

SERBIAN/YOGOSLAV ATHLETES PARTICIPATION AT PARALYMPIC GAMES

PARTICIPACIÓN DE LOS DEPORTISTAS YUGOSLAVOS/ SERBIOS EN LOS JUEGOS PARALÍMPICOS

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Abstract

This paper deals with the history of the origin and maintenance of summer and winter Paralympic Games. Sports that are in the programme of the Games are mentioned. The history of the origin of paralympic movement in former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and now in Republic of Serbia together with all the results achieved by Yugoslav/Serbian athletes competing at Paralympics are also provided. At the end of the paper, four interviews with Serbian medal winners at the Paralympic Games are enclosed.

Keywords: Paralympic Games, Paralympic sports, the Serbian/Yugoslav athletes.

Resumen

Este trabajo se ocupa de la historia de la creación y el mantenimiento de los Juegos Paralímpicos de verano e invierno, mencionando los deportes que son incluidos en cada uno de los programas. También se desarrolla la historia del origen del movimiento paralímpico en la antigua República Federal Socialista de Yugoslavia y ahora en la República de Serbia, junto con todos los resultados obtenidos por los atletas Yugoslavos/Serbios que compiten en los Juegos Paralímpicos. Al final del artículo se incluyen cuatro entrevistas realizadas a los ganadores Serbios de medallas en los Juegos Paralímpicos.

Palabras clave: Juegos Paralímpicos, deportes Paralímpicos, atletas de Serbia/Yugoslavia.

1. INTRODUCTION

Paralympic Games are the biggest competition for world-class athletes with disabilities, which are being held every fourth year like the Olympic Games. The basic philosophy Paralympic movement is being led, is the opportunity of athletes with disabilities to achieve their success in sports which are the same as those for athletes without disabilities. Paralympic athletes tend to achieve their dreams of winning gold medals, so they are submitting to ruthless trainings in order to fulfill their norms and to participate in the national team.

We should not make a mistake identifying Paralympic Games with Special Olympics. Special Olympics is the competition that has no standards and includes all the athletes from 8

to 80 years with a mental disorder. All participants are considered to be winners and they receive medals. The basic idea is to allow these athletes to socialize and become physically fit¹.

After the World War II, the English neurologist Sir Ludwig Guttmann launched a series of recovery programs for veterans of the war who suffered spinal injuries in rehabilitation hospital in Stoke Mandeville. Thus he came to an idea to organize the competition. On the opening day of the Olympic Games in London in 1948, Stoke Mandeville Games have also begun, with the first competition of athletes in wheelchairs, attended by 130 participants from Great Britain and USA (Goodman, 1986). Four years later, the Games were joined by athletes from the Netherlands, and an international movement known as the International Paralympics Committee, have been established. Paralympic games for athletes with disabilities, as we know it today, were organized for the first time in Rome in 1960 after the Olympic Games. There were about 400 athletes from 23 countries, competing in eight sports. Six sports from those eight are still in the Games: archery, swimming, fencing, basketball, table tennis and athletics².

Since the Paralympic Games continued its maintenance every four years, it was decided to be the same year as the Olympic Games. Other disability groups were added in Toronto in 1976 and the idea was to unite the different disability groups for international competitions. In the same year, the first Winter Paralympic Games were held in Ornskoldsvik in Sweden³. The turning point of the Summer Paralympic Games took place in Seoul in 1988, when the Olympics and Paralympics were held in the same arenas. Since then, it has become the rule. When we are talking about Winter Paralympics, the uniting with the Winter Olympics happened in Albertville in 1992⁴. There have been 14 Summer and 11 Winter Paralympics Games so far.

¹ Special Olympics 2012 Reach Report, accessed November 13, 2013, http://media.specialolympics.org/soi/files/resources/Communications/Annual-Report/2012_Special-Olympics-Reach_Report.pdf.

² History of the Paralympic Games, accessed November 13, 2012, <http://www.canada2010.gc.ca/101/histor/010203-eng.cfm>.

³ Taken from <http://www.paralympic.org/ornskoldsvik-1976> on November 13, 2012.

⁴ History of the Paralympic Games, accessed November 13, 2012, <http://www.canada2010.gc.ca/101/histor/010203-eng.cfm>.

