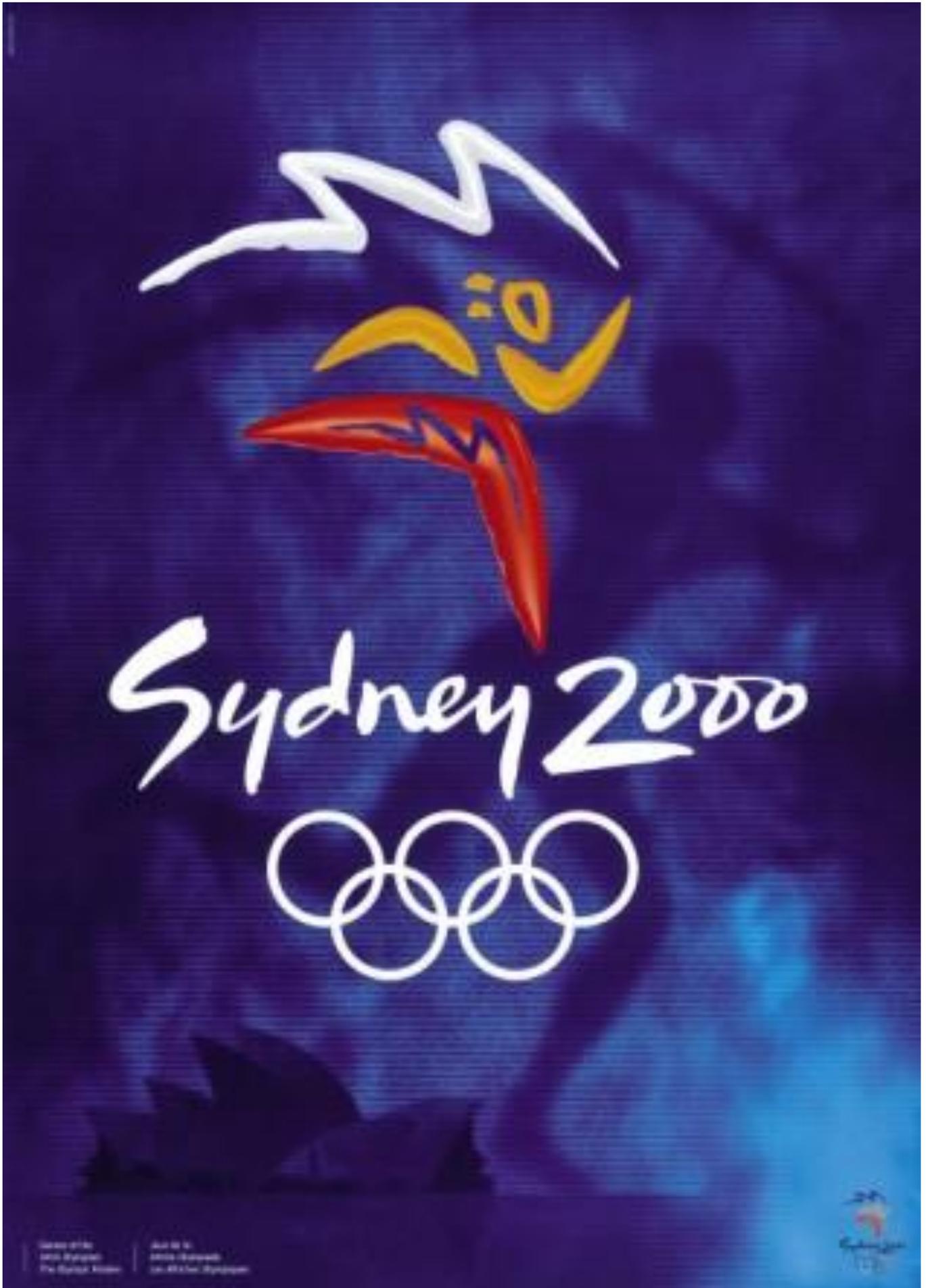


# History of equestrian events at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad



## Games of the XXVII Olympiad Sydney (AUS), 15 September – 1 October 2000

The Games of the XXVII Olympiad were awarded to Sydney, the most populous city of Australia, and the host nation went to great lengths to ensure that everything ran in the smoothest and most agreeable fashion.

