

# 3 Sports Training in the Bible

The apostle Paul was almost certainly familiar with the ancient Olympic Games. Twice he wrote letters to the church in Corinth, Greece. Corinth lies on approximately the same latitude as Olympia.



*Ruins of Ancient Corinth in Greece*

In 1 Corinthians, Paul used the imagery of athletic training and competition to teach Christians to be disciplined in their Christian lives. In the ninth chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul even mentioned “the games.” In verses 24 through 27, he talked about running, boxing, and self-control and used other words that relate to athletic training and competition. This is what he said:

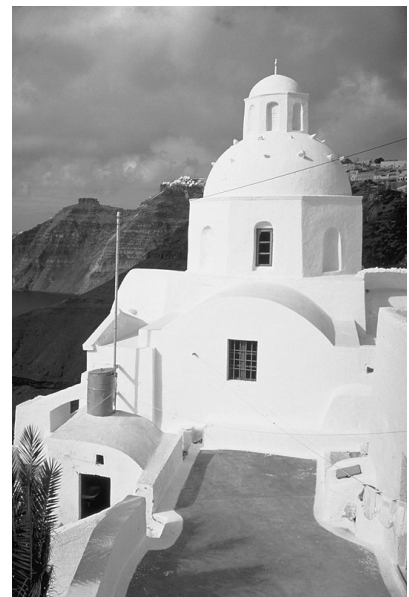
Do you not know that those who RUN in a RACE all run, but only one receives the PRIZE? Run in such a way that you may WIN. Everyone who COMPETES in the GAMES EXERCISES SELF-CONTROL in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable WREATH, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I BOX in such a way, as not beating the air; but I DISCIPLINE my BODY and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be DISQUALIFIED.

In 2 Timothy 2, Paul encouraged his young “son in the faith” to be strong. He taught Timothy, using the examples of soldiers, farmers, and athletes. In verse five, he said:

Also if anyone competes as an ATHLETE, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the RULES.

*The words that relate to athletics are in all capital letters. Find them in the puzzle below.*

L P S J K G A M E S L M N D  
 O A E C O R I N T H I A N I  
 R U L E S E M A R K W I N S  
 U L F D G E A C T S R L T C  
 N A C E H C P R I Z E U H I  
 P B O F I E A A O J A K E P  
 E C N J O H N C P A T E S L  
 T A T H L E T E Q M H X S I  
 E A R D A N I E L E V W A N  
 R C O M P E T E S S U B L E  
 A O L Y M P I C R S T O O J  
 D I S Q U A L I F I E D N A  
 L B H E B R E W S O F Y I M  
 O O P H I L L I P I A N A E  
 E X E R C I S E S X Y Z N S



*Pictures clockwise from top: White-Washed Building in Santourini, Greece; Greek Flag; Loufa Sponges from the Mediterranean Sea; Greek Windmills; Island of Samos, Greece*



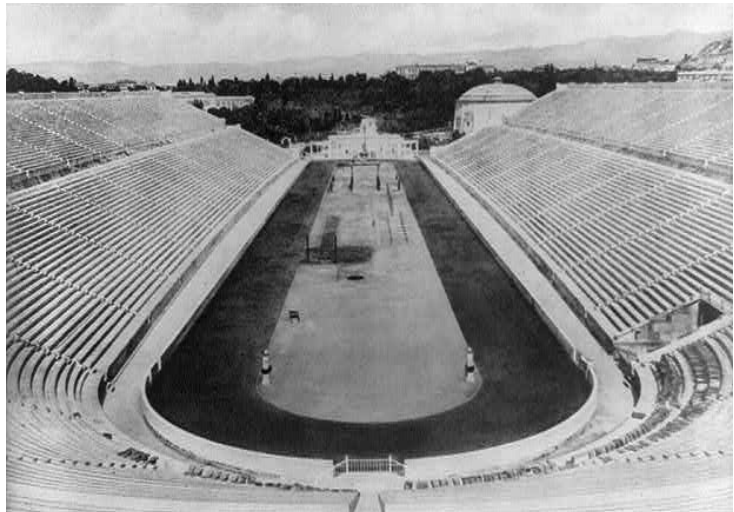
# 4

## The Modern Olympics Begin

*In these paragraphs about the modern Olympics, some verbs are scrambled. Use these words as hints so you can fill in the missing words. After you have filled in the missing words, read the paragraphs.*

