Review on the
Olympics
Athens 2004

Notes from Athens

It looked like a walk in the park for Germany to win its third consecutive gold medal (after Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000) in Team Jumping. The German Team with Ludger Beerbaum on Goldfever, Marco Kutscher on Montender, Christian Ahlmann on Coester and Otto Becker on Centro had a combined score of just eight penalty points. The United States and Sweden finished each with 20 penalty points and were forced thereby into a jump-off for the Team Silver Medal; it was really a matter of who would blink first: both teams put in clear and quick rounds. At the end the U.S. won the silver medal with only seven seconds ahead of the Swedish Team that took the bronze medal. It is said that it had been Sweden’s first Olympic show jumping medal since 1928.

Many questions have been raised about the footing in the show jumping arena that left three horses in three days suffering tendon strains. Much has been said about the extra challenging courses set by Germany’s course designer Olaf Petersen that had fences crashing and horses’ shoes flying (some say that is why Olaf Petersen is one of the very best course designers in the world!). Yet, 24-year-old Cian O’Connor riding Waterford Crystal matched all the demands and won Ireland’s first gold medal in the Individual Jumping Final. “I never expected something like that”, O’Connor commented, “my horse gave everything and the track actually suited me. I was very happy to pass the line of fences that everybody was afraid of, and I felt confident after the first round.” Brazilian Rodrigo Pessoa and his French stallion Baloubet du Rouet took the silver medal in a dramatic jump-off against Chris Kappler (USA) on Royal Kaliber. Kappler started second and commenced his round very fast, but had to retire when Royal Kaliber was injured after the second jump of the combination. The clearly lame horse was taken away by ambulance. Following radiography and ultrasound examination, an acute strain of the tendon was diagnosed. Chris Kappler and Royal Kaliber took the bronze medal for the USA. German Marco Kutscher, who came to the Games as a reserve rider, missed the jump-off by one time penalty and took fourth.

Tears, tears, tears, when it comes to the case of the German Eventing Team and its best rider Bettina Hoy, wife of the Australian eventing Olympian Andrew Hoy. The German Eventing Team had the gold medal in their hands and Germany’s Bettina Hoy could have been the first woman ever to win an individual eventing Olympic gold medal! Germany lost it all: the German Team lost its gold medal to France and became fourth; Bettina Hoy lost its individual medal to Leslie Law from Great Britain and was ranked ninth at the end.

Bettina Hoy cantered twice through the electronic start before beginning her show jumping round, although the stadium clock had not started until her second pass, the Ground Jury decided after it had noticed that Bettina Hoy could have been the first woman ever to win an individual eventing Olympic gold medal! Germany lost it all: the German Team lost its gold medal to France and became fourth; Bettina Hoy lost its individual medal to Leslie Law from Great Britain and was ranked ninth at the end.

Bettina Hoy cantered twice through the electronic start before beginning her show jumping round, although the stadium clock had not started until her second pass, the Ground Jury decided after it had noticed that Bettina Hoy went through the start more than once, to award her 14 penalty points. The German National Olympic Committee immediately filed a protest against the decision of the Ground Jury and appealed to the FEI Appeal Committee. The Appeal Committee overturned the Ground Jury’s decision. It concluded that as the stadium clock had been restarted when Bettina Hoy crossed the starting line for the second time, the rider had no way to note that her round already started. In order not to penalise the rider for a competition management failure, the FEI Appeal Committee removed the 14 penalty points. Germany was reinstated, but the event was far from over. The National Olympic Committees of France, Great Britain and the USA filed an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). On 21 August the Court of Arbitration for Sport finally decided that the FEI Appeal Committee had no jurisdiction to deal with the case brought forward by the German Federation. The CAS thereby referred the case back to the early decision of the Ground Jury. One could have argued that had the FEI Appeal Committee phrased its decision with greater precision and more in light of the legal interpretation of the FEI rules instead of simply basing it on the findings of facts, it would have been far more difficult for the CAS to deny jurisdiction and most probably the outcome would have been much different!

On 8th October 2004 the FEI announced the results of the medication controls for the horses sampled during the Games in Athens. Forty horses were sampled (20% of the participating horses), and four test results were positive (A-sample). The Persons Responsible for the horses were informed through their National Federation and may request for a confirmatory analysis (B-sample).

The German Equestrian Federation announced that the horses ‘Goldfever’ (rider: Ludger Beerbaum) and ‘Ringwood
Enthusiastic fans, cheering, crowds from all over the world, mixed feeling of happiness, hope, enchantment, sadness, and disappointment. That’s how it was in the Markopoulo Olympic Equestrian Center where fans were flocking from all over the world to give a round of applause for the top equestrian riders and their horses.

