

The Games of Change

1960 ROME OLYMPICS

The 1960 Summer Olympics, officially known as the XVII Olympiad Games, was an international multi-sports competition from August 25 to September 11, 1960 in Rome, Italy. The 1960 Summer Olympic program featured 150 events in the following 17 sports: diving, swimming, water polo, athletics, basketball, boxing, canoeing, cycling, equestrian, fencing, field hockey, football, gymnastics, modern pentathlon, rowing, sailing, shooting, weightlifting, and wrestling. A total of 83 nations participated in the Rome Games. Athletes from Morocco, San Marino, Sudan, and Tunisia competed at the Olympic Games for the first time.

Italy, a country cursed by much of the world a few years earlier (World War II had ended just 15 years prior), craved universal admiration and acceptance. Rome finally got its chance to stage the Olympic Games 54 years after Italy had to give up hosting the Games.

Rome was awarded the 1908 Olympics but had to decline and pass the honor to London after Mt. Vesuvius erupted in 1906. The Italian government claimed it needed to prioritize the money for rebuilding the cities affected by that disaster. An Olympic Stadium, home to the opening and closing ceremonies and the track and field competition, and a Sports Palace were built for the 1960 Games. Several

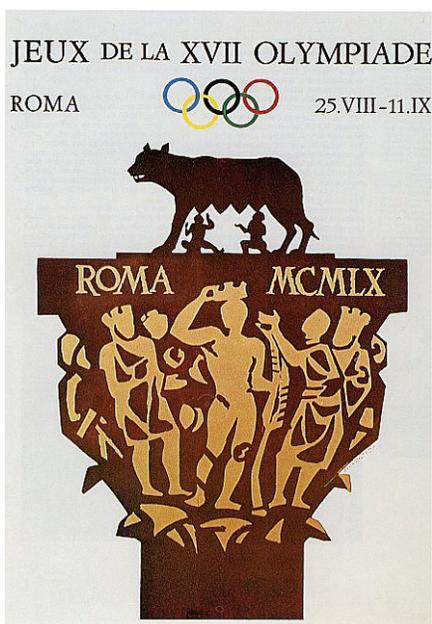
ancient sites were also restored and used as venues. The Basilica of Maxentius hosted the wrestling competition. The Baths of Caracalla provided the location of the gymnastic events. The marathon was run along the Appian Way and ended under the Arch of Constantine.

In many ways, these Rome Olympics represented either the end of something or the beginning. Rome's 1960 Olympic Games shimmered with performances that remain among the most golden in athletic history.

There was a barefoot Ethiopian, Abebe Bikila, in the marathon, the graceful Wilma Rudolph in the sprints, an audacious Cassius Clay in the boxing ring and the dignified Rafer Johnson in the decathlon. In sports, culture, and politics, the forces of change were everywhere; interwoven in so many ways one could sense an old order dying and a new one being born. With all its promise and trouble, the modern world as we see it today was coming into view. Television, money and drugs were bursting onto the scene, altering everything they touched. Old-boy notions of pure amateurism, created by and for upper-class sportsmen, were crumbling. Rome brought the first doping scandal, the first commercially broadcast Summer Games, and the first runner paid for wearing a specific shoe brand. It also, fittingly, brought the first round of controversy over China.

Television

The 1960 Olympics were the first to be fully covered by television. They were broadcast live by Eurovision to 18 European countries. These were also the first commercially televised Summer Olympics shown in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Since this was before transatlantic broadcast satellites, nothing seen in the United States was live. Taped footage was flown daily from Rome to C.B.S. studios in New York City. The host of the daily half-hour recap shows was courthouse reporter-turned-host, Jim McKay, who was hosting his first Olympics of many. Thanks to the difference in time, many daytime events were broadcast in North America the same day they took place. C.B.S. paid \$394,000 for the exclusive rights to broadcast these Olympics in North America. This television exposure brought the Olympics to millions of viewers worldwide and signaled the Olympics' dawn as a grand commercial spectacle. A fact that was not overlooked by the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) the next time it came to negotiating for television broadcast rights.



Amateurism

During the Rome Olympics, the Americans complained that Soviet athletes were essentially professionals supported by the state. In contrast, American athletes received no state support and were held to that era's amateur rules, often harsh and inconsistent. The great decathlete, Rafer Johnson, had acting aspirations and befriended the actor, Kirk Douglas, who often ran on the U.C.L.A. track. But when Douglas invited Johnson to try out for a role in the movie "Spartacus," officials warned Johnson that he would be ruled ineligible in Rome if he accepted the part. They said he would be taking advantage of his athletic prowess for financial gain. The battle of amateur status was a war of hypocrisy waged between bureaucrats who traveled around the world in first-class surroundings and the athletes trying to earn enough to eat while training for their particular specialty.

The most glaring example of commercialism in 1960 involved the German national hero sprinter Armin Hary, who was known to play by his own rules. Hary ended up winning the 100-meter sprint, defeating the American Dave Sime in a photo finish. In so doing, he became the first Olympic sprinter to take payments under the table for wearing a specific brand of shoes. In this case, two brands Adidas and Puma. Hary ran in Puma shoes but took the medals stand to accept the gold medal in Adidas in a ploy to get paid by both companies. Today that sort of action seems humorous given the amount of money today's professional athletes get paid to wear and endorse a specific footwear brand.

