

VIII OLYMPIAD
PARIS, FRANCE,
1924

REPORT ON
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PARIS, FRANCE,
1924

FROM

ROBERT M. THOMPSON
President of the American Olympic Committee

to

His Excellency **CALVIN COOLIDGE**
President of the United States, Honorary President
of the American Olympic Committee

AND TO THE

AMERICAN OLYMPIC
ASSOCIATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
American Olympic Executive Committee.....	1
Chairmen of Local Committees.....	4
Report of President Robert M. Thompson.....	5
Report of Secretary Frederick W. Rubien.....	8
American Olympic Teams.....	15
Report of Manager Track and Field Team Charles A. Dean.....	23
Report of Assistant Manager Track and Field Team George V. Brown.....	24
Report of Assistant Manager Track and Field Team Sam Goodman.....	24
Report of Head Track Coach Lawson Robertson.....	27
Report of Head Field Coach Walter M. Christie.....	28
Report of Assistant Track and Field Coach Harry L. Hillman.....	31
Report of Assistant Track and Field Coach Thomas F. Keane.....	32
Report of Assistant Track and Field Coach John J. Magee.....	32
Report of Assistant Track and Field Coach Edward L. Farrell.....	33
Report of Assistant Track and Field Coach Lt. E. L. Vidal.....	35
Report of Assistant Track and Field Coach Wm. L. Hayward.....	36
Report of Marathon Trainer Michael J. Ryan.....	36
Report of Manager Swimming Team John T. Taylor.....	39
Report of Head Swimming Coach William Bachrach.....	44
Report of Women's Swimming Coach L. deB. Handley.....	46
Report of Diving Coach Ernest Brandsten.....	49
Report of Chaperone of Women's Swimming Team Charlotte Epstein.....	50
Report of Chaperone of Women's Swimming Team Marie A. Dean.....	51
Report of Manager of Boxing Team William H. Cuddy.....	51
Report of Assistant Manager Boxing Team Ben Levine.....	53
Report of Boxing Coach H. M. Webb.....	54
Report of Manager Wrestling C. W. Streit.....	65
Report of Wrestling Coach W. E. Cann.....	66
Report of Manager and Coach of Gymnastics Roy E. Moore.....	67
Report of Manager of Modern Pentathlon Major Wm. C. Rose.....	69
Report of Manager of Rowing Team James M. Daly.....	73
Report of Rowing Coach Frank J. Muller.....	83
Report of Manager of Yale Crew John M. Goetchius.....	85
Report of Manager of Fencing Team Leon S. Schoonmaker.....	86
Report of Fencing Coach F. H. Darrieulat.....	87
Report of Fencing Coach F. M. Costello.....	87
Report of Manager of Trapshooting W. H. Fawcett.....	88
Report of Manager of Pistol Team Dr. Reginald H. Sayre.....	89
Report of Manager of Rifle Team Major L. W. T. Waller.....	91
Report of Manager of Tennis Team Julian S. Myrick.....	94
Report of Manager of Equestrian Team Major J. A. Barry.....	96
Report of Manager of Cycling Team D. J. McIntyre.....	97
Report of Manager of Rugby Team Sam Goodman.....	98
Report of Coach of Rugby Team C. A. Austin.....	102
Report of Manager of Soccer Team George M. Collins.....	104
Report of Trainer of Soccer Team G. H. Burford.....	107
Report of Soccer Team W. R. Cummings.....	109
Report of International Skating Union, Joseph K. Savage.....	110
Report of Manager Speed Skating Team Wm. M. Taylor.....	113
Report of Figure Skating Team, Nathaniel W. Niles.....	114
Report of Manager of Hockey William S. Haddock.....	117
Organization Plan, Proposed by Captain C. R. Train, U. S. N.....	118
Report of Jury d'honneur, International Olympic Committee.....	120
Olympic Congress at Prague.....	123

they showed during their training period. Every man went at the task before him with a true American spirit. We realize the heavy schedule of training they went through, but were more than pleased at the wonderful spirit shown by the men. Not one shirked his duty for a minute. We sure were proud of them.

In offering suggestions it is my opinion that a coach in order to get best results from handling a team must live, eat and sleep with his men. This we did from the time we left New York until events were over in Paris. In offering criticism I would state that the training diet while at Rocquencourt was far from being ideal.

Personally, we gave all we had to put across a winning team and fully believe that the success of the team was due to their excellent physical condition and judgment used in handling them, and the high morale. This was made possible by cooperation of all connected with the team.

I want to again speak of the untiring efforts of our manager, Mr. Streit. No one could have labored harder for our welfare than he, and he most certainly deserves much credit for what he did.

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. CANN.

REPORT OF MANAGER AND COACH OF GYMNASTICS ROY E. MOORE

One world's championship and three additional point scores resulted in our participation in the gymnastic competition at the Eighth Olympiad, being the first victory for any United States team in sport which the European countries class as "major."

The gymnastic competition was under the specific direction of the French Gymnastic Federation and by the standard rules of the International Gymnastic Federation, of which the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States is a voting member.

The program of events as adopted called for a team competition by nations, eight regular and four substitute men on seven pieces of apparatus, i. e., horizontal bar, parallel bars, pommel horse, flying rings, long horse, side horse and rope climb, one prescribed and one optional exercise on the four first named and one prescribed exercise on the three last named.

Individual apparatus, individual all-around and team all-around prizes were awarded.

Our Olympic team was selected at a final tryout on May 27, 1924, at Madison Square Garden, New York City, and consisted of the following men, named in the order of their final selection, last four being substitutes:

Frank J. Kriz, Bohemian Gymnastic Association Sokol, New York.

Alfred Jochim, Swiss Turn Verein, West Hoboken, N. J.