Definitely, most of us wish we were there in this eccentric place watching the world’s greatest riders competing. Therefore so as to help you get the feel of it; here are quotes from some of the riders describing their experience there!

"We have felt great since the Olympic trials" Show jumping rider Beezie Madden of the United States

"It was an electric atmosphere." Dressage rider, Guenter Seidel of Del Mar, Calif.

"We’re mistakenly seen as an elitist sport, this is a labor-intensive sport. It’s not just the best rider who succeeds but the best rider who provides the best care for his horses. Team USA has the best support group in the world." Three-day event rider Darren Chiacchia of Ocala, Fla.

"I am staying in the hunt, it’s a long shot, but I’m not giving up." Dressage rider Debbie McDonald of Hailey, Idaho

"That ride was fun, every day I’ve learned how much trust I can have in him (his horse)." Dressage rider Robert Dover of Lebanon, N.J.

"It was a clean, brilliant test, I was very happy." Beatriz Ferrer Salat of Spain

"Team Dressage is like watching a play; the play has momentum from the beginning. It’s not as easy to pull yourself up from the position. We were hoping for more points to start with." Dressage rider Robert Dover of Lebanon, N.J.

"In the interest of our athletes, fair play and the integrity of sport, it is our prerogative to explore every avenue." British Team Press Officer Philip Pope

"All day long, I had mixed emotions from happiness to sadness; I had no idea I had passed the starting line twice. I realized it only fifteen minutes after my competition when the French protested." Show Jumping rider Bettina Hoy, Germany

"I know what it’s like to win a gold medal and stand on the podium and have your national anthem played, the sheer excitement of it is just unbelievable." Show Jumping rider, Andrew Hoy, Australia

"I knew that I had let the team down", Severson of Keene, Va, after her disappointing round.

"It’s a different kind of pressure, but the same being under the gun, the difference is having 10 guys behind you on the hose line, while here you’re out on your own", Tyron, a firefighter.
The best and worst of the Athens Games

BEST CHANT: The roaring Greek cries of "Hellas, Hellas" — as the country is known here — which echoed everywhere but were deafening during the men’s basketball game against the United States. (We also got caught up in the Lithuanians' rhythmic cheer of "Lie-tu-va."

WORST BEHAVIOR: Two displays come to mind. The capacity crowd at Olympic Stadium whistling and booing — chanting for disgraced Greek sprinter Kostas Kenteris — and delaying the start of the 200-meter final by four minutes. And the gymnastics fans who booted for 10 minutes because they were unhappy with the high-bar scores the judges gave Russian Alexei Nemov.

BEST SPORTSMANSHIP: U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps, for giving up his spot in the 400-meter medley relay to rival Ian Crocker, which allowed Crocker to redeem himself for a disappointing swim earlier.

WORST SPORTSMANSHIP: Germany’s Judith Arndt, who won the silver medal in the women’s road race, yet made an obscene gesture toward her nation’s cycling federation officials while crossing the finish line. Arndt said she was upset that they didn’t put her close friend, Petra Rossner, on the Olympic team. (Misplaced priorities: Taekwondo referee Zhao Lei, who still counted out Bertrand Gbongou Liango from the Central African Republic while he was lying unconscious from a round-house kick to the head before being hospitalized with a concussion.)

BEST HAIR: Australian swimmer Ian Thorpe, whose blond-tipped bedhead kick to the head before being hospitalized with a concussion.)

WORST HAIR: Australian basketball player C.J. Bruton, whose braided head still looked fabulous, even with the gold medal-winner’s wreath on top of it.

WORST CROWDS: The abysmally low soccer attendance at satellite venues in Thessaloniki, Heraklio, Volos and Patras — except when the Greeks played, and even they didn’t sell out most of their games. At the Ghana-Paraguay game, the announced attendance was 1,119 among 26,200 seats.

BEST FIREWORKS: The climactic show at the opening ceremony in Olympic Stadium.

WORST FIREWORKS: Chief Olympic organizer Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki threw a celebration one day later, with pyrotechnics show that caused a fire in the nearby wooded area, burning out of control for nearly an hour.

BEST BARGAIN: The 2-euro Heinekens on tap at the venues and nearly an hour.

WORST BARGAIN: The 2-euro Heineken on tap at the venues and media villages. (Though the chocolate-coated ice cream bars for 1 euro and 50 cents also were a favorite)

BEST FOOD: Anything served at the media villages. Breakfast was especially bleak, consisting of bland cold cuts, tepid omelets and concrete croissants.