SUMMER PARALYMPICS	WINTER PARALYMPICS
1960 Rome (Italy)	1976 Ornskoldsvik (Sweden)
1964 Tokyo (Japan)	1980 Geilo (Norway)
1968 Tel Aviv (Israel)	1984 Innsbruck (Austria)
1972 Heidelberg (Germany)	1988 Innsbruck (Austria)
1976 Toronto (Canadá)	1992 Albertville (France)
1980 Arnhem (Netherlands)	1994 Lillehammer (Norway)
1984 Stoke Mandeville/New York (UK/USA)	1998 Nagano (Japan)
1988 Seoul (South Korea)	2002 Salt Lake (USA)
1992 Barcelona (Spain)	2006 Turin (Italy)
1996 Atlanta (USA)	2010 Vancouver (Canada)
2000 Sydney (Australia)	2014 Sochi (Russia)
2004 Athens (Greece)	
2008 Beijing (China)	
2012 London (Great Britain)	

Table 1. The list of Paralympic Games held so far

The Summer Paralympic Games at this moment include 20 sports: *Boccia, Powerlifting, Goalball, Wheelchair basketball, Wheelchair rugby, Shooting, Archery, Cycling, Football 5-a-side, Judo, Sailing, Athletics, Wheelchair fencing, Rowing, Equestrian, Football 7-a-side, Sitting volleyball, Wheelchair tennis, Swimming, and Table tennis*. There are two another sports that will be included for the first time in Rio de Janeiro in 2016: *Canoe and Triathlon*. *Wheelchair dance sport* has been governed by the International Paralympic Committee, but it is not part of the summer Paralympic Games⁵.

The Winter Paralympic Games include four sports: *Alpine skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey, Nordic skiing (Biathlon and Cross-country skiing) and Wheelchair curling*⁶.

1.1. Paralympic movement in Serbia/Yugoslavia

Yugoslav Paralympic Committee was founded in September 9th 1999, at the initiative of the competitors and national teams coaches. The Sport Association for disabled of Yugoslavia took charge of the Paralympic sports before its foundation. In 2006, its name again was changed into Serbian Paralympic Committee⁷. Serbian/Yugoslavian athletes have been participating at the Paralympic Games since 1964, and by now they have won 96 medals - 28 gold, 31 silver and 37 bronze medals.

⁵ Taken from <http://www.paralympic.org/sports/summer> on November 13, 2013.

⁶ Taken from <http://www.paralympic.org/sports/winter> on November 13, 2013.

⁷ Taken from <http://www.paralympic.rs/> on December 6, 2011.

1.1.1. List of medals⁸

Summer Paralympic Games

Heidelberg 1972

Gold:

- Sitar - athletics (60m wheelchair), class 2

Silver:

- Milka Milinković – athletics (60m wheelchair), class 4

Bronze:

- Milka Milinković – athletics (javelin), class 4
- Jože Okoren – athletics (discus), class 2

Arnhem 1980

Gold:

- Jožef Banfi – swimming (100m breaststroke), class D1
- Jožef Banfi – swimming (3x50m medley), class D1
- Svetislav Dimitrijević – table tennis (singl), class E
- Svetislav Dimitrijević and Franc Šimonič– table tennis (team), class E

Silver:

- Jože Okoren – athletics (discus), class 2
- Roko Mikelin – swimming (50m backstroke), class E1
- Roko Mikelin – swimming (50m free style), class E1
- Roko Mikelin – swimming (3x50m medley), class E1
- Franc Šimonič – table tennis (singl), class E

Bronze:

- Miroslav Jančić – athletics (5000m walk), class A
- Marjan Peternej – athletics (javelin), class 4
- Franjo Izlakar – athletics (shot put), class CP D
- Milka Milinković – athletics (javelin), class 4
- Milka Milinković – athletics (shot put), class 4
- Roko Mikelin – swimming (50m breaststroke), class E1
- Vangel Zabev – swimming (50m free style), class E1
- Vangel Zabev – swimming (3x50m medley), class E1
- Men – sitting volleyball

Stoke Mandeville/ New York 1984

Gold:

- Miroslav Jančić - athletics (pentathlon), class B1
- Ante Pehar – athletics (triple jump), class B2
- Ante Pehar – athletics (long jump), class B2
- Željko Dereta – athletics (club), class C2
- Franjo Izlakar – athletics (shot put), class C7
- Rudolf Kocmut – athletics (400m), class C7

⁸ List of medals was taken from the official site of Paralympic movement:
<http://www.paralympic.org/results/historical> accessed October 21, 2012.