RECEIVED	BELIEVED	WON	RESTORED	COMPETED
CONTINUED	PROVIDED	ORGANIZED	LAUNCHED	
PROPOSED	EXCAVATED	FOLLOWED	PASSED	HOSTED

French Baron Pierre de Coubertin was an educator and a thinker. He believed that sports were essential to forming a student's character. In the 1880s the French government asked him to form a sports association. He began to dream of a worldwide sports competition for amateurs. He **VBEIDELE** \_\_\_\_\_ that international competitions would promote friendly relations among the nations.



*The Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, Greece was the site of the 1896 track and field events. This photograph was taken c. 1914, eight years after its completed restoration. Today the facility is called the Kallimarmaro Stadium.*

In 1894, de Coubertin **RGEOAZNDI** \_\_\_\_\_ an international athletic congress and invited representatives from several countries. At the congress, de Coubertin **RPOPEOSD** \_\_\_\_\_ the organization of modern Olympic Games, based on those held in ancient Greece. The representatives **APSEDS** \_\_\_\_\_ his proposal and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was formed on June 23, 1894.

Athens, Greece **OHSETD** \_\_\_\_\_ the first modern Olympics in 1896. Opening day was March 25. The track and field events of the first modern Olympiad took place in Panathenaic Stadium in Athens. The stadium was built in 330 B.C. and may have

held more than 50,000 spectators. Though it had been **XECATVEDA** \_\_\_\_\_, the stadium was in disrepair in the late 1800s. A nationwide fund-raising campaign was **AUHDEL** \_\_\_\_\_ to restore the facility. Greeks living abroad made significant contributions. Wealthy Egyptian Greek, Georgios Averoff, **ROPEVDDI** \_\_\_\_\_ leadership and significant contributions. The stadium was **ESDTRREO** \_\_\_\_\_ in time for the 1896 Olympics.

The 330 B.C. stadium was made of marble. The 1896 stadium had marble in only the first four rows, while the rest of the seats were made of wood and painted white. Restoration work on the stadium **OCNTEIUND** \_\_\_\_\_ until the full marble restoration was completed in 1906.

Athletes from fourteen countries **OMDTECEP** \_\_\_\_\_ in nine sports. The 241 athletes competed in 43 events. All of the athletes were male. The largest teams came from France, Germany, Great Britain, and Greece. The Games were a great success.

American James Connolly was the first Olympic champion in over 1500 years; he **ONW** \_\_\_\_\_ the triple jump. The first Olympic marathon took place in the 1896 Olympics. Frenchman Michel Bréal proposed the idea. The race **OLWLFEDO** \_\_\_\_\_ the route of Pheidippides, who according to legend ran from the plain of Marathon to Athens in 490 B.C. Twenty-four year old Greek shepherd Spyridon Louis won the marathon. He ran in shoes donated by his fellow villagers and beat all the competition by seven minutes. He became the hero of the 1896 Olympics. In 1896 Olympic winners **ECEIEDRV** \_\_\_\_\_ a silver medal and a crown of olive leaves.



*Spyridon Louis, Winner of the 1896 Olympic Marathon, Dressed in Traditional Greek Costume as He Appeared at the 1936 Berlin Games*