Sports and Politics

The 1960 Olympics brought forth many of the controversial issues of that time, some that still resonate today. In addition to Cold War rivalries, the following topics also came to light, the demise of amateurism, the rise of commercialism, racism, sexism, and the growing use of performance-enhancing drugs.

These Olympics became a political vehicle in the jousting between the U.S. and U.S.S.R., two great Cold War superpowers that proceeded unabated until the end of the Cold War. The propaganda value of winning medals had become critical, with the Soviets and their Eastern-bloc allies claiming that every medal won was further proof of their political systems' superiority. The International Olympic Committee forced Germany to at least try to put politics aside temporarily and participate as a unified entity, not East Germany and West Germany, or else risk not competing at all. Requests to right racial injustices by banishing South Africa from participating because of apartheid were

unheeded. South Africa appeared in the Olympic arena for the last time under its apartheid regime. It would not be allowed to return until 1992, after which apartheid had been abolished.

The Olympics in 1960 also became entangled in the conflict between China and Taiwan, which was a struggle of national identities. In the emerging new world order, a record number of athletes (5,338) participated in the games but none from the People's Republic of China, which chose to boycott the 1960 Olympics because of Taiwan's inclusion. In 1960, China wanted nothing to do with the rest of the world. The United States did not recognize Mao's mainland government, Mao did not recognize Taiwan's island government, and the I.O.C. had nothing but trouble with both. The People's Republic of China withdrew from the Olympics, angry that the I.O.C. would allow Taiwan to participate. The I.O.C. ruled that Taiwan could no longer call itself the Republic of China at the Olympics because it was not mainland China. It could march in the opening ceremony only as Taiwan or the other name for the island, Formosa. The United States was angry and urged Taiwan to boycott the Olympics because the U.S. viewed the change in name as a symbolic victory for the Reds in the cold war. Taiwan might have boycotted, except that Taiwan had a great decathlete in C. K. Yang, who was destined to bring honor to the island by winning its first Olympic medal. Yang went on to win a silver medal in one of the most memorable contests of the 1960 Games, barely losing the decathlon gold to his close friend and U.C.L.A. teammate Rafer Johnson, the captain of the U.S. team. Rafer Johnson also made history at the opening ceremony as the first black athlete to be the head of the American delegation. The United States Olympic Committee selected him as a symbol of racial equality (though that was not the reality in America in 1960). He was chosen to carry the Stars and Stripes in the opening ceremonies, the first African American athlete given this honor.

Drugs

There were whispers about performance-enhancing substances in such sports as cycling and weightlifting. Soviet and American weightlifters were experimenting with anabolic steroids during the competition in Rome. The effects were not yet clearly established, either in terms of how the steroids might boost performance or how they might hurt the body. However, steroids were not a banned substance and Olympic officials were unaware that they were being used.

There would be more than whispers on the first day of competition. A Danish cyclist named Knud Enemark Jensen went off with his three teammates that morning

in the 100-kilometer time-trial road-cycling event but he never reached the finish line. He grew dizzy in the Roman heat halfway through, collapsed to the pavement, and died an hour later. Jensen's death was the first time the Olympics saw a competitor die since the 1912 marathon. He was suspected of having taken amphetamines. Though this remains controversial and has never been proven, his death was partially responsible for drug testing institutions in the mid-60s. Olympic officials had long suspected that some athletes were using various drugs such as blood thinners, steroids and amphetamines, but Jensen's death finally forced a response. The I.O.C. formed a medical committee in 1961. The first list of banned substances was issued in 1967. Some athletes began drug testing at the Mexico City Games in 1968, and steroids were added to prohibited substances in 1976.

Repeat Performers

Swedish sprint canoeist Gert Fredriksson won his sixth Olympic title. Fencer Aladár Gerevich of Hungary won his sixth consecutive gold medal in the team saber event. The Japanese men's gymnastics team won the first of five successive golds, Paul Elvstrom of Denmark won his fourth consecutive yachting gold medal in the single-handed dinghy class.

Royal Performers

The future Constantine II, the last King of Greece, won a gold medal in dragon class sailing. The future Queen Sofia of Spain represented her native Greece in sailing events. Peter Camejo, a 2004 American vice-presidential candidate for the Green Party, competed in yachting for Venezuela.

Olympic Firsts

The Pakistani Men's Field Hockey team broke a run of India's team victories since 1928, defeating India in the final and winning Pakistan's first Olympic gold medal. Singapore competed for the first time under its flag; the British had granted it independence a year earlier. It was the first and only time until 2008 that an athlete from Singapore won an Olympic medal when Tan Howe Liang won silver in the Weightlifting lightweight category. Some other firsts were in track and field, which saw the introduction of fiberglass poles in the pole-vaulting competition, the restoration of the women's 800-meter race, and in swimming, the use of electronic touchpads (only as backup).

After the XVII Olympics, Italy also hosted the inaugural Paralympic Games in 1960 in Rome. There were about 400 athletes from 23 countries to compete at the Summer Paralympics. Italy fielded the largest delegation at the Games with twenty-seven athletes (twenty-three

men and four women) competing in athletics, snooker, swimming, table tennis, and wheelchair fencing. Twenty-seven of Italy's competitors won medals in 6 sports, enabling the country to top the medal chart with 29 gold medals, 28 silver, and 23 bronze.