- J. Banfi, R. Mikelin, Z. Moldavi & R. Rakonjac – swimming (4x50m free style relay), class A1-A9
- Franc Šimonič – table tennis (single), klasa L5
- Simo Kecman – shooting (air pistol), all classes (integrated)
- Milka Milinković – athletics (javelin), class 3
- Marjan Peternejl – athletics (javelin), class 3

Silver:

- Slobodan Adžić – athletics (1500m), class A5
- Slobodan Adžić – athletics (5000m), class A5
- Miroslav Jančić – athletics (javelin), class B1
- Ramon Odžaković – athletics (400m), class B2
- Ramon Odžaković – athletics (800m), class B2
- Refija Okić – athletics (400m), class B1
- Željko Dereta – athletics (shot put), class C2
- Jožef Banfi – swimming (100m backstroke), class A1
- Milka Milinković – athletics (shot put), class 3
- Svetislav Dimitrijević and Franc Šimonič – table tennis (team), class L5

Bronze:

- Slobodan Adžić – athletics (400m), class A5
- Jožef Banfi – swimming (100m breaststroke), class A1
- Roko Mikelin – swimming (100m free style), class A9
- Roko Mikelin – swimming (50m backstroke), class A9
- Brigita Galičić – swimming (100m free style), class L5
- Zoran Gajić – table tennis (single), class L4,
- Zoran Gajić – table tennis (open), class CL
- Ilija Đurašinić – table tennis (single), class L2
- Men – goalball (D. Sremčević, R. Kopač, M. Vidać, Š.o Zrilić & D. Kisovec)
- D. Lapornik – athletics (shot put), class 4
- Marjan Peternejl – athletics (shot put), class 3

Seoul 1988

Gold:

- Nada Vuksanović – athletics (shot put), class B2
- Nada Vuksanović – athletics (discus), class B2
- Milka Milinković – athletics (shot put), class 4
- Men – goalball (Muhamed Arnautović, Miroslav Jančić, Adam Kablar, Rajko Kopac & Dragan Sremčević)

Silver:

- Ružica Aleksov – shooting (air pistol standing), class LSH-2
- Danijel Pavlinec – swimming (100m free style), class L3
- Svetislav Dimitrijević – table tennis (single), class TT7
- Rudolf Kocmut – athletics (1500m), class C7

Bronze:

- Refija Okić – athletics (800m), class B1
- Refija Okić – athletics (1500m), class B1
- Slobodan Adžić – athletics (400m), classes A5/A7
- Slobodan Adžić – athletics (1500m), classes A5/A7
- Slobodan Adžić – athletics (5000m), classes A6/A8-9/L4

- Danijel Pavlinec – swimming (200m free style), class L3
- Roko Mikelin – swimming (100m backstroke), class A7
- Ante Pehar – athletics (triple jump), class B2
- Željko Dereta – athletics (discus), class C3
- Marjan Peternej – athletics (javelin), class 3
- Milorad Nikolić – athletics (javelin), class 1C

Barcelona 1992

Gold:

- Ružica Aleksov – shooting (mixed air pistol), class SH1-3
- Nenad Krišanić – swimming (50m breaststroke), class SB2
- Nada Vuksanović – athletics (discus), class B2
- Branislav Jovanovski – shooting (air pistol), class SH1

Silver:

- Nenad Krišanić – swimming (50m butterfly), class S3-4
- Nada Vuksanović – athletics (shot put), class B2
- Radomir Rakonjac – shooting (air pistol), class SH1

Bronze:

- Zlatko Kesler – table tennis (single), class 3

Atlanta 1996

Gold:

- Ružica Aleksov – shooting (air pistol), class SH1
- Zlatko Kesler – table tennis (single), class 3

Silver:

- Ružica Aleksov – shooting (small caliber pistol), class SH1
- Nenad Krišanić – swimming (50m breaststroke), class SB2

Sydney 2000

Silver:

- Zlatko Kesler – table tennis (single), class 3

Athens 2004

Bronze:

- Zlatko Kesler – table tennis (single), class 3
- Miloš Grlica – athletics (javelin), class F12

