



*The chill of cold air on your cheek.  
The tingle of snow flakes on the edge of your nose.  
The pure rush of it all.*

by Cynthia Gallo - Clemens

Crowds gathered from all over the globe in Salt Lake City, Utah, to join the first Olympic event for the new millennium. Spirits were high, enthusiasm evident, and the camaraderie of the nations joined together in peaceful unity. Opening ceremonies left spectators in awe with the magnificent extravaganza presented. The stage was set; a light snow was falling with a new blanket of snow just being laid earlier that day. It was as if Mother Nature herself was called upon to lend her magical touch.

Emotions ran high as the Parade of Nations came through the stadium, with Greece leading the way. Over 77 countries participated in these games that were first played in Olympia, Greece in 776 B.C. where the winners received only crowns of wild olive leaves, and promises of immortality. Ryne Sanborn (13), led the children of the light. Symbolically, Ryne was to represent the human spirit to conquer life's calamities. He continued to be the theme throughout the Games and he, along with the other children, held the lanterns as the athlete marched in with their country's flag.

The evening gala also included the carrying of the World Trade Center's "Ground Zero American Flag", which had been buried in the rubble for three days before it was found. Organizers had hoped to fly the flag

but it was too delicate for the weather. The voice of Daniel Rodriguez of the New York City police department, sang a moving performance of *God Bless America*. Tears filled the spectator's eyes as they joined in the final verse.

The atmosphere became extremely moving as the Native American tribes entered the stadium. The Navajo Nation spotlighted their history and heritage. There were almost 600 American Indians who were part of the games' opening ceremony, including two northern Nevada drum groups and 500 dancers. Again, emotions escalated as the five tribes each blew a different note on their flutes. They then joined in unity with one harmonic chord.

Our Native Americans not only introduced their heritage at the opening ceremonies, but they also had Naomi Lang, a member of the Karuk tribe, be the first American Indian woman to compete in the Winter Olympics. She said her heritage has been an important part of her life since she was a girl. "Ever since I was born I can remember going to native things, going to powwows and dances and absorbing the Indian culture and dancing around the crowds," Naomi and her partner, Peter Tchernyshev, were part of the US figure skating team. Their final score put them in 11th place, with scores of (2.4, 2.2, 6.6), 11.2 (Q).

Larry Blackhair, a Native Ute, was quoted saying "Native Americans evoke a lot of the cultural heritage and emotion that go hand-in-hand with what makes the Olympics special."

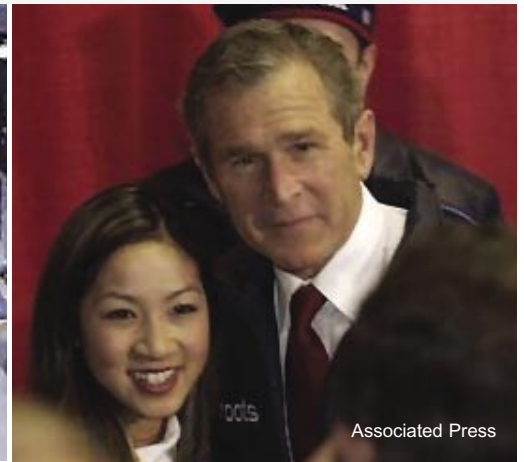




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Trent Nelson



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*Officer Daniel Rodriguez, of the NYC Police Department singing "God Bless America", the song that has been our theme since the September 11 tragedies. The "Ground Zero American Flag" carried in by members of the Olympic team. President Bush with Michele Kwan at a press conference.*

After three years and over 310 million dollars in development, it wasn't unexpected to see the increased security measures that were in use. In the aftermath of the tragedy of September 11, security was tighter than ever before in the history of the games and security was then given the ultimate test with the announcement that President Bush, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and three other heads of state were to join the 55,000 fans in the University of Utah's football stadium. A week prior, Annan had called upon the warring nations to call a truce and lay down their arms during the games just as the Olympic founding fathers

did almost 2800 years ago. Before their games, messengers would be sent to all parts of Greece to proclaim a "sacred truce" that halted all war for approximately three months.