One of the most beautiful sights of the 1960 Olympics merged the Ancient World and the Modern Olympics, and the old and emerging world orders. The marathon was the first Olympic marathon to start and finish outside the main Olympic stadium, beginning on Capitoline Hill and ending along the Appian Way, underneath the Arch of Constantine. Always the province of white runners, often Finnish, the race came down to two African runners, Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia and Rhadi Ben Abdesselam of Morocco. The race started later in the afternoon to protect the runners from the warm Italian weather. The marathon was won by the Ethiopian palace guard Abebe Bikila, who ran barefoot, and finished in the night; the route lit by soldiers holding torches beneath the Arch of Constantine. Bikila would return to win the marathon again in 1964. He was the first of the dominant African distance runners and some consider him the greatest ever marathoner. He was the first black African to win a gold medal, and he did it in the country, which 30 years prior saw Mussolini send troops to conquer his Ethiopian homeland.

American Gold Medalists

One of the biggest disappointments at these games was the United States Men's Track team's failure in several events in which they were favored. The U.S. won only nine gold medals in men's athletics, compared to fifteen in Melbourne. Heavy favorites such as Ray Norton in the sprints and John Thomas in the high jump performed poorly and did not win. Norton was emblematic of American troubles. He finished last in the finals of both races and then ran out of the exchange zone in the final of the 400 relays, causing the American team to be disqualified. The U.S. failed to win the men's 100 meters, 200 meters, and 4×100-meter relay for the only time in Olympic history to that date.

Many heroes emerged from the Games. Basketball and boxing saw the most outstanding practitioners of those sports ever on display. In basketball, the U.S. men's team easily captured their fifth straight Olympic gold medal with a team led by future Basketball Hall of Famers Walt Bellamy, Jerry Lucas, Oscar Robertson, and Jerry West. Possibly the greatest amateur team ever, it rivals many of the great N.B.A. teams. In boxing, the light-heavyweight gold medal was won by relatively unknown Cassius Clay, who, as Muhammad Ali, would thrill the world for the next two decades as "The Greatest."



Wilma Rudolph

The athletics star of the Games was likely the American female Wilma Rudolph. The Italians and the world thrilled at Wilma Rudolph's feats, an American sprinter from Tennessee. Long-legged and attractive, she was dubbed by the European press as "La Gazelle Noir," the Black Gazelle. She won the three gold medals in sprint events (the women's 100-meter, 200-meter, and 4-x-100-meter relay events); Rudolph was dubbed "the world's fastest woman."

These significant accomplishments pale compared to the incredible odds she had to overcome to walk, let alone run. Wilma G. Rudolph, the twentieth of twenty-two children, was born June 23, 1940, in rural Clarksville, Tennessee. Her parents were a railway porter and a maid and were extremely poor. Newborn Wilma Rudolph weighed in at four and a half pounds. She suffered various ailments in infancy, including measles, mumps, scarlet fever, chickenpox, and double pneumonia before contracting polio at the age of six.

Treatment was hard to come by for a black child in the segregated American south. When polio was diagnosed, her parents were told she would never walk again. Twice a week for two years, her mother took her on a 100-mile round trip to a black medical college in Nashville, where the child was fitted with a brace on her left leg and given physical exercises. With her siblings' help, giving daily leg rubs, by the age of 12, she was walking without the brace or crutches and was making up her mind to become an athlete. Wilma had grown tall and became a standout high school basketball and track athlete. She preferred basketball, but that would change when legendary Coach Ed Temple of Tennessee State College recruited her to become a member of his famed "Tigerbelle's" track team.

The young women of T.S.U. with no financial aid or support struggled to practice in the Jim Crow south. The Tennessee State track team has been aptly called the Motown Records of American sports. The 1960 U.S.A. women's track team was mostly comprised of athletes from Tennessee State University.



This small group of African American women had to overcome the indignities of racism, sexism, and other obstacles (Wilma's single motherhood) to become hugely influential. The ladies dominated the international field, and for one of the first times in history, African American women were recognized as sports celebrities. After the "Tigerbelle's," won gold in Rome, Tennessee State teams went on to dominate women's track for 30 years. On Wilma's return home to Tennessee, she was welcomed with a parade accompanied by a military band in what was said to have been the town's first integrated public event.

After retiring from competition, Rudolph worked as a teacher, track coach, and sports broadcaster. She became a role model for black and female athletes, and her Olympic successes helped elevate women's track and field in the U.S., laying the groundwork for Title IX. Rudolph is also regarded as a civil rights and women's rights pioneer. She founded the Wilma Rudolph Foundation to promote community-based, youth-oriented athletic and academic programs. In her honor, the Women's Sports Foundation annually presents the Wilma Rudolph Courage Award to a female athlete who exhibits grit, perseverance, self-sacrifice, and inspiration. In Tennessee, June 23 is officially Wilma Rudolph Day.