Beijing 2008

Silver:

- Borislava Perić – table tennis (single), class 4
- Draženko Mitrović – athletics (discus), class F53/54

London 2012

Gold:

- Željko Dimitrijević – athletics (club), class F31-32/51
- Tanja Dragić – athletics (javelin), class F12/13

Silver:

- Zlatko Kesler – table tennis (single), class 3
- Borislava Perić – table tennis (single), class 4
- Draženko Mitrović – athletics (discus), class F54/56

Winter Paralympic Games

Innsbruck 1984

Bronze:

- Franc Komar – alpine skiing (alpine combination), class LW6/8

2. METHODOLOGY

Although the interview is the 'main product of journalism' (Životić, 1993: 59) as a credible and immediate form of expression, it is also used in professional work as a method that has its theoretical value, as it is used for collecting test data through direct verbal and personal contact of the researcher with the respondents. The form of direct conversation leads to the facts and in the very process the truth is either confirmed or refuted. The use of interviews allows the study of attitudes, values, desires, feelings, evaluations that are inaccessible to observation, as well as the events that occurred in the past (Branković, 2007). From this educational content that is both methodological techniques of data collection, we found out that the motives were crucial for achieving the best results, how to come up Paralympic Games and whether the competition changed something in the life of athletes. "Engaging the public, while taking into account the clarity, that is the art of interviewing" (Boyd, 2002: 142).

For the purposes of this study we used a structured interview in which the questions and the flow of the interview have been carefully planned. Testing was done individually and by the method of communication it was conducted verbally, using direct communication as well as in writing via a computer network (Internet).

The selection of the topic of the interview was made in accordance with the needs of this research work. In the selection of people who are involved in this study, the researchers were guided by their achieved success (won medals). Questions which are addressed to them are general and universal as the athletes in all parts of the world are equally motivated when they compete in major competitions.

The time of the interview was pre-agreed with the interviewees and the questions were prepared in advance and sent a few days before the interview. After the interviews the collected material was classified and the permission from the interviewees was requested and obtained.

3. INTERVIEWS WITH SOME OF THE SERBIAN PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

It is often taken for granted that disabled people who are those who are in wheelchairs. The media focus is on the helpless body, and person with disability is often presented to the audience as helpless and terrible at the same time. Paralympic athletes are winning over the prejudices. For healthy people, the images of wheelchairs are invoking "scene such as lack of mobility, physical defects, the need for others, helpfulness, unattractiveness ...", and for disability person associations are: "Wheelchairs are here to help me moving" (Briggs & Copley 2005: 577).

The experience of athletes at the Paralympic Games are the best stimulus for those who suspect that their lives can bring some memorable moments. Regardless of they are unable to deal with sports due to illness or accident like other athletes at the Olympic Games, success and medals are proof that sport sets no limits and that consistency is crucial. One example of how you should never give up is **Ružica Aleksov** female paralympic athlete who were competing in shooting in category SH1-minimal physical damage. She has participated in numerous national, European and World Championships, World Cups, as well as three Paralympic Games: Seoul in 1988, Barcelona in 1992, and Atlanta in 1996. She always came back with many medals.

"At the biggest competition at Paralympic Games in Seoul in 1988, I won the silver medal with an air pistol (367 rounds). Then, it was World Cup in Belgium and the bronze medal. World Championship in Assen in the Netherlands and two silver medals. At European Championship which was held in Belgium, I won the gold medal there and I set the world record with 370 rounds in the air pistol event".

The desire for success, self-confidence and love for sport led her to Barcelona Paralympics in 1992 and helped to win the gold medal in air pistol with Olympic record. In the small-caliber sport pistol discipline she has not achieved notable results and in small-caliber pistol at 50 meters discipline she won ninth place.

"Next year World Championship was held in Puerto Rico. I won two individual gold medals: in air pistol event, where I set new world record (373 rounds) and in small-caliber pistol at 50 meters. Also, I won two bronze medals in the team competition in small-caliber pistol at 50 meters and in small-caliber sport pistol."

The next event Ružica emerged on was the European Championship in Belgium. She won six medals: two gold medals in the team competition in small-caliber sport pistol and in small-caliber pistol at 50 meters with world record of 1557 rounds, two silver medals in air pistol individual competition and team standard pistol, and two bronze medals in individual competition in small-caliber sport pistol and in small-caliber pistol at 50 meters.