Ensign J. B. Pearson, U. S. Navy.

Frank Safanda, D. A. Sokol Gymnastic Association, New York.

Curt Rottmann, New York Turn Verein, New York.

Max C. Wandrer, Philadelphia Turngemeinde, Philadelphia, Pa.

John C. Mais, Philadelphia, Turngemeinde, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rudolph Novak, Bohemian Gymnastic Association Sokol, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Francis F. Kruse, Jr., Unattached, Jersey City, N. J.

Adolph Zink, New York Turn Verein, New York.

John T. Andreasen, Norwegian Turn Society, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Charles M. Cremer, New York Athletic Club, New York.

Gymnastic apparatus for all events was taken on the S.S. "America" and

used during the training period at Camp Rocquencourt, and for the actual competition in the Stadium at Colombes on July 17, 18 and 19 and 20.

Nine nations competed and finished in the following order:

1. Italy, 839.058 points.
2. France, 820.528 points.
3. Switzerland, 816.461 points.
4. Jugo Slavia, 762.5 points.
5. United States, 715.6 points.
6. Great Britain, 637.7 points.
7. Finland, 554.8 points.
8. Luxembourg, 548 points.
9. *Czecho-Slovakia.

* Injuries to members of the last-named team on the second day caused them to finish with only six men.

In addition to the above, our team scored individually as follows:

Long Horse—1st, Frank J. Kriz; 5th, Max H. Wandrer.

Rope Climb—6th, Frank J. Kriz.

The United States team had the highest score of any nation in the Long Horse event.

The Secretary of the French Gymnastic Committee, Commander M. Roye, willingly gave us every assistance during the training period, arranging for a gymnasium at Versailles, to be used on rainy days, and for a practice session with the French team at Belfort, to compare notes on our interpretation of the prescribed exercises, which we found to be correct in every particular.

The action of the International Gymnastic Federation in making "last minute" changes in the rules, which,

(a) Prevented substitutes from participation (as such to guard against accidents);

(b) Allowed "right" or "left" performance of prescribed exercises;

(c) A second trial upon request;

(d) Conferring of judges at each apparatus and having them act as their own score clerks, thereby slowing up the running of the various events;

(e) The unnecessary spy work on leading contenders during the competition, and certain other similar details, are things which can be best treated with by our delegates at the next conference on Olympic matters, and deserve only to be mentioned here.

Intense rivalry amounting almost to suspicion and calling for the director to carry and produce at each apparatus, identification cards with photographs of all members of his team, was somewhat of a surprise to us, for we are accustomed to accepting the guarantee of a competitor and team of fair play, but this rule may have been considered necessary because the actual competition covered a period of three days with opportunity for replacements unnoticed otherwise.

The camp at Rocquencourt was ideal for training and with our own apparatus erected under the trees, the men had every opportunity to master the prescribed exercises and polish up their optional work for each event. Minor injuries, which are to be expected in the course of strenuous daily workouts with gymnasts, affected our men to some extent, but principally with those listed as substitutes, so our regular team was almost 100 per cent physically fit their first day of competition, and we finished without mishap.

Our plan of having the gymnastic team in Paris three weeks in advance of their competition worked out to good advantage for there are many details

in connection with our sport which require time and individual effort to complete, while training with other participants is necessary and instills confidence in performance, rules and general understanding.

The public attendance during our days of contest was exceedingly light, except on the final day when the Stadium was comfortably filled. It would seem a good plan to conduct the gymnastic tournament in the center of the field during the week of athletic and track events, thus providing a continuous performance for the paying public.

The committee in charge at Camps Rocquencourt and Colombes gave every assistance in their power to facilitate our training, being ready at all times with needed transportation, commissary requirements, etc., and deserve great credit for efficiently handling a most difficult problem.

Invaluable assistance was rendered our cause by Mr. G. H. Bojus, supervisor of physical training in the Jersey City, N. J., high schools, and Mr. Lory Prentiss, physical director at Lawrenceville (N. J.) Academy, who served as judge throughout the several days of our competition, without compensation. Mr. Bojus, in particular, gave his entire time and attention from July 6th to 20th, assisting in the training of our team, and deserves special commendation for this voluntary labor, which was of great benefit to us.

There is every reason to believe that the next Olympiad will find our gymnasts more experienced and confident of their ability to meet the European countries with a fair chance to improve on their showing at Paris in 1924.

Respectfully submitted,

ROY E. MOORE.

**REPORT OF MANAGER MODERN PENTATHLON TEAM,
MAJOR WM. C. ROSE**

A report of American participation in the modern pentathlon competition, Olympic Games, 1924, naturally divides itself into five sections: (1) Selection of the team, (2) training for competition, (3) competition, (4) conclusions, and (5) recommendations.

1. Selection of the Team:—

Selection of the four competitors to represent America in the modern pentathlon event of the Eighth Olympiad was, at the request of the American Olympic Committee, under the supervision of the War Department. The War Department delegated this duty to the Commanding General, Second Corps Area, with headquarters at Governors Island, New York. A committee of Army officers, of which the undersigned was the head, was thereupon appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

After study of this event from the inadequate records of previous Olympiads, instructions were sent out through the War Department in Washington authorizing all Corps Areas and Territorial Departments of the Army, of which there are twelve, to send selected men to New York City for the national try-outs. Neither the War Department nor our committee had funds for traveling expenses of competitors and several corps areas and departments were not represented because of this. Thirteen competitors, all Army officers, finally reported for the national competition which was held May 14th to 18th, inclusive. Prior to the try-out it was found that there had been a wide disparity in the time various competitors had been able to train, so the committee decided to pick the six highest in the first try-out; continue them in training and hold a second elimination about two weeks prior to the sailing of the American Olympic Team. This procedure was followed and finally