Rafer Johnson

The decathlon saw perhaps its best-ever competition with Rafer Johnson outlasting his teammate and roommate, Chuan-kwang Yang, from Taiwan. During their time at U.C.L.A., Rafer Johnson & CK Yang were great friends. Yang, a native of Taiwan, came to U.C.L.A. in 1959,



speaking almost no English. Their relationship was predicated on mutual respect and admiration. Yang was a born track star; during his time at U.C.L.A., he broke the indoor world pole vaulting record. Johnson excelled in the throwing disciplines. They taught each other a great deal both on and off the track, and under the wings of U.C.L.A. coach Elvin "Ducky" Drake, both Johnson and Yang grew into tremendous athletes ready to compete on the global stage. Johnson represented the United States of America, carrying the flag in the opening ceremony. Yang competed for Taiwan, hoping to bring gold to his homeland.

Throughout the ten events, Yang excelled in all of them. But Johnson was not far behind, and his dominance in the throwing events put him in a good position. The gold was Johnson's to lose entering the final heat. To pull ahead, Yang needed to win by 10 seconds in the 1500 meter race. After nearly five grueling minutes, Johnson finished 1.2 seconds behind Yang, sealing his victory.

Though he won seven of the ten events, Yang took home the silver medal that year, earning Taiwan its first-ever Olympic medal. Johnson stood on the podium next to his friend, earning his gold medal through ten brutal heats. Their time at U.C.L.A. bound them together in friendship, despite having to compete against one another that year. In his later life, Yang split his time between Taiwan and Los Angeles, and Johnson was always the first person he called when he returned to the states until he died in 2007. When asked to recall the 1960 Olympics, Johnson first and foremost mentions how their close friendship never waned.



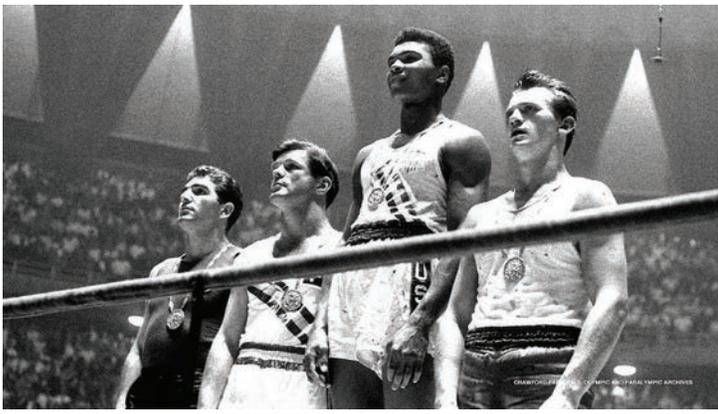
Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali

The Olympics has a rich history of providing a springboard for the best amateurs across the globe, giving them a chance at becoming the sport's next big superstar. Clay was far from No. 1 in 1960. Track stars

Rafer Johnson, Wilma Rudolph, and Ray Norton, and basketball players Oscar Robertson, Jerry Lucas, and Jerry West were considered the Team U.S.A. stars going into the Rome Games, not the brash young fighter from Louisville. Clay developed a reputation around the Olympic Village and was often compared to a politician in how he would go out, meet people and shake their hands. He would then boast about how he would become the greatest heavyweight the world has ever seen. He quickly earned the moniker of "mayor of the Olympic Village." Clay not only was untouchable as a light-heavyweight boxer, but no one could outtalk him, either. No one could have guessed what would become of him.

An exceptional amateur with 100 wins from 108 fights, Clay had already picked up two consecutive Golden Glove titles in 1959 and 1960. Olympic gold was all he needed, and it would be his crowning achievement as an amateur before moving on to the paid ranks. Clay's fear of flying almost prevented him from becoming the greatest and most celebrated athlete of all time. Cassius Clay had flown before, and he hated it. The return plane trip home from the Olympic trials in San Francisco was very turbulent. The thought of flying to the Olympic Games in Rome turned him inside out. The 18-year-old would naively ask his handlers if he could get there by train or by boat instead, but he was swiftly denied either option. Panic began to set in and the stubborn Clay refused to go to Rome. It took his trainer, Joe Martin, three hours in Louisville's Central Park before he could calm down his student and convince him that if he wanted to become the heavyweight champion of the world, a title that Clay had so often dreamt about, then he would have to go to Rome. Clay reluctantly agreed to travel, but not before stopping off at an army surplus store and purchasing a parachute. He wore the parachute for the entire journey and was said to have prayed for his survival throughout.

Clay demolished his first opponent, Belgium's Yvon Beaus, in two rounds before claiming a unanimous point win over 1956 middleweight gold medalist Russia's Gennadiy Shatkov. In the semi-final, Clay would beat the Australian Tony Madigan in another unanimous points decision. Poland's Zbigniew Pietrzykowski was all that stood between Clay and the 1960 Olympic's light-heavyweight gold medal. Pietrzykowski was stronger and vastly more experienced than his rival, and Ali initially struggled to adapt to his rival's southpaw style. The 25-year-old Pole won the first two rounds, but Cassius Clay came to the fore in the final round. His superior stamina and quick combinations left his rival in a battered state by the final bell. The judges were unanimous once again. Olympic gold was his. Cassius Marcellus Clay of the U.S., later known as Muhammad Ali, first gained international prominence by winning the light-heavyweight gold medal in Rome.