"There is no margin for error," Secret Service agent Mark Camillo said. "We don't get a second chance."

Although no reliable threats were made, security included Black Hawk helicopters, F-16's in flight, 59 agencies making up the security force and more than 16,000 security personnel. It was a complex network in order to detect any bioterrorist attacks quickly. This included having part of a government stockpile moved to a top-secret place

near Salt Lake City in the event that the smallpox vaccine or anthrax pills would need to be administered without delay. There were millions of people spread over six Utah counties and an outbreak could have been devastating. There were over 500 staff members from Utah Health Department and other local agencies on red alert. This extreme security measure was greater than what any state or local health department would routinely do.

For Valentine's Day, only flowers that were bought within the confines of the Olympic Village were permissible. When a suspicious package had been found, the military and FBI were at the scene within minutes.

Amy Peterson, a short-track speed skater said "I'm not the least bit worried. I've never felt safer in my life." This was her fifth Olympic event.

President Bush was quoted as saying, "I'm so confident about the security situation that I came. The Olympics give the world a chance in the midst of a difficult struggle to celebrate international peace and cooperation."

*Kazuhiro Takaoka, left, hands the skates Jack Shea wore when he won two gold speed skating medals in the Olympics 70 years ago to 2002 Games gold medalist Jimmy Shea, Jack's grandson, while Jimmy's father, Jim, looks on.*

## "the Navajo Nation spotlighted their history and their heritage"



Leah Hagsten



Francisca Kjalseth



Peter de Jong/Associated Press



The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in April of 1896, with 13 nations included. They sent nearly 300 representatives to take part in 42 events. Unlike the ancient games, the modern Olympic Games have been cancelled three times due to war in 1916, 1940 and 1944. This year's games there were more than 2500 athletes who competed for 477 medals in the 78 events scheduled.

The entries this year included the woman's Bobsled team appearing for the first time, and the Skeleton making a comeback after 54 years.

"What is the Skeleton?" some asked.

Do you remember belly whopping as a kid? Do you recall the thrill as you ran with your sled, falling onto your stomach, head first, going down the hill? That's the premise for Skeleton, a sport that received its name because the first sled resembled a skeleton. This sport, similar to the luge, is the most dangerous of all Olympic events

"It's the champagne of thrills," said US team member J Shea, Jr.

Chris Soule said "The buzz never goes away."

The last time the Skeleton was ran was in 1948 whilst in St. Moritz, Switzerland. This is the first year, however, that woman have made their debut. Sliders don't steer their sleds, but instead rely only on their feet. With their faces only 2" from the ice, athletes are only allowed to leave their sled for navigation, but must be in position when they cross the finish line. There were only two Skeleton runs this year. The 80# sleds have runners made of Austenitic stainless steel. The sliders wear spiked shoes along with a break and splinter proof visor. Maximum weight of the sled and driver can not exceed 253# for men or 202.8# for woman. The weight of the sled can not be more than 94.8# for men and 77.2# for woman. Ballasts are allowed to add extra weight on the sled. This event was contested at Utah's Olympic park, which is one of the fastest courses in the world.

In 1928, the Skeleton winner during the St. Moritz games won a bottle of champagne, but in the 2002 game, 33 year old, Jim Shea, Jr.'s Gold medal had a double meaning. The Shea's are the 1st American family to send three generations to the Olympics. Jim's father participated in 1964 at Innsbruck, and his grandfather, was a winner of two gold medals at Lake Placid in 1932.

In the woman's Skeleton this year, Tristan Gale, of the USA, brought in the Gold.