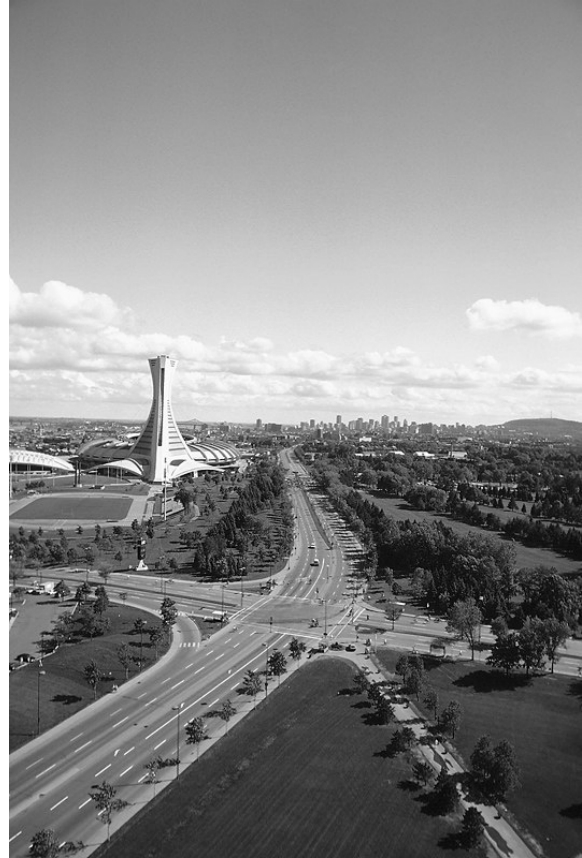
# 8

## Selecting a Host City

Just as in ancient times, the host city of the Olympic Games gains honor and economic advantages.

If a city wants to host the Olympic Games, the National Olympic Committee for its country must apply to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Many cities make bids to host each Olympiad. The IOC asks a city's representatives questions to find out whether or not it would be a suitable location for the Olympics. The IOC wants to know if its government supports the idea of the city hosting the Olympics and how the people living there feel about it. The city has to be able to keep all the athletes and visitors safe. The city has to have enough accommodations and transportation to take care of the thousands of people who would be coming to the Olympics. After the cities answer these questions, the IOC narrows down the choices. The cities that remain become Candidate Cities.

Candidate Cities are required to send in more information and are inspected to see if they would be good locations. After this, an election is held by committee members, experts, and others; and the location of the next Olympic Games is decided.

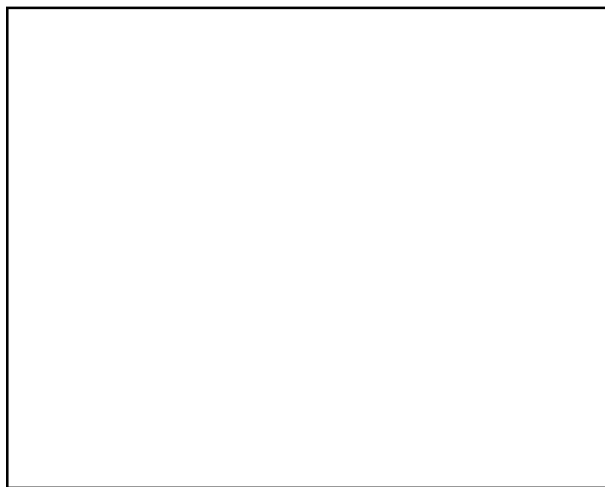


### Olympic Park, Montreal

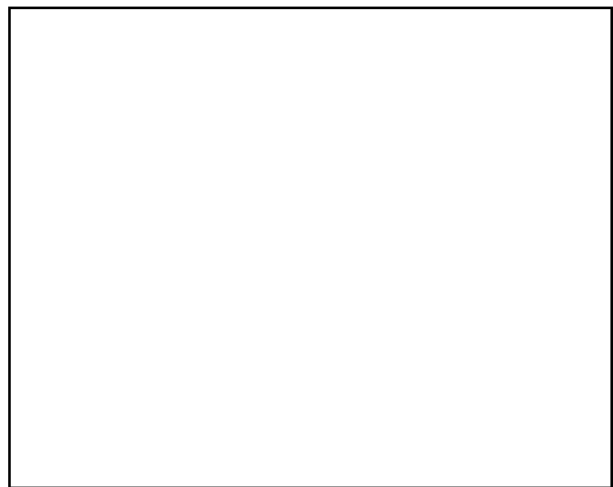
Montreal, Quebec in Canada was the site of the 1976 Olympic Games. The tall structure in the picture is Montreal Tower, the world's tallest leaning structure. Notice the Olympic Stadium behind the tower, the playing field in front of it, and the roads leading to Olympic Complex. The stadium wasn't actually completed in time for the Olympics, because of a strike by construction workers. Visitors can go to the top of the tower for an unusual view of Montreal.