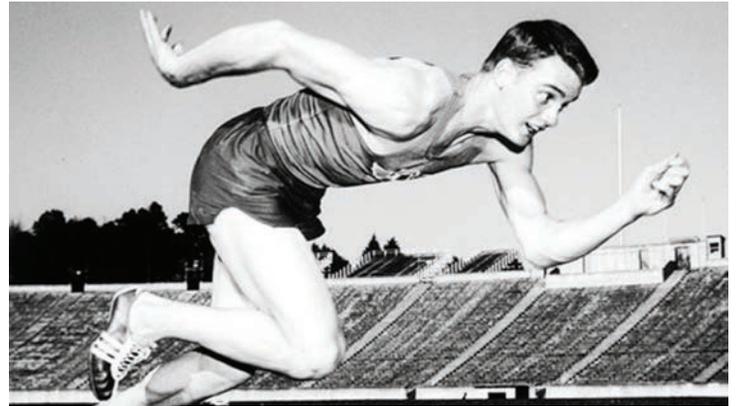


For the first time in Olympic history, medals were placed around the athletes' necks instead of presented to them in a box. This was perfect for Clay, who never wanted to take his medal off. Cassius Clay, joy was unconfined; he cherished his gold medal from the 1960 Olympics so much that he wore it all the time, even while sleeping. The young boxer later said he was forced to sleep on his back for the first time, or the medal would have cut his chest.

Clay went home to Louisville with great fanfare. But even though he was an Olympic gold medalist, wearing the hardware on his chest, he was still not able to eat in certain restaurants because he was Black. According to legend, Clay was furious about the racism he encountered one evening after being denied service in a restaurant. The 18-year-old light-heavyweight boxing champion stood on the Second Street Bridge and threw his gold medal into the Ohio River. This is where the story becomes blurred because doubts exist regarding the validity of the boxer's claim about what he did with the medal. It was Muhammad Ali who released the story, but fifteen years after the alleged incident. People who knew him well said he had never thrown the medal in the river; it meant too much to him and that it was lost during a house move. Whatever the truth is, the International Olympic Committee's President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, presented Ali with a replacement Gold Medal in Atlanta in 1996.

The rest is history as Clay/Muhammad Ali would become a Hall of Fame 3 time world heavyweight boxing champion, activist, entertainer, and philanthropist. Nicknamed "The Greatest," he is widely regarded as one of the most significant and celebrated figures of the 20th century and as one of the greatest boxers of all time. Outside the ring, Ali attained success as a musician, where he received two Grammy nominations. He was also featured as an actor and writer, releasing two autobiographies. Ali retired from boxing in 1981 and focused on religion, philanthropism, and activism. In 1984, he made public his diagnosis of Parkinson's syndrome. He remained an active public figure globally, but in his later years, made fewer public appearances as his condition worsened, and he was cared for by his

family. Ali died on June 3, 2016. The ultimate irony came posthumously for this brash young kid that was afraid of flying when city leaders would name the Louisville airport in his honor.



David Sime

In the late 1950s, the most outstanding all-around athlete on the planet was a high school student called Dave Sime (pronounced Sim) from Fair Lawn, New Jersey. For a time in the mid-1950s, Sime was considered the fastest man in the world. He was such an outstanding athlete in high school that he passed up 23 football scholarship offers and was said to have turned down a \$65,000 offer from the New York Giants baseball team. Sime achieved his greatest athletic renown in the mid-1950s when he broke or tied five world records outdoors and four indoors in the sprints and low hurdles. Instead, he decided to attend Duke on a baseball scholarship, where he played center field and led the league in batting with an average of .432.

Sime started his track career as a sophomore at Duke when the track coach saw his speed in baseball. When the world record for 100 yards was 9.3 seconds, he ran 9.8 in his first practice and 9.6 in his first meet. A career was born. While he was at Duke, he broke or tied five world records outdoors and four indoors in the sprints and low hurdles. Sime was so dominant a runner that he seemed sure to win gold in the 1956 Olympics. He never got there. Weeks before the United States Olympic track and field trials, he pulled a groin muscle and eventually tore it, ending his Olympic dream that year. He would continue to run for Duke and wait for his chance in the 1960 games in Rome.

Sime played one year of football at Duke as a wide receiver. His first game was against Notre Dame, and on Duke's first play, he caught a touchdown pass. On the first play of Duke's next possession, he caught another touchdown pass. The Detroit Lions drafted him after he graduated. Dave Sime passed up baseball and football careers to become the world's fastest sprinter and go to medical school, which he planned to do right after he competed at the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

He reached the finals in the 100-meter dash in Rome, but he had a shaky start. He rallied, bore down on the finish line for a photo finish with Armin Hary of Germany. Sime was the first to cross the finish line with his foot, but the rules say that only the torso counts and Hary's chest got there first. Both runners were hand-timed in 10.2 seconds, an Olympic record. He was expected to win a gold medal a week later, anchoring the United States team in the 4x100-meter relay. In that final, he received the baton in second place, surged to the front, and finished first in 39.4 seconds, an apparent world record. But again, he was thwarted. Because his team's first baton pass was made outside the 20-meter passing zone, the Americans were disqualified. He never won the Olympic gold medal he coveted, a victim of hard luck and the unforgiving track and field rules. Some may say he may have been distracted because David Sime was harboring a big secret; he was working for the C.I.A. The story of U.S. sprinter David Sime's attempts to help coax Russian athletes to defect is as intriguing as any spy narrative.