WORST FOOD: Anything served at the media villages. Breakfast was especially bleak, consisting of bland cold cuts, tepid omelets and concrete croissants.

BEST USE OF COSMETICS: American sprinter Gail Devers, who painted her famous talons blue to match her uniform.

WORST USE OF COSMETICS: The rhythmic gymnasts. We know you’re trying to color coordinate, but seafan-green eye shadow and silver hair glitter are never, ever a good look.

BEST FASHION ACCESSORY: British long jumper Jade Johnson’s snazzy red fishnet stockings.

WORST FASHION ACCESSORY: The plastic strap barely holding up Jamaican Veronica Campbell’s cap as she ran the anchor leg of the 400-meter relay. Her team won the gold, but her outfit was a wardrobe malfunction waiting to happen.

BEST FANS: Hard to choose. The mighty, tightly packed Lithuanian basketball fans, dressed in their country’s green, yellow and red, resembled the fans at a rock concert. The Japanese, in matching samurai garb, were vocal and organized at baseball. And then there was the overweight Brazilian beach volleyball fan in a green-and-yellow wig, tight yellow Superman costume and blue Speedo trunks.

WORST ATTITUDE: U.S. super heavyweight Jason Estrada, who perjured himself in a quarterfinal loss to Cuba’s Michel Lopez Nunez, then infuriated his coaches by telling reporters it didn’t matter since he’s focusing on his upcoming pro career: “If I’m going to lose, I’m going to lose getting hit as little as possible. I’d rather not get hit at all.”

Egyptian Participation...

Following the end of the Olympic Games, Youth Minister Anas El-Fiqi took another road, dissolving seven sports federations which failed, not only in the Olympics but in the past four years — swimming, athletics, judo, badminton, field hockey, archery and volleyball. The decision cooled down an angry public which sees that millions of pounds have been wasted. That’s not all. According to the prime minister, a special committee for Beijing 2008 and the Games of 2012 will be set up soon to select the most promising athletes for these two Games. It seems that the Egyptian sports are in the gear to a reform!

Moreover, El-Fiqi included an investigation with international equestrian rider, Saleh Andre Sakakini, whose performance did not live up to the expectations. The German-based Sakakini was accused by the media and officials of receiving special treatment from the National Olympic Committee who supported his participation. Sakakini is now asked to return his horse “Capser”, which was bought for $60,000 by the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, and is worth today around 400,000 euros; as stated by Sakakini himself.

Saleh Andre Sakakini makes his fourth appearance in the Olympic Games. Based in Germany, Sakakini trains on his own, and he was the only Egyptian rider to qualify for this year’s Olympics in Athens. However, despite qualifying for the games by being placed in the top list of the world’s riders, Sakakini unfortunately withdrawn from the Olympic Games, due to special problems with his insufficient support team. Sakakini started participating in international
Facts on Olympic history

Olympic Motto
The Olympic motto “Citius, Altius, Fortius” is Latin for “Faster, Higher, Braver” but is universally accepted to mean “Swifter, Higher, Stronger.”

Olympic Rings
The Olympic symbol—five interlocked rings—represents the union of the five original major continents (Africa, America, Asia, Australia and Europe). The colors of the rings are thought to have been chosen because at least one of these colors can be found in the flag of every nation.

Olympic Flag
The Olympic Flag has a plain white background with no border. In the center are the five interlocked Olympic rings. The flag was presented by Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1914 at the Olympic Congress in 1914, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee.

At the Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic Games, the mayor of the Olympic host city presents the Olympic flag to the mayor of the next Olympic host city. The flag is then kept in the town hall of the host city until the next Olympic Games.

Olympic Mascot (Lucky Charm)
The first Olympic mascot made a discreet appearance at the 1968 Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble. Its name was Schuss. The Olympic mascot, however successful, disappears with the end of the Games it personifies. It was created to be understood by everyone, especially the young. It is friendly and appealing and is part of the visual identity of the Games.

Olympic Creed
The words of the Olympic Creed are attributed to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games. “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not the win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.”

Olympic Games Torchbearers
The idea of lighting an Olympic flame for the duration of the Games derives from the ancient Greeks who used a flame lit by the sun’s rays at Olympia, Greece, the site of the original Games. The concept was revived at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin and has remained an Olympic tradition.

Victory Ceremonies
Olympic medals must be at least 66 mm in diameter and at least three mm thick. Gold & silver medals must be made of 92.5 percent pure silver; the gold medal must be gilded with at least six grams of gold. The design of the medals is the responsibility of the host city.

