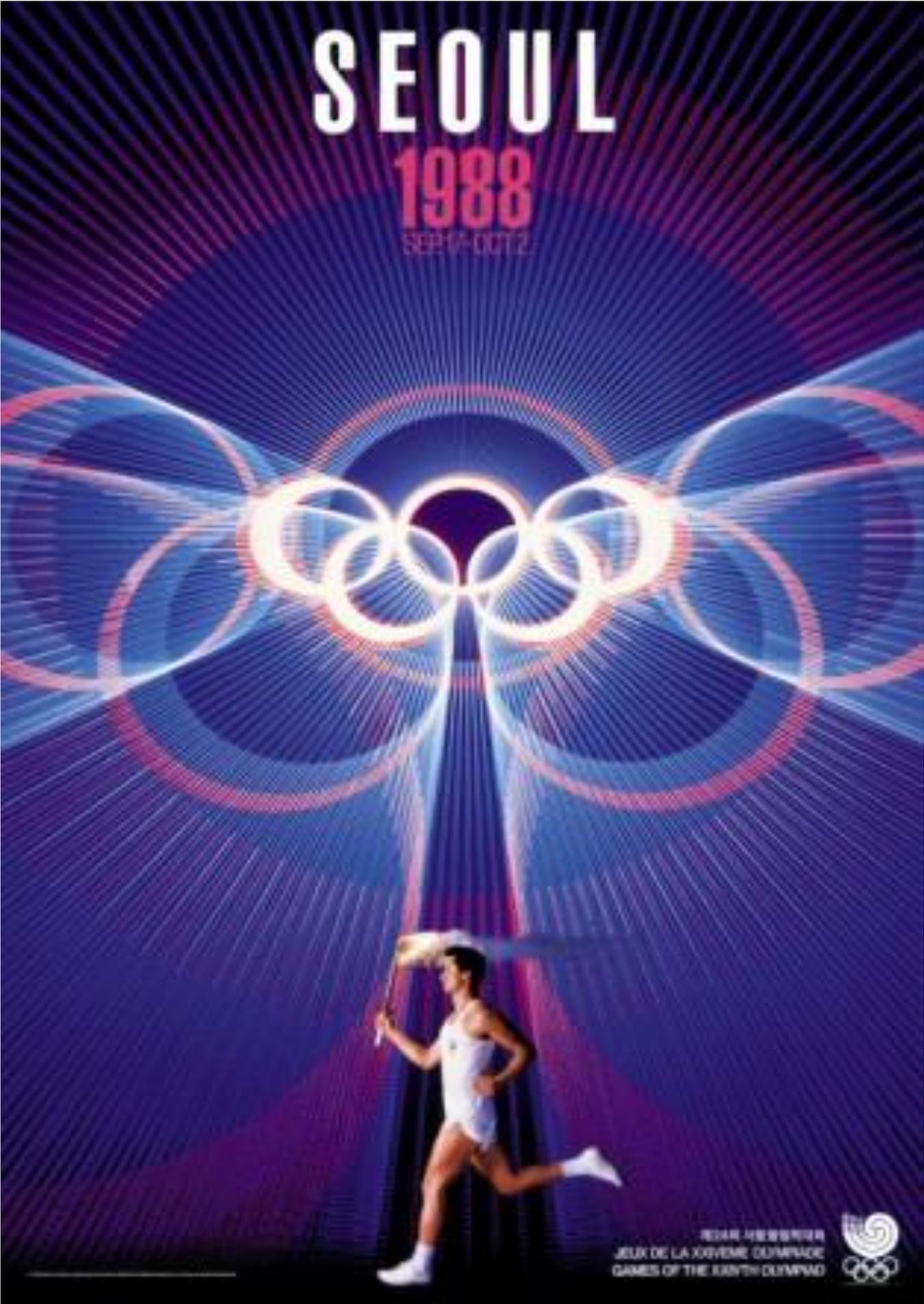


# History of equestrian events at the Games of the XXIV Olympiad



## Games of the XXIV Olympiad Seoul (KOR), 17 September – 2 October 1988

The 1988 Seoul Olympic Games will be remembered for the numerous exceptional performances as well as for the highly mediatised disqualification of sprinter Ben Johnson.

### ASIA'S SECOND OLYMPIC GAMES

This was the second time since Tokyo in 1964 that the Games were held in Asia. Awarding the Summer Games to South Korea provided the impetus for the country to embrace democracy. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) boycotted, and was joined by Cuba, Ethiopia and Nicaragua. Still, records were set with 159 nations participating, 52 winning medals and 31 taking home gold medals.