The 1960 Olympics gained an extraordinary amount of global attention as an emblematic proxy battle between capitalism (U.S.) and communism (U.S.S.R.). America was bitterly locked with Russia in a hotly contested cold war for world supremacy. As the Cold War raged, Americans sought to convince Russians to defect. Internationally, the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union was in full bloom in every possible arena. The two sides kept track of medal counts with feverish intensity.

American intelligence agents recruited David Sime to entice his friend, the Soviet long jumper Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, to defect to the United States. The C.I.A. sought to use this friendship and recruited Sime and U.S. javelin thrower Al Cantello to act as go-betweens with the Soviet athletes in Rome to entice them to defect. The two and a half weeks of the Rome Olympics yielded 155 defections from Soviet athletes, journalists, and tourists. Igor Ter-Ovanesyan never defected.

The 1960 Olympics ended Sime's serious track career. In 1981, he was elected to the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. Sime never played sports professionally. He graduated in the top 10% of his class at the Duke University School of Medicine. He then practiced medicine as an ophthalmologist in Florida, where he was a pioneer in intraocular lens transplants. Dr. Sime was a sought-after ophthalmologist in the Miami area for 42 years, counting among his patients President Richard M. Nixon and the sports stars Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle, Bob Griese, and Sugar Ray Leonard.

His daughter Lisa married Ed McCaffrey, who, as a wide receiver, won three Super Bowl rings during the 1990s, two with the Denver Broncos and one with the San Francisco 49ers. Their son Christian McCaffrey was a 2015 Heisman Trophy finalist from Stanford. He holds the N.C.A.A. record for most all-purpose yards in a season with 3,864. McCaffrey has numerous N.F.L. and Panthers franchise records and is one of the few players ever to record 1,000 rushing and 1,000 receiving yards in the same season, doing so in 2019. McCaffrey signed a four-year, \$64 million contract extension with the Panthers through the 2025 season, making him the highest-paid running back in N.F.L. history. The lineage is clear from where he gets his athletic genes.

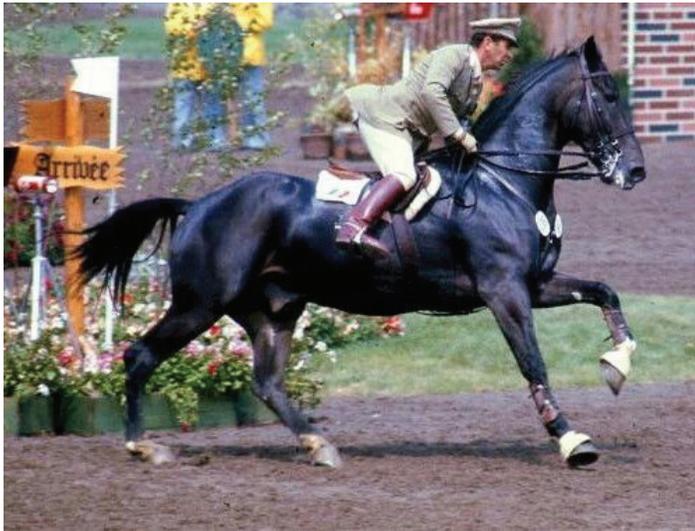
Controversy in the Pool

The men's 100 freestyle event had a close finish, as could be expected. Results were decided by finish judges who relied on their eyes and did not use replays. Three judges were assigned to each finishing position. Three judges watched for first place, three for the second, and ongoing. There were three official timers in 1960 for each lane and swimmer; all timing was done by hand. The three stopwatches used for each swimmer showed Lance Larson of the U.S.A. 55.0, 55.1, and 55.1 seconds with the faster time, 55.1, all three timers for John Devitt of Australia timed him in 55.2 seconds. Two of three first-place judges called John Devitt of Australia as the first-place winner, but two of the three-second place judges called him the second-place finisher.

Former Olympic swimmer and FINA co-founder Max Ritter inspected the judge's scorecards. Two of the three first-place judges found that Devitt had finished first, and the third found for Larson. Of the three-second-place judges, two found that Devitt finished second, and one found that Larson was second. Ritter pointed out to chief judge Henry Runströmer of Sweden that the scorecards indicated a tie. Runströmer cast the deciding vote and declared Devitt the winner. The head judge, who did not have this power by the rules, decided that Devitt got the gold, even though the decision should have been based on the backup timing system. The electronic timer had Larsen at 55.10 and Devitt at 55.16; it was ignored. The official results placed Devitt first and Larson second, both with the identical time of 55.2 seconds. The United States team appealed, supported by videotaped footage of the finish that appeared to show Larson the winner. The appeal jury rejected the appeal, keeping Devitt the winner. This controversy would pave the way for electronic touchpads to be included in swimming events to determine finish and accurate timing. Electronic timing was in its infancy and used only as a backup at the 1960 Olympics.

Italian Gold Medalists

Americans in 1960 were seen in Italy as brash and coarse; their great self-confidence was viewed as arrogance. The Italian fans booed the U.S. boxers because they were unhappy that they had defeated two of their local fighters. Since the economic miracle of the 1950s and 60s, Italians felt they could succeed whether in the economy or sporting achievements. They believed they would get through with their natural genius creative skills of making do as they did in the past. When Italy's boys took to the field in sport, like at the Olympics, the FIFA World Cup, in Formula One, all Italians, rich or poor, would sing out the national anthem then cheer and clap for their representatives. For Italians, like the ancient Romans before, their winners will always be remembered as gods. Italy had their best Olympics ever in 1960, coming in third behind Cold War powers the Soviet Union and the United States, winning 13 Gold, 10 silver, and 13 Bronze medals for a total of 36 medals.