At the first modern Games in Greece, 1896, medals were given only to first & second-place. The winner received a silver medal & the runner-up a bronze medal. The winner was also given a crown of olive branches, while the second-place finisher settled for a laurel branch crown. The 1900 Games in Paris remain the only Olympics where winners were only given valuable pieces of art.

Opening Ceremonies
Planning and execution of this ceremony is the responsibility of the host city, but basic guidelines, as outlined in the Olympic Charter of 1985, exist. Athletes parade into the main Olympic stadium in alphabetical order according to the host country’s language with two exceptions: Greece, which hosted the first modern Games in 1896, always leads the parade, and the host country’s team is always last.

The president of the IOC asks the host country’s Head of State to open the Games. The Head of State does the honors with the following phrase: “I declare open the Games of (host city), celebrating the (number of the) Olympiad of the modern era.”

Closing Ceremonies
The closing ceremony, also held in the main Olympic stadium, signals the official end of the Games. Olympic protocol requires each country to select a standard bearer. The athletes march in no particular order, between eight and 10 abreast, "united only by the friendly bonds of Olympic sport."

At the international anthem is played. It’s flag is raised to the right of the center stage. Then the flag of the next host country is raised to the left.

The IOC president then pronounces the Games closed with the following statement: “I call upon the youth of all countries to assemble four years from now at (the site of the next Olympics), there to celebrate with us the Games of the (number of the next) Olympiad.” Then the Olympic Flame is extinguished. The Olympic Flag is then lowered and carried from the stadium by eight people.

Olympic Oath
The Olympic Oath is a symbolic gesture of sportsmanship that began at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium. Basically, one athlete from the host country takes an oath in the Opening Ceremonies on behalf of all athletes. The oath is as follows: “In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic
OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN MEDAL WINNERS

(Individual show jumping)

ATHENS 2004: Gold - Clas Ohlsson Silver - Rodrigo Pessoa Bronze - Chris Kappeler
SYDNEY 2000: Gold - Jeroen Dubbeldam, Netherlands Silver - Albert Vroom, Netherlands Bronze - Khaled Aleid, Saudi Arabia

MONTREAL 1976: Gold - Ulrich Kirchhoff, Germany Silver - Wil Melliger, Switzerland Bronze - Alexandra Ledermann, France

BARCELONA 1992: Gold - Ludger Beerbaum, Germany Silver - Piet Raymakers, The Netherlands Bronze - Norman Dello Joio, United States

SEOUL 1988: Gold - Pierre Durand, France Silver - Greg Best, United States Bronze - Wielko Wysocki, Poland

LOS ANGELES 1984: Gold - Joe Fargis, United States Silver - Karsten Huck, West Germany Bronze - Peter Robeson, Great Britain

MOSCOW 1980: Gold - Elisabeth Theurer, Austria Silver - Yuri Kovshov, Soviet Union Bronze - Victor Ugryumov, Soviet Union

MOSCOW 1980: Gold - Soviet Union Silver - Poland Bronze - Mexico

MONTREAL 1976: Gold - Germany Silver - Germany Bronze - Belgium

MUNICH 1972: Gold - Germany Silver - United States Bronze - Italy

SEOUL 1988: Gold - West Germany Silver - United States Bronze - France

BARCELONA 1992: Gold - Netherlands Silver - Austria Bronze - France

SYDNEY 2000: Gold - Anky van Grunsven, Netherlands Silver - Isabell Werth, Germany Bronze - Beatriz Ferrer Salat, Spain

ATHENS 2004: Gold - Anky van Grunsven, Netherlands Silver - Isabell Werth, Germany Bronze - Beatriz Ferrer Salat, Spain

OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN MEDAL WINNERS

(Individual dressage)

ATHENS 2004: Gold - Anky van Grunsven, Netherlands Silver - Ulla Salzgeber, Germany Bronze - Beatrix Ferrer Salat, Spain

SYDNEY 2000: Gold - Anky van Grunsven, Netherlands Silver - Isabell Werth, Germany Bronze - Ulla Salzgeber, Germany

ATHENS 1996: Gold - Germany Silver - Switzerland Bronze - Sven Rothenberger, Netherlands

BARCELONA 1992: Gold - Nicole Uphoff, Germany Silver - Isabell Werth, Germany Bronze - Klaus Balkenhol, Germany

SEOUl 1988: Gold - Nicole Uphoff, West Germany Silver - Margit Otto-Cregin, France Bronze - Christine Stuckelberger, Switzerland

LOS ANGELES 1984: Gold - Reiner Klimke, West Germany Silver - Anne Grethe Jensen, Denmark Bronze - Otto Hofer, Switzerland

MOSCOW 1980: Gold - Elisabeth Theurer, Austria Silver - Yuri Kovshov, Soviet Union Bronze - Viktor Ugryumov, Soviet Union

MONTREAL 1976: Gold - Christine Stuckelberger, Switzerland Silver - Harry Boldt, West Germany Bronze - Reiner Klimke, West Germany

OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN MEDAL WINNERS

(Team show jumping)

ATHENS 2004: Gold - Germany Silver - France Bronze - Sweden

SYDNEY 2000: Gold - Germany Silver - Switzerland Bronze - Brazil

ATHENS 1996: Gold - Germany Silver - United States Bronze
Gold medallist, Bettina Hoy, with husband, Andrew, Australian equestrian star.