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Germany	12	16	7	35
United States	10	13	11	34
Norway	11	7	6	24
Canada	6	3	8	17
Russian Fed.	6	6	4	14
Austria	2	4	10	16
Italy	4	4	4	12
France	4	5	2	11
Switzerland	3	2	6	11
Netherlands	3	5	0	8
China	2	2	4	8
Finland	4	2	1	7
Sweden	0	2	4	6
Croatia	3	1	0	4
Korea	2	2	0	4
Estonia	1	1	1	3
Great Britain	1	0	2	3
Bulgaria	0	1	2	3
Australia	2	0	0	2
Spain	2	0	0	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
Japan	0	1	1	2
Poland	0	1	1	2
Belarus	0	0	1	1
Slovenia	0	0	1	1

*Derek Parra of San Bernardino, Calif., brought in a gold during the 1500m long track with a score of 1:43.95, and also a silver during the 5000m with a score of 6:17.98.*

*Martin Retzl, of Austria, takes a silver in the men's skeleton at a time of 51.02.*

*(on the first page) Tricia Byrnes, of Stratton Mountain, Vt., was ecstatic with her sixth place score of 36.4 in the Women's Snowboarding Halfpipe.*




I talked to Joell Wilkins, a teacher from Murray, Utah on the 19th of February. She shared with me the feelings that the Olympics left her with. "The Olympics are phenomenal," she said. "I have never in my life experienced such a thing.

The crowds are large, but friendly, happy and polite; something I've never seen happen in such huge crowds. Usually people are pushy, impatient and rude these days. There are people from all over the world and it's so fun to talk to them. I've gone to two actual events.

One men's hockey game with Switzerland vs. France. It was a tied game. We cheered for both teams. I went to women's hockey's semifinal round. U.S.A. vs. Sweden. The U.S. won 4-0. It was the home team playing so we could really cheer them on. I've been to the Olympic Square twice and enjoyed the festivities there, including a chance to hold one of the torches and seeing a parade of the stick puppet animals that were in the opening ceremonies. They were incredible! TV didn't do them justice. I've also managed a trip past the cauldron with the flame once during the day and once at night. I'll be going back into the city tomorrow night just to experience the party at night, and then I think my Olympic running around will finally come to an end. It has been so fun, but I'm exhausted from trying to teach school, entertain visitors, and then do as much Olympic stuff as possible. But it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I don't want to look back on this time and wish I'd done something."

Now, the games are completed, the flag is lowered and the flame extinguished. As the Olympics were officially closed Sunday night, February 24, plans have already gone underway for the summer games in 2004 at Athens, Greece, and in the winter games in 2006 in Torino, Italy.

And at that time, the Olympic Flame will once again be lit with a torch that is brought by a relay of athletes from the ruins of ancient Olympia in Greece.



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## A N H I S T O R I C A L P E R S P E C T I V E

\*Lapel pins have been around since 1896. The first olympic pins, ancestors to the modern ones we have today, had a cardboard backing with a ribbon tied to the lapel of the athletes, judges and officials. They were known as the "official currency of the Olympics". Trading started shortly thereafter and has now become synonymous with the games ever since. This year there are dozens of pins available to collectors for the first Winter Olympic game of the 21st century.

\*The Olympic Flag made its debut at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium. At the end of each Olympic Games, the mayor of that host-city presents the flag to the mayor

of the next host-city. It then rests at the town hall of the next host-city for four years until the Opening Ceremony of their Olympic Games. The five interlocking rings of the Olympic flag symbolize the five continents of the world linked together in friendship."

\*Olympic founder Pierre de Coubertin claimed that at least one of the rings' colours was present in each country's national flag: Africa, black \* Asia, yellow \* Australia, green \* Europe, blue \* and the Americas, red.

\*Did you know that traditionally the Olympic flame in Olympia, Greece is rekindled every two years using the sun's rays and a concave reflective mirror?

\*In 1900, women competed in the games for the first time. In 1908, for the first time, medals were awarded to the first three people to finish each event--a gold medal for first place, a silver medal for second, and a bronze medal for third. By 1928, the famous Olympic flame was introduced. It makes its way, via a runner's relay, from Olympia in Greece to wherever the games are being held.

\*The first game to be televised was the 1936 Berlin Games.

\*The idea of the Olympic Flame burning from the Game's start to their closing was first introduced at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.