Raimondo d'Inzeo

The equestrian events at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome included dressage, eventing, and show jumping. Eventing and show jumping presented both individual and team medals; dressage presented only individual medals. The competitions had 159 entries, including 8 women, from 29 nations. Italy's Raimondo d'Inzeo was destined for a long Olympic career, but Rome 1960 was the highlight. He was already a sporting veteran, having competed at his first Olympics over a decade before in London in 1948. In 1956, he had won individual and team silver in Stockholm, and now, at the age of 35, he was keen to add gold to his collection.

D'Inzeo grew up surrounded by horses. His father was the leading instructor with the most renowned regiment

in the Italian cavalry. Young Raimondo came to love both the animals themselves and the sport of equestrianism. Raimondo was an officer in the Italian military police and always wore his uniform while competing, cutting an impressive figure in the arena. His style was less about dominating his horse and more to do with man and mount working in partnership. And in Rome, his coordination with his horse Posillipo was as near perfection as possible.

He did face a few strong challenges, and one from a very familiar opponent. His older brother, Piero, Italy's other competitor, had also competed in each edition of the Games since 1948. Both arrived at the Rome Games in great form. Raimondo had won the 1960 world title, while Piero had been European champion the previous year.

Raimondo was peerless in the first round, though, and was the only rider to produce a clean round. Argentina's Naldo Dasso picked up only four faults to stand second, while Piero was four faults back tied for third place. The second round saw Piero notch a further eight faults to give him a total of 16 points. Raimondo couldn't repeat his first round's faultless performance, but his 12 faults were still good enough to earn first place, with Piero finishing in second. It was the first time in Olympic history that brothers had taken gold and silver.

The pair then added a bronze medal in the team competition, which they later repeated at the 1964 and 1972 Games. By the time they took to the Olympic stage for the final time at the 1976 Games, Raimondo was 51 and Piero 53. They were the first athletes in any sport to take part in eight consecutive Olympiads 1948–1976.

Livio Berruti

A home crowd can inspire any athlete. There are those who find themselves running a little faster, jumping just that bit higher, or throwing a few centimeters further as the crowd's positive energy pushes them on. It can also overwhelm, of course, and the Olympic Games' history is also full of athletes who found the pressure of trying to delight their home supporters to be too much.

But when it inspires, their support can produce incredible results. Livio Berruti was an accomplished sprinter, having won five medals at the individual level and three medals with the national relay team at International athletics competitions. Livio Berruti represented Italy in the men's 200 meters while studying for a college chemistry degree.





Livio Berruti and Wilma Rudolf

Berruti was not a complete unknown. A year earlier, he had beaten the American favorite Ray Norton, and in the first heats in Rome, he set the fastest time of 21 seconds. Most observers, though, expected Norton to take the title.

In the quarter and semi-finals of the 200 meters, spurred by the home crowd, he unexpectedly ran both heats in 20.5 seconds, equaling the then world record. This made Berruti a surprise outsider for the final later that day. Berruti's hot streak was now the talk of Rome, but the nerves were starting to get to him. He could not face going down onto the track to warm up, leaving the crowd to wonder what had happened to him. Finally, 15 minutes before the race, he appeared to a roaring ovation.

In that race, Berruti once again clocked 20.5, beating the American favorites to claim the gold medal. He crossed the line, fell to the ground, and enjoyed the acclaim of the crowd. He was the first runner from outside North America to win the men's Olympic 200m title. The cheering went on for five minutes, and Berruti was called on to embrace and kiss just about every Italian dignitary in the stadium.

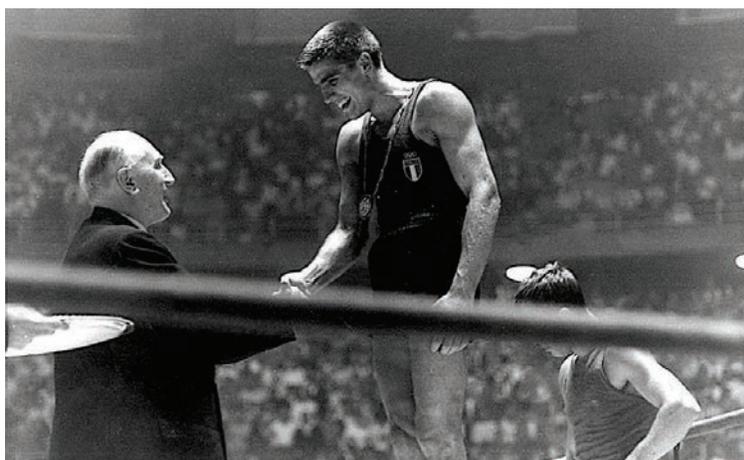
Anchoring the Italian 4 × 100 meter relay team, Berruti narrowly missed out on a second Olympic medal, finishing in 4th. His world record was not beaten until June 1962, but his performance remained a European record for a further two years, until June 21, 1964.