"I know what its like to win a gold medal and stand on the podium and have your national anthem played, the sheer excitement of it is just unbelievable"

Show Jumping rider, Andrew Hoy, Australia

---

**OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN MEDAL WINNERS**

**(Team Dressage)**

**ATHENS 2004:** Gold - Germany Silver - Spain Bronze - United States

**SYDNEY 2000:** Gold - Germany Silver - Netherlands Bronze - United States

**ATLANTA 1996:** Gold - Germany Silver - Netherlands Bronze - United States

**BARCELONA 1992:** Gold - Germany Silver - The Netherlands Bronze - United States

**SEOUL 1988:** Gold - West Germany Silver - Switzerland Bronze - Canada

**LOS ANGELES 1984:** Gold - West Germany Silver - Switzerland Bronze - Sweden

**MOSCOW 1980:** Gold - Soviet Union Silver - Bulgaria Bronze - Romania

**MONTREAL 1976:** Gold - West Germany Silver - Switzerland Bronze - United States

**MUNICH 1972:** Gold - Soviet Union Silver - West Germany Bronze - Sweden

**MEXICO CITY 1968:** Gold - West Germany Silver - Soviet Union Bronze - Switzerland

**TOKYO 1964:** Gold - West Germany Silver - Switzerland Bronze - Soviet Union

**MELBOURNE 1956:** Gold - Sweden Silver - West Germany Bronze - Switzerland

**HELSEINKI 1952:** Gold - Sweden Silver - Switzerland Bronze - West Germany

---

Silver - Yelena Petushkova, Soviet Union Bronze - Josef Neckermann, West Germany

**MEXICO CITY 1968:** Gold - Ivan Kizimov, Soviet Union Silver - Josef Neckermann, West Germany Bronze - Reiner Klimke, West Germany

**TOKYO 1964:** Gold - Henri Chammartin, Switzerland Silver - Harry Boldt, West Germany Bronze - Josef Neckermann, West Germany

**ROME 1960:** Gold - Sergei Filartov, Soviet Union Silver - Gustav Fischer, Switzerland Bronze - Josef Neckermann, West Germany

**MELBOURNE 1956:** Gold - Henri Saint Cyr, Switzerland Silver - Lis Hartel, Denmark Bronze - Liselott Linsenhoff, West Germany

**HELSEINKI 1952:** Gold - Henri Saint Cyr, Sweden Silver - Lis Hartel, Denmark Bronze - Andre Jousseaume, France

**LONDON 1948:** Gold - Hans Moser, Switzerland Silver - Andre Jousseaume, France Bronze - Gustaf-Adolf Boltenstern, Jr., Sweden

**BERLIN 1936:** Gold - Heinz Pollay, Germany Silver - Friedrich Gerhard, West Germany Bronze - Alois Podhajsky, Austria

**LOS ANGELES 1932:** Gold - Xavier Lesage, France Silver - Charles Marion, France Bronze - Hiram Tuttle, United States

**AMSTERDAM 1928:** Gold - Carl Friedrich Friherr von Langen-Parow, Germany Silver - Charles Marion, France Bronze - Ragnar Ohlson, Sweden

**PARIS 1924:** Gold - Ernst Linder, Sweden Silver - Bertil Sandstrom, Sweden Bronze - Xavier Lesage, France

**ANTWERP 1920:** Gold - Janne Lundblad, Sweden Silver - Bertil Sandstrom, Sweden Bronze - Hans von Rosen, Sweden x-Gustaf-Adolf Boltenstern, Sr., Sweden x-finished in third place, but was disqualified for practicing in the ring before the competition began

**STOCKHOLM 1912:** Gold - Carl Bonde, Sweden Silver - Gustaf-Adolf Boltenstern, Sr., Sweden Bronze - Hans von Blixen-Finecke, Sr., Sweden 1896 - 1908: not held

---

"I know what its like to win a gold medal and stand on the podium and have your national anthem played, the sheer excitement of it is just unbelievable"

Show Jumping rider, Andrew Hoy, Australia