"In 1995 at the European Championships in Helsinki silver medal in air pistol and in small-caliber pistol at 50 meters. After that it came my last competition - the Paralympic Games in Atlanta in 1996."

Ružica Aleksov dedicated whole life to sport. After a very successful athletic career, she deals with the creation of some new European, World and Olympic champions in shooting club "Graničar".

Paralympic spirit is also in the heart of **Slobodan Adžić**, disabled athlete, who suffered an accident at the age of 14, losing both arms left below the elbow and right above the elbow. He has participated in many athletics competition (100m, 400m, 800m, 1500m and 5000m running) in the category of T-45 (bilateral upper extremity amputations), also in an integrated T-46 category with athletes with unilateral upper extremity amputation.

The first international competition he appeared was in Paris at the European sports games for disabled athletes where he won silver medal at 1500m and gold medal at 5000m.

"After those competitions I became a member of national Paralympic team for Paralympic Games in New York. This was my first Paralympics and I won a bronze medal at 400m and silver medal at 1500m and 5000m. World Championships in Gothenburg was remembered by two gold medals and two world records at 400m (55.11) and 800m (2.04,4). My second Paralympics in Seoul has also been accompanied by medals: bronze medal at 400m (56.17) in a T-45 category and bronze medal at 1500m (4.15,90) and 5000m (16.25,00) in the integrated T-46 category. World Championships in Assen and silver medal at 800m, 1500m and 5000m in the integrated category. At this tournament I have set world records for

the T-45 category at 1500m (4.12,50) and 5000m (16.14,57), which were in force for 14 years and they were broke in 2004 Athens Paralympics."

After Paralympic Games in Atlanta, Slobodan Adžić had stopped competing. It was not easy to decide to do so, especially after such sporting success, but a career must come to an end.

Zlatko Kesler is another top Paralympic athlete. When after the car accident he remained permanently bound to a wheelchair, this table tennis and football player was forced to focus his athletic career to the table tennis for the disabled. He became Paralympic Yugoslav team member in 1987 and since then he has won five Paralympic medals (gold, two silver and two bronze medals) and many medals at world and european championships. His performance is in Class 3 (wheelchair athletes). He has won more than 100 medals at various competitions in the country and in the world.

"As a pensioner, I had a lot of free time that I dedicated to sport. My working day until 1999 was really hard because I had to travel every day from Bač to Novi Sad, I had to do a three-hour training and came home to Bač. Since 2003, the new, younger athletes came to the club, and then I got a new job - working with young athletes."

Zlatko Kesler took part at six Paralympic Games: Barcelona 1992 – bronze medal, Atlanta 1996 – gold medal, Sydney 2000 – silver medal, Athens 2004 – bronze medal, Beijing 2008 – fifth place and London 2012 – silver medal.

"The impressions I deal with from these games are phenomenal. For four years athletes are competing in the award tournaments, European and World Championships, but the crown of all is going to Paralympic Games, and then to be successfull. Parade of athletes at the opening ceremony at full stadiums has given a sense of importance and respect for all athletes. You can do anything what you have never dreamt before arrival; something that any serious athlete dreams of, but a few of them manage to turn that dream into reality, much less is the number of those who win medals and glory. Only three men from around the world can climb the podium, only three will bring medals home and be a proud of theirs nations, and the only one who hear their anthems."

Borislava Perić-Ranković at the age of 22, had an accident at work and remained in a wheelchair. This female paralympic athlete was born in 1972 in Bečej, and she started her sport career as basketball player for disabled, and later she began recreationally and then a professionally to deal with table tennis. For the last five years she has had only successes at international tournaments and championships. Both at the Beijing and London Paralympics she won silver medals in single category – class 4.

It is not easy to prepare for a major tournament, and it takes a long working day.

"Working day begins around seven o'clock in the morning, depending on the day, because disabled person has some day little heavier, some day little lighter, depending on atmospheric conditions. I started my training at 9h and it lasts up till 11h. Then I go home for two to three hours resting until the next training, which starts at 3:30h. If we are preparing for a major tournament, we make longer afternoon break, and then training starts at 17h and it lasts for two hours."

Her first Paralympic Games will probably remain in the memory of this top athlete for a long time.