### SPRINT SCANDAL

Canadian Ben Johnson set a world record in the 100m sprint, but tested positive for steroids. **Johnson was the first world-famous athlete to be disqualified for using drugs.** After his disqualification, Carl Lewis was awarded the 100m gold, meaning he had successfully defended his 1984 Olympic title.

### FAR REACHING FACILITIES FOR A COUNTRY WITH FEW HORSES...

The equestrian facilities, located at the Seoul Equestrian Park at Kwachon, began to take form as early as 1983 and were completed in April 1988. The Park provided stables for 970 horses and parking for 3,500 cars. It was huge investment for a country with practically no equestrian tradition. In fact a census a few years before had shown that Korea – a country of 41 million people – had only 1,058 horses, of which 500 were racing ponies.

All horses travelling to Korea had to spend 21 days in a pre-flight quarantine. Most European horses came on two flights – on 4 September and on 10 September – departing from Frankfurt via Moscow to Seoul. On arrival the horses stayed for 36 hours in quarantine at the Equestrian Park.

### JUMPING FINAL MISSES OUT ON THE CLOSING CEREMONY

As in Moscow, the individual Jumping was scheduled to take place in the Olympic stadium, with a seating capacity of 75,000, but unlike earlier Games when the final Jumping competition was held as part of the closing ceremony with only one ticket for both, the two events in Seoul were separate. The jumping competition started at 8am and ended at 1.30pm, five and a half hours before the closing ceremony for which there were separate tickets.

### STAFFING THE EVENT

Permanent staff	1,300
Volunteers	27,221
Support personnel	16,044
Temporary employee	3,689

In addition there were, for the first time, 40 specialised volunteers, recruited from all over the world by the FEI and who worked mainly as stewards.

### Games facts & figures

- **159** nations
- **8,391** athletes (2,194 women; 6,197 men)
- **25** sports
- **27,221** volunteers

- **11,331** media (4,978 written press; 6,353 broadcasters)
- The Games got off to a dramatic start at the Opening Ceremony when the torch was run into the stadium by 76-year-old Sohn Kee-Chung, the winner of the 1936 marathon. In 1936 Sohn had been forced to enter using a Japanese name because Korea was occupied by Japan.
- Swedish fencer Kerstin Palm became the **first woman to take part in seven Olympic Games**. Tennis returned to the programme after a hiatus of 64 years. The event was open to professionals, and Steffi Graf concluded her Grand Slam tennis season by winning Olympic gold.

### Equestrian facts & figures

- **32** nations (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Netherland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, USSR, Venezuela, Virgin Islands)
- **179** entries (74 in Jumping; 53 in Dressage; 50 in Eventing)
- **For Dressage, it was the first time in history that all the individual medals were awarded to women.**

### JUMPING (74 riders from 24 nations)

Olaf Petersen of Germany was the course designer. With the generous financial help of SLOOC he had designed beautiful obstacles, all referring to the history, traditions and pageantry of Korea.

The team competition was held at the equestrian centre in Kwachon. The course measured 770m. The verticals were up to 1.60m, the largest oxer was 2.00m wide and the water jump measured 4.60m.

The first German to go in the team competition was Ludger Beerbaum who, after his horse Landlord went lame, was able to ride on Hafemeister's second horse, The Freak, formerly ridden by Hugo Simon. His clear round with a quarter time fault set Germany on the road to gold. In the second round, Germany's last rider, Franke Sloothaak, who had gone clear in the first round, did not have to start. Germany won with 17.25 points ahead of the USA with 20.5 and France with 27.5.

The individual Jumping final was held in the huge Olympic Stadium on closing day, but not on the same ticket as the closing ceremony, thus attracting a small crowd compared to the 75,000 seats available. At 8am, when the first horse entered the arena, there were around 200 spectators; the number increased to 10,000 for the jump-off.

For the first time qualifications were held to reduce the starting field for the individual final. Of the 74 riders who took part in the first qualification, half were allowed to compete in round A of the final in the Olympic stadium. Twenty-one returned for round B. Only three of the four riders per country were allowed in the final.

The reigning European champions, Pierre Durand and the 13-year-old black gelding Jappeloup, added Olympic gold to their winnings.

### Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Pierre Durand (FRA)	Jappeloup
2. Silver	Greg Best (USA)	Gem Twist
3. Bronze	Karsten Huck (FRG)	Nepomuk

### Medallists – Team

1. Gold	FRG	Ludger BEERBAUM (The Freak), Wolfgang BRINKMANN (Pedro), Dirk HAFEMEISTER (Orchidee), Franke SLOOTHAAK (König Walzer)
2. Silver	USA	Greg BEST (Gem Twist), Lisa JACQUIN (For the Moment), Anne KURSINSKE (Starman), Joe FARGIS (Mill Pearl)
3. Bronze	France	Hubert BOURDY (Morgat), Frédéric COTTIER (Flambeau C), Michel ROBERT (La Fayette), Pierre DURAND (Jappeloup)

### DRESSAGE (53 riders from 18 nations)

Fifty-three riders from 18 nations competed; 10 countries fielded full teams of four riders and one country had a team of three. It was the first time ever that four riders per country were allowed, though only three could go forward to the Grand Prix Special. Since Los Angeles four years previously the Grand Prix had been shortened to 7 minutes, which gave increased importance to the piaffe and passage.

The elegant “dancer” Rembrandt ridden by Nicole Uphoff won ahead of Margit Otto-Crépin’s Corlandus, while third place went to a “working horse”, Christine Stückelbergers’ Gauguin de Lully. A pleasant surprise was the performance of the young Korean Jung-Kyun Suh on Reiner Klimke’s former horse Pascal who placed 10<sup>th</sup>.

Not deemed supernatural... the competition was slightly disturbed by a wandering shadow from the roof of the Grand Stand. It affected at least six horses; probably the most to suffer was Monica Theodorescu, third in the Grand Prix, but only sixth in the Special.

### Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Nicole Uphoff (FRG)	Rembrandt
2. Silver	Margit Otto-Crepin (FRA)	Corlandus
3. Bronze	Christine Stückelberger (SUI)	Gauguin de Lully

### Medallists – Team

1. Gold	FRG	Reiner KLIMKE (Ahlerich), Ann Katherin LINSENHOFF (Courage), Monica THEODORESCU (Ganimedes) Nicole UPHOFF (Rembrandt)
2. Silver	Switzerland	Otto HOFER (Andiamo), Christine STÜCKELBERGER (Gaugin de Lully), Daniel RAMSEIER (Random), Samuel SCHATZMANN (Rochus)
3. Bronze	Canada	Cynthia ISHOY (Dynasty), Eva-Maria PRACHT (Emirage), Gina SMITH (Malte), Ashley NICOLL (Reipo)

### EVENTING (50 riders from 16 nations)

For only for the second time in the 76-year history of Eventing at the Olympic Games the defending champion, Mark Todd, 32, aboard the 16-year-old New Zealand bred Charisma, repeated his victory.

Todd had taken the lead after Dressage, ahead of Claus Erhorn, Virginia Leng and Thies Kaspreit. The test was the same as in 1976; it lasted 7½ minutes and comprised 20 individual marks and four collective marks.

Wondang, 43km north of Kwachon, was a hilly terrain and after the course walk, six of the obstacles on Hugh Thomas' cross-country course had to be lowered and the first element of No.27 was removed. The four phases measured a total of 26,761m.

Germany, all four riders of which had gone clear over the cross-country fences, was safely in the lead, ahead of New Zealand and Great Britain.

The Jumping phase saw only one change in the medal positions. New Zealand, with only three riders, lost silver to Great Britain after five knock-downs by Andrew Bennie on Grayshott. Germany won gold. There were 10 clear rounds by the 36 remaining starters, while Todd, Stark and Leng remained in their individual medal positions.

### Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Mark Todd (NZL)	Charisma
2. Silver	Ian Stark (GBR)	Sir Wattie
3. Bronze	Virginia Holgate Leng (GBR)	Master Craftsman

### Medallists – Team

1. Gold	FRG	Claus ERHORN (Justyn Thyme), Matthias BAUMANN (Shamrock), Thies KASPAREIT (Sherry) Ralf EHRENBRINK (Uncle Todd)
2. Silver	Great Britain	Mark PHILLIPS (Cartier), Karen STRAKER (Get Smart), Virginia HOLGATE LENG (Master Craftsman), Ian STARK (Sir Wattie)
3. Bronze	New Zealand	Mark TODD (Charisma), Marges KNIGHTON (Entreprise), Andrew BENNIE (Grayscott), Tinks POTTINGER (Volunteer)