato	Nordic combined / Ski jumping
Pragelato Plan	Cross-country skiing / Nordic combined
San Sicario Fraiteve	Alpine skiing
Sauze d'Oulx-Juvencaux	Freestyle skiing
Sestriere Borgata	Alpine skiing
Sestriere Colle	Alpine skiing

A record 80 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) entered athletes at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. This was an increase of two from the 78 represented at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. The number in parentheses indicates the number of participants that NOC contributed. It was the first appearance for Albania, Ethiopia and Madagascar. It was the only appearance at the Winter Olympics for Serbia and Montenegro, coming between their change of name in 2003 and Montenegro's vote for independence in May.

ALBANIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	KENYA	ROMANIA
ALGERIA	DENMARK	NORTH KOREA	RUSSIA
ANDORRA	ESTONIA	SOUTH KOREA	SAN MARINO
ARGENTINA	ETHIOPIA	KYRGYZSTAN	SENEGAL
ARMENIA	FINLAND	LATVIA	SERBIA/MONTENEGRO
AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	LEBANON	SLOVAKIA
AUSTRIA	GEORGIA	LIECHTENSTEIN	SLOVENIA
AZERBAIJAN	GERMANY	LITHUANIA	SOUTH AFRICA
BELARUS	GREAT BRITAIN	LUXEMBOURG	SPAIN
BELGIUM	GREECE	MACEDONIA	SWEDEN
BERMUDA	HONG KONG	MADAGASCAR	SWITZERLAND
BOSNA HERZEGOVINA	HUNGARY	MOLDOVA	CHINESE TAIPEI
BRAZIL	ICELAND	MONACO	TAJIKISTAN
BULGARIA	INDIA	MONGOLIA	THAILAND
CANADA	IRAN	NEPAL	TURKEY
CHILE	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	UKRAINE
CHINA	ISRAEL	NEW ZEALAND	UNITED STATES
COSTA RICA	ITALY	NORWAY	UZBEKISTAN
CROATIA	JAPAN	POLAND	VENEZUELA
CYPRUS	KAZAKHSTAN	PORTUGAL	VIRGIN ISLANDS



POLISH PARTICIPATION

45 competitors (28 men and 17 women) in 11 sports

SILVER MEDAL:

Tomasz SIKORA (biathlon – men’s mass start)

BRONZE MEDAL:

Justyna KOWALCZYK (cross-country skiing – women’s 30km freestyle)



Other notable results

BIATHLON:

*Krystyna PAŁKA – **5** (individual)

*Krystyna PAŁKA, Magdalena GWIZDOŃ, Katarzyna PONIKWIA, Magdalena GRZYWA – **7** (relay)

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:

*Justyna KOWALCZYK – **8** (15km)

*Maciej KRECZMER, Janusz KRĘŻEŁOK – **7** (team sprint)

SKI JUMPING:

*Adam MAŁYSZ – **7** (normal hill)

*Stefan HULA, Adam MAŁYSZ, Robert MATEJA, Kamil STOCH – **5** (team)

SPEED SKATING:

*Katarzyna WÓJCICKA – **8** (1000m)

Medal count

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	GERMANY	11	12	6	29
2.	UNITED STATES	9	9	7	25
3.	AUSTRIA	9	7	7	23
4.	RUSSIA	8	6	8	22
5.	CANADA	7	10	7	24
6.	SWEDEN	7	2	5	14
7.	SOUTH KOREA	6	3	2	11
8.	SWITZERLAND	5	4	5	14
9.	ITALY	5	0	6	11
10.	FRANCE	3	2	4	9
	NETHERLANDS	3	2	4	9
12.	ESTONIA	3	0	0	3
13.	NORWAY	2	8	9	19
14.	CHINA	2	4	5	11
15.	CZECH REPUBLIC	1	2	1	4
16.	CROATIA	1	2	0	3
17.	AUSTRALIA	1	0	1	2
18.	JAPAN	1	0	0	1
19.	FINLAND	0	6	3	9
20.	POLAND	0	1	1	2
21.	BELARUS	0	1	0	1
	BULGARIA	0	1	0	1
	GREAT BRITAIN	0	1	0	1
	SLOVAKIA	0	1	0	1
25.	UKRAINE	0	0	2	2
26.	LATVIA	0	0	1	1
		84	84	84	252

MAJOR STARS

Kjetil André AAMODT (Norway) – alpine skiing – he won his fourth gold (total: 4-2-3)

Benjamin RAICH (Austria) – alpine skiing – two gold medals (total: 2-0-2)

Michael DORFMEISTER (Austria) – alpine skiing – two gold medals (total: 2-1-0)

Janica KOSTELIĆ (Croatia) – alpine skiing – gold and silver (total: 4-2-0)

Michael GREIS (Germany) – biathlon – three gold medals

Sven FISCHER (Germany) – biathlon – two golds and 1 silver (total: 4-2-2)

Svetlana ISHMOURATOVA (Russia) – biathlon – two golds (total: 2-0-1)

André LANGE (Germany) – bobsleigh – two golds (total: 3-0-0)

Kevin KUSKE (Germany) – bobsleigh – two golds (total: 3-0-0)

Giorgio DI CENTA (Italy) – cross-country skiing – two golds (total: 2-1-0)

Björn LUND (Sweden) – cross-country skiing – two gold medals

Kristina ŠMIGUN (Estonia) – cross-country skiing – two gold medals

Felix GOTTWALD (Austria) – nordic combined – two golds and one silver (total: 2-1-3)

AHN Hyun-soo (South Korea) – short track speed skating – 3 golds, 1 bronze

JIN Sun-yu (South Korea) – short track speed skating – three gold medals

Thomas MORGENSTERN (Austria) – ski jumping – two golds

Enrico FABRIS (Italy) – speed skating – two golds and one bronze

Marianne TIMMER (Netherlands) – speed skating – she won her third gold

Claudia PECHSTEIN (Germany) – speed skating – gold and bronze (total: 5-2-2)