"Since I was the first time at such a large event as the Paralympics, I tried to see and to remember as much as I could, for gathering impressions. Everything was impressive. A lot of new things in a small place, a variety of disciplines, you could mainly hear English language which was quite normal."

The most beautiful part of the memory for Borislava was a moment on the podium.

"Unfortunately, there is a small regret for gold medal, but when it is said "the first Paralympics", and also a medal, then you should not be grieved. It is nice when you see that your flag is flying, then you realize that you made something great for your country and you can proudly wear the national jersey. Last year when I won the European gold, and I climbed the podium with the national anthem, it was not such a feeling as now at the Paralympics. European gold was only the result of providing me Chinese visa, so I was not afraid whether someone would overtake my place at Paralympics by the end of the year."

4. AT THE END

Olympic Games as promotion of sport through which young people are educated in the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play, are joined by Paralympic Games that help to disabled people to understand that it is possible to live well after personal misfortune. It is a great achievement to qualify for this prestigious competition that has always attracted great attention of world public opinion, and not just sport opinion. Every athlete is dreaming of a time when he will parade with a thousands of others in grandstand at the opening ceremony and will be in the focus of millions of people. Participants at the Paralympic Games are also thinking about it (Milenković & Živanović, 2010).

Intonation of the anthem, the flag of the country they represent is above all others. This is an additional motive for the contestants to show they are top athletes, although they have abilities that are somewhat limited. It is often the case that Paralympians are achieving the same, even better results than healthy athletes⁹.

Gold medal on the chest, the celebration, the awakened national pride, and belief in yourself and your abilities, dedication to the sport, the daily training sessions, a special mode of life - for they are willing to live for. They want to get seriously involved in sports and they manage to confirm the excellent results, but also the medals they are winning in strong competition of young people from around the world. They meet up, they socialize and live a normal life - all thanks to the sport. And what they all say, former and current athletes, the eternal spirit of the Games: *"It is important to participate."* They participate and they win, themselves and others.

Since the first Paralympic Games in Rome to this day it's been half a century. During this period, many events took place. However, it took considerable time to the Paralympic Games to be established by its present appearance. Sports arena has been changing, where the contest was shared by many competitors, increasing the number of countries that have joined the Games, it was founded a movement called the International Paralympic Committee, but the same competitive spirit and desire to win remained which were guiding the athletes in order to climb to Mount Olympus.

It modestly began with 130 competitors from Great Britain and the United States in 1948. It was the first competition for disabled athletes. The modest idea of English neurologist Sir Ludwig Guttmann, today can be seen as a visionary act, which, after twelve years grew into a competition at world level, the Paralympic Games.

As the years passed, the sports were changed, the number of competitors has increased multiply, also the number of participating countries. At the first time Paralympic Games venue did not officially linked with the Olympics, although the first two Paralympics held in

⁹ At Barcelona Paralympics in 1992, Adeoje Ajibola from Nigeria set an excellent result of 10.72 seconds at 100 meters in the category of amputation of one hand. If the Nigerian, theoretically speaking, had been running with both hands, he would have been achieved a score of 10.05 seconds, and he would have been qualified at fourth place at Barcelona Olympics.

the same cities, Rome in 1960 and Tokyo in 1964. However, after 22 years of maintenance, it was decided that host cities had to be the same and that athletes had to compete at the same venues. In the case of Summer Games the connection was made in Seoul in 1988, while the Winter Games for the first time was officially held in the same city in Albertville in 1992. In this way, the disabled athletes and healthy athletes were allowed to compete in the same conditions.

Much has been made to promote the Paralympic Games. Initially the competition was more modest, about the achieved results it was not known much, because there was no interest. Today, much more is known thanks to the mass and new media. At the last gathering of Paralympic athletes in Beijing it was about 4000 athletes. Participants believe that they are the best organized games so far. The hosts did their best to create the best conditions at paraolympic village for athletes of 146 countries worldwide.

Every four years, after competition, athletes are returning to their countries with a medal or not, with the same feeling in their hearts and wonderful impressions. They talk about the incredible experiences, friendships, socializing with other athletes. They will remember forever: Rome, Tokyo, Toronto, New York, Innsbruck, Seoul, Nagano, Barcelona, Lillehammer, Sydney, Beijing, Vancouver; always with the same greeting: See you until next games!

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