

Olympics Open With Pageantry Of World Youth

Jammed Stadium Greet Athletes as Hitler Opens Xlth Games

50 Nations in Berlin

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BERLIN, Aug. 1—A golden flame leaps and falls in a brazier above the big new stadium here. The great bronze bell in the lofty Führer Tower has given tongue, summoning the youth of the world. Over the flags of more than 50 nations floats serenely a standard with the device of five colored rings intertwined on a field of purest white. The capital city of Germany is a blaze of bunting.

Chancellor Hitler, in contrast with colorful pomp and circumstance, announced simply, "I declare the games of Berlin in celebration of the eleventh Olympiad of modern times have opened"—and the curtain was up on the greatest of sport shows—the Olympic games.

The buzz and movement of the vast crowd that filled every inch of spectators' space. The cheers that heralded the arrival of notables in the Tribune of Honor, dwarfed to a whisper by the thunder that greeted the marching legion of sportsmen and sportswomen from all parts of the world.

March of Youth

In their thousands they strode proudly by, arms swinging, heads erect and in their eyes the light of high resolve—white folk, brown folk, yellow folk, black folk, united on the common ground of friendly athletic competition.

The parade exceeded in significance anything the Greeks of ancient days ever saw. For in the old Olympic Games all the participants, though they came from states and tribes at variance, were one and all true Greeks. The Olympic Games of modern times base their appeal on something more than the tie of nationality. They bring the youth of widely separated countries together to a forum where lasting friendships are made, ideas and viewpoints exchanged and mutual respect engendered.

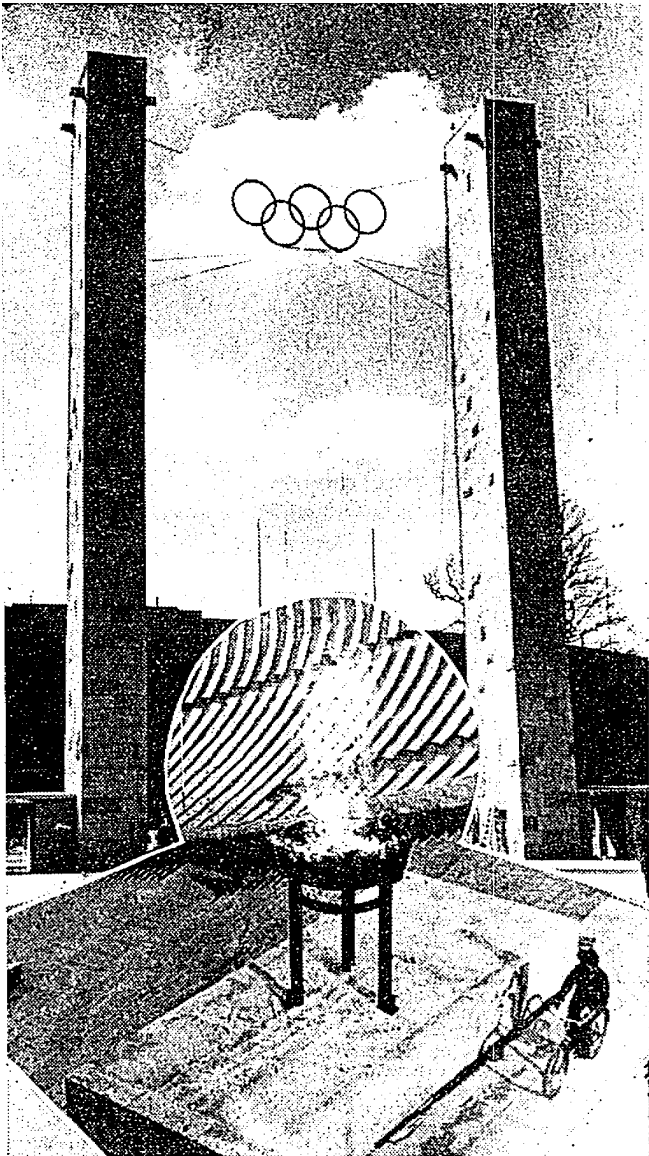
The Olympic Games call into being a veritable and practical League of Nations, operated not by diplomats but by the young people.

Olympic Village

As the ancient Greeks forgot their enmities and trained together for the Olympic Games in the gymnasium at Elis, so the competitors in the games of today dwell as one community near the scene of their triumph and defeat. A visit to the Olympic Village here is something to be long remembered. Not only do the inhabitants represent the peak of physical perfection. They seem also to represent the acme of contentment and friendliness. For wherever you go in this little international town you encounter smiles.