### HORSES TRAVEL DOWN UNDER FOR THE FIRST TIME

Forty-four years after Melbourne 1956, when no horses had been allowed into Australia due to severe quarantine restrictions, the veterinary services of the Department of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry proved much more accommodating. The conditions were tough: the Olympic horses had to spend two weeks of pre-shipping quarantine in Europe and, upon arrival in Sydney, they were placed in isolation for another two weeks. The pre-shipping quarantine began on 7 or 8 August. The horses left on 23 August from Frankfurt Airport and landed, after a 30-hour flight, on 25 August in Sydney. There they stayed in quarantine until 9 September, one week before the first competition on 16 September.

### WELCOME TO HORSLEY PARK

Construction of the new equestrian complex, Horsley Park, had started in November 1997 and ended in September 1999. The costs were AUD 37 million, plus an additional 8 million for the parkland around. The site was beautifully laid out and built featuring 17 training areas, one indoor arena, an open-air stadium with 20,000 seats and enough land for the Eventing competition. Some of the drawbacks were the footing and the black surface which detracted the attention from the beauty of the obstacles and the decorations.

Of the 121 horses competing in Jumping and Dressage, 50 were German-bred, 17 came from The Netherlands, 10 from France, eight from Sweden, six from Denmark and four from Belgium. Six were thoroughbreds. Of the 82 Eventing horses, no fewer than 42 were thoroughbreds, 11 were French (Selle Français or Anglo Arab), 15 were Irish and four came from Germany. Of the 15 medal-winning horses, 12 were thoroughbreds and the other three were 7/8 thoroughbreds.

### Games facts & figures

- **199** nations
- **10,651** athletes (4,069 women; 6,582 men)
- **28** sports
- **46,967** volunteers
- **16,033** media (5,298 written press; 10,735 broadcasters)
- The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**, an independent body, was at the Games to monitor all the procedures followed by the International Olympic Committee for the first time.
- **Cathy Freeman**, the Australian athlete, had the honour of lighting the Olympic torch at the Opening Ceremony. This emotional moment helped symbolise the desire to reconcile with the Aboriginal populations of Australia. Ten days later, she won the 400m final before an ecstatic crowd.

### Equestrian facts & figures

- **38 nations** (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Netherland, Netherland Antilles, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, USA, Virgin Islands)

- **194 entries** (75 in Jumping; 49 in Dressage; 74 in Eventing)
- The current **FEI President HRH Princess Haya**, representing Jordan in Jumping, was the first Arab woman to compete in an Olympic equestrian event.

### JUMPING (75 riders from 29 nations)

The Jumping programme at Sydney remained unchanged from Atlanta 1996. The first individual competition was followed by a two-round team competition which also served towards individual qualification. The last competition was the individual final, staged on the day of the Games' closing ceremony. The Course Designer was Leopoldo Palacios of Venezuela who had provided beautiful obstacles with Australian motifs.

Two of the greatest names in Jumping - Ludger Beerbaum and Rodrigo Pessoa - had uncharacteristic performances. Ludger Beerbaum and Goldfever scored two bad rounds in the team competition, which were not enough to weaken the rock-solid German team who took team gold. Rodrigo Pessoa and Baloubet du Rouet contributed three clear rounds to Brazil's bronze medal in the team competition and went clear in round A of the individual final but were eliminated after refusals in round B.

France and Brazil tied for third with 24 points each. In the jump-off Brazil had three clears and won its second consecutive team bronze medal. The silver medal went to Switzerland.

Forty-five riders qualified for the individual final. In round A, there were four clear rounds. These included Jeroen Dubbeldam, who went on to become Olympic champion, and Khaled Al Eid, who secured the bronze thus winning the first equestrian medal for Saudi Arabia.

### Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Jeroen Dubbeldam (NED)	Sjiem
2. Silver	Albert Voorn (NED)	Lando
3. Bronze	Khaled Al Eid (KSA)	Khashm al Aan

### Medallists – Team

1. Gold	Germany	Marcus EHNING (For Pleasure), Ottob BECKER (Cento), Lars NIEBERG (Esprit FRH), Ludger BEERBAUM (Goldfever 3)
2. Silver	Switzerland	Lesley McNAUGHT (Dulf), Markus FUCHS (Tinka's Boy), Beat MAENDLI (Pozitano), Willi MELLIGER (Calvaro V)
3. Bronze	Brazil	Alvaro MIRANDA NETO (Aspen), André JOHANNPETER (Calei), Luiz Felipe AZEVEDO (Ralph), Rodrigo PESSOA (Baloubet du Rouet)

## DRESSAGE (49 riders from 18 nations)

The year 2000 saw the final show-down of the two Dressage horses that had dominated the sport since the early 90s. After seven gold medals in eight years the 17-year-old Gigolo ridden by Isabell Werth (GER), 31, was for the first time beaten by the 17-year-old Bonfire, the mount of Anky van Grunsven (NED), 32. In third and fourth places came Rusty 47 and Farbenfroh, who went on to win the next three FEI Championships: Rusty the European titles in 2001 and 2003, Farbenfroh the world title in 2002.

### Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Anky van Grunsven (NED)	Bonfire
2. Silver	Isabell Werth (GER)	Gigolo
3. Bronze	Ulla Salzgeber (GER)	Rusty 47

### Medallists – Team

1. Gold	Germany	Isabell WERTH (Gigolo), Alexandra SIMONS DE RIDDER (Chacomo), Ulla SALZGEBER (Rusty 47), Nadine CAPELLMANN (Farbenfroh)
2. Silver	The Netherlands	Anky VAN GRUNSVEN (Bonfire), Elen BONTJE (Silvano), Arjen TEEUWISSEN (Goliath), Coby VAN BAALEN (Ferro)
3. Bronze	USA	Robert DOVER (Ranier), Susan BLINKS (Flim Flam), Guenter SEIDEL (Foltaire), Christine TRAURIG (Etienne)

## EVENTING (74 riders from 21 nations)

As had been the case in Atlanta, there were two Eventing competitions: one for the team honours and a second one for the individual medals. A team, whose first two riders were eliminated during endurance day could retire its third and fourth riders before the start of the steeplechase and re-enter them for the individual competition with the same horses. Three combinations therefore had double starts: Italians Verdina and Magni and the Frenchman Jean-Lou Bigot, who finished in 15<sup>th</sup>, fifth and 12<sup>th</sup> place respectively.

The Dressage test had been changed to include flying changes. The Jumping course, built by Leopoldo Palacios, measured 590m with a time allowed of 95s. and caused many time penalties. There were 13 obstacles with 16 jumping efforts up to 1.20m in height; the oxers were up to 1.40m wide.

Australia won team gold for the third time in a row. The Australians were already in the lead after Dressage, ahead of Great Britain and the USA and on endurance day, all four Australians went clear over the obstacles, two keeping their Dressage scores. Great Britain remained second, ahead of New Zealand.

Reigning world champion Ready Teddy, the mount of Blyth Tait, was eliminated during the second horse inspection which resulted in the elimination of the entire New Zealand team. This meant that the USA moved up to bronze medal position.

Thirty-eight riders from 21 nations took part in the individual competition. The cross-country course, designed by Michael Etherington-Smith of Great Britain, had 29 obstacles. The ultimate winner, David O'Connor on Custom Made, was already in the lead after Dressage. A clear round in the endurance phase and a single knock-down in the Jumping phase helped him secure the individual title. Two other Eventing greats, Andrew Hoy and Mark Todd, took the other medals.

The first-ever Greek equestrian competitor, Heidi Antikazidis aboard Michaelmas, was second after endurance; 13 penalties in the Jumping phase dropped them down to eventual sixth. There were two serious falls, one of which led to a horse fatality.

### Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	David O'Connor (USA)	Custom Made
2. Silver	Andrew Hoy (AUS)	Swizzle In
3. Bronze	Mark Todd (NZL)	Eyespy II

### Medallists – Team

1. Gold	Australia	Andrew HOY (Darien Power), Phillip DUTTON (House Doctor), Stuart TINNEY (Jeepster), Matt RYAN (Kibah Sandstone)
2. Silver	Great Britain	Jeanette BRAKEWELL (Over To You), Leslie LAW (Shear H2O), Pippa FUNNELL (Supreme Rock), Ian STARK (Jaybee)
3. Bronze	USA	David O'CONNOR (Giltedge), Nina FOUT (3 Magic Beans), Linden WIESMAN (Anderoo), Karen O'CONNOR (Prince Panache)