His Olympic victory, at the beginning of his career, would remain his best achievement. His highest finish at three appearances in the European Championships was 7th place in the 1966 200-meter final. He did, however, win Italian titles in both the 100 meter and 200 meters from 1957 until 1962 and two more 200-meter titles in 1965 and 1968. Berruti also made two more Olympic appearances in 1964 and 1968. On both occasions, he reached the final of the 4 × 100 m relay and placed 5th in the 200 meter final of 1964.

Nino Benvenuti

Giovanni "Nino" Benvenuti is considered by many to be the greatest boxer ever to come from Italy. As an amateur welterweight boxer, he won the Italian title in 1956-60, the European championship in 1957 and 1959. Italy dominated boxing at the 1960 Summer Olympics, winning three gold medals and seven medals overall. During the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Benvenuti earned the Welterweight division's gold medal with victory over Yuri Radonyak of the Soviet Union. He was also awarded the Val Barker trophy as the Games' best boxer.

Benvenuti having an amateur record of 120-0, turned professional the following year and won his first 65 matches and the Italian middleweight championship.



In 1965 he claimed both the world junior-middleweight title and the European middleweight title. The next year he boxed outside Italy for the first time, retaining his European title in a match in Berlin but losing his world junior-middleweight title to Ki-Soo Kim in a 15-round decision in Seoul, South Korea. On April 17, 1967, Benvenuti beat Emile Griffith by decision in fifteen rounds at New York City's Madison Square Garden. This was the beginning of their trilogy of fights to win the world middleweight title. On a rematch at Shea Stadium on September 29, 1967, he lost by a decision in fifteen rounds. The following March, Benvenuti and Griffith completed their trilogy at Madison Square Garden, with Benvenuti knocking Griffith down in round nine and winning a fifteen-round decision to regain the world Middleweight title.

In May of 1971, Benvenuti announced his retirement in Monte Carlo. He had a fantastic record of 82 wins, 7 losses, and 1 draw in 90 professional boxing bouts, with 35 wins by knockout. The International Boxing Hall of Fame recognized his incredible boxing career with his induction in 1992.



Eduardo Mangiarotti

Eduardo Mangiarotti grew up in a famous fencing family. His father, Giuseppe, was a fencing master who was 17 times national épée champion and represented Italy at the 1908 Olympic Games in London. Like Eduardo, his two brothers, Mario and Dario, also followed in their father's footsteps. The latter also enjoyed a successful fencing career, winning three Olympic and nine world championship medals.

Chosen to represent Italy at the 1936 Games in Berlin, Mangiarotti won his first Olympic gold in the team épée when he was 17. After the Second World War, he resumed his fencing career. He soon developed the tactics that would become his trademark: launching rapid attacks to score points early in the contest before switching to a defensive strategy to protect his advantage. he won two silver medals, At London 1948, one in the individual foil and one in the team épée, to go with a bronze in the individual épée. Four years later, in Helsinki, he claimed his first individual gold, in the épée, and then repeated the feat in the team competition. Mangiarotti helped Italy claim the team foil gold in Melbourne in 1956, and then another épée team gold on home soil in Rome in 1960. At both of the Games' later editions, he was selected to carry the Italian delegation flag at the Opening Ceremony. No fencer in history has won more medals in major competitions than Eduardo Mangiarotti. Throughout five editions of the Olympic Games between 1936 and 1960, he amassed 13 medals, six of them gold, in the épée and foil, making him Italy's most successful ever Olympian. He also won 26 world championship medals (including 14 gold). This five-time Olympian was awarded a Bronze Olympic order in 1977.

After retiring from competition in 1961, Mangiarotti took up a senior role with the Italian Fencing Federation. He later held the position of General Secretary of the International Fencing Federation (F.I.E.) and served as Chairman of the F.I.E.'s Disciplinary Commission. In 2003, the International Olympic Committee awarded Edoardo with a Platinum Wreath, with the inscription: "Edoardo Mangiarotti's total of 39 gold, silver & bronze medals in Olympic & World Fencing Championships which earns him the distinction of being the greatest Fencer in that sport's history."

He was a regular delegate at the Olympic Games until Beijing in 2008, by which point he was 89; he would pass away just months before the 2012 London games.



The National team of Italy winner at Rome, 1960 Olympic Games.

Water Polo has been immensely popular in Italy since 1899, when an exhibition match was played at the Bath of Diana in Milan. A domestic league was soon established, the Italian national water polo team would first compete at the Olympic Games in the 1920 Olympics. Italy continued to improve and claimed its first European Championship in 1947. The national squad fulfilled their potential at the 1948 Summer Olympics in London, England, when they went undefeated for the whole tournament to claim their first gold medal in the discipline. The Italian team, bolstered by the boisterous home crowd, reclaimed the Olympic champions' title at the 1960 Olympics. From 1978- 2019, the Italian national team won four World Championships and the World Cup once in 1993. The Italian men's water polo team has won 8 Olympic medals, 7 World Championships, 5 World Cup, 11 European Championships medals, and 3 World League medals, making them one of the most successful men's water polo teams in the world. The national men's team has the nickname "Settebello," the name of a famous Italian high-speed express train. Italy also dominated in cycling events, winning gold in 5 out of 6 events.

Whether in the form of Cold War tensions, race relations, politics, or the notion of amateurism, these Olympics would demonstrate things were changing. The boycotts, massacres, and political problems to follow in subsequent Olympics would make many years for the XVII Olympiad Games' glory and grandeur in Rome.