It was like that at Los Angeles,

Eyes of the World on Berlin



German Railways Information Bureau; Wide World

For Olympic Games

Uniting Rings at Entrance to the Olympic Stadium in Berlin. Center—Olympic Flame, Lighted by Fire Brought From Greece by Runners to Open Games. Below—Flags of the Nations Competing in the Olympics Hoisted in Exhibition Hall

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Calif., when the organizers of the 1932 games carried the idea of the Olympic village considerably further into practice than had been done before. Well, the Germans have gone a step beyond that—several steps, in fact. And they have built for the Olympic competitors, not a village of lean-to residences, but a miniature town of real, solid houses.

Opening Pageantry

As I sat in the Press Box during the opening ceremony and witnessed the pageantry and ritual—the lighting of the Olympic beacon here from the last torch in the long relay run from the scene of the original Olympic Games in Greece; the march past of the competitors; the delivery of addresses; the pledging of the Olympic oath—I mused on the great development of these international sports festivals since they were resumed after the World War in 1920. Antwerp, in devastated Belgium, was the scene of action that year and the Games, hastily organized, were somewhat sketchy. But there were some grand performances, notably by the Americans who, as in pre-war days, enjoyed the lion's share of success.

Outstanding recollections of those Games are the double victory of England's Albert Hill, in the 800 and 1500 meters, and the remarkable running of Paavo Nurmi, who won for Finland the 10,000 meters and the eight kilometers cross-country and took second place behind Joseph Guillemot, France, in the 5000 meters.

Victors

Charlie Paddock, of the United States, bounded exuberantly along the track to win the 100-meter championship in 10.8s. and other American victors in the athletic section of the program were Allan Woodring—200 meters in 22s.—F. F. Loomis—400-meter hurdles in 54s.—R. W. Landon—high jump with 6ft. 4½ in.—Frank Foss—pole vault with 13ft. 5in.—and P. J. McDonald—26-kilogram weightput with 50ft. 4½ in.

It was very much the same tale at Paris in 1924. The Stars and Stripes went soaring up to the masthead many times, and Finland, a diminutive country compared with the vast United States, won in the track and field athletics section nine events to America's 12—an astonishingly fine achievement. The individual hero was Nurmi who showed distance running powers away ahead of anything seen before or since. He won the 1500 meters; 5000 meters, and the 10,000-meter cross-country.

Women Take Part

At Paris the program reverted almost to 1908 proportions; women—who first appeared in the Games of 1908—participated in quite large numbers, and 42 nations, an unprecedented total, were represented. That year, for the first time, winter sports were held separately from the main games. The success of the snow and ice carnival at Chamonix, in the French Alps, led to the institution of the special cycle of Winter Olympics, of which the fourth was held at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Ger., last February.

Now in the Games of 1920 and 1924, Germany was excluded from competition. This ban, a legacy of the war, was lifted in time for the Games at Amsterdam in 1928. And those who were there perceived right away that German athletes had not been wasting their time while they were denied international contacts. They had been busily fitting themselves for re-entry into world sport. And at Amsterdam they made it.

There is no such thing as an official award of points in the modern Olympic Games; but, if there had been one, embracing all sections, Germany—so the newspapers reck-

oned—would have been away up at the top.

Four years later in the Olympic trail led to Los Angeles in sunny California where, in ideal climatic conditions, records fell like leaves in autumn. What a grand time—by athletes, officials and reporters alike! And there were some epic contests. No Britisher who was there will forget the scene when Tom Hampson won the final of the 800 meters in world record time. Most certainly no Italian present will forget Luigi Beccali's dramatic and unexpected dash to victory in the concluding stages of the 1500 meters.

Today memories of the 1932 Olympic Games came flooding back. Of Eddie Tolan streaking to the tape ahead of Ralph Metcalfe in the final of the short sprint; of that terrific finish between America and Italy in the deciding eight-oar race at Long Beach; of other gripping episodes in various spheres of athletic competition at Los Angeles.

The newspapermen, gathered together here from all over the world, are fighting other people's old battles over again. On the eve of watching new ones fought.

Germany has set here a new standard of achievement in the organization of Olympic Games. The technical preparations for all sections of the program appear to be perfect; the accommodation of several thousand athletes is all that they could desire; press and public find information easily obtainable. In other words, all is well and truly set for the greatest all-sports festival the world has ever seen.