The decision has to be made years in advance so that a city can prepare for the big event. Buildings have to be built and much planning has to be done. Hosting the Olympics costs millions, if not billions, of dollars.

*Today, each Olympic Games has a logo and a mascot. Imagine that your city is going to apply as a host city for the Olympics. You have been chosen to design the logo and the mascot. Design some logos and mascots on blank paper. In your logos, be sure to include the name of your city and the year in which the Olympics will be held there. You choose the year. Would your city be more suitable for the Winter or Summer Games? Be sure to depict the season in your logo also. When you finish your designs, get input from family members, choose your best logo and mascot, and copy them below.*



**Logo**



**Mascot**

**Some Past  
Olympic Mascots**

- Dachshund - Munich, 1972
- Snowman - Innsbruck, 1976
- Beaver - Montreal, 1976
- Raccoon - Lake Placid, 1980
- Bear - Moscow, 1980
- Wolf - Sarajevo, 1984
- Eagle - Los Angeles, 1984
- Polar Bears - Calgary, 1988
- Tiger - Seoul, 1988
- Snow Owls - Nagano, 1998



*Aerial View of Olympic Park in Montreal*

# Curling

Paisley Abbey, **SCOTLAND** was the site of the first known curling match in 1541. Scots played on frozen ponds, lochs, and marshes, using river bottom stones. Today curling is most popular in Canada. The first Olympic curling contest took place in Chamonix in 1924. Competition is now held for men's teams and for women's teams.



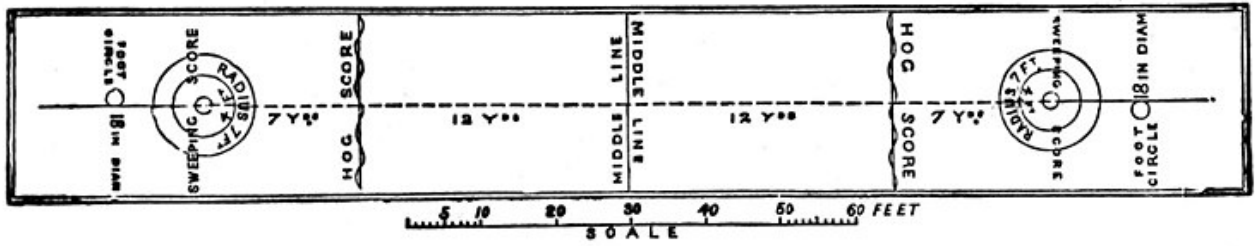
Curling teams began to play on indoor rinks during the 1900s. The origin of the term “curling” is unknown; but it may derive from the Scottish word “curr,” which means a murmuring sound. The stone makes such a sound as it **SLIDES** on the ice. Another theory for the name is that players throw the stone so that it curls to the left or right.

Today granite **STONES**, weighing 42 pounds (19.1 kilograms) each, are used in the sport. These standard weight stones, developed in the 1600s, have handles. Most curling stones are made from **GRANITE** quarried in Scotland or Wales. The stones are concave on the bottom, so that only the **RIM** of the stone touches the ice. Players use brooms or **BRUSHES** on the ice to move the stones along. Each curling team has four players. Teams alternate pushing a stone toward concentric **CIRCLES**, which are marked on the long, narrow playing area. Players use brooms or brushes to try to get the stone as close as possible to the center of the circles.

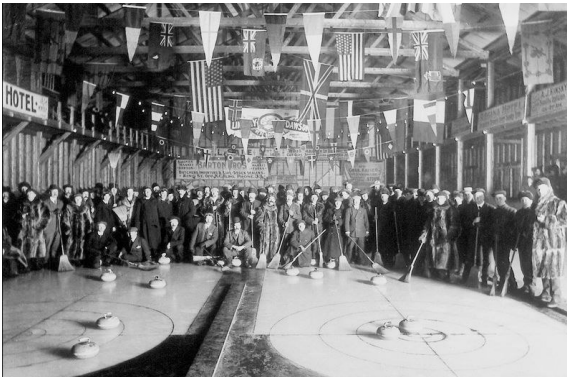
Curlers wear shoes with special soles, one for gripping the ice and one for sliding on it. One sole is rubber and the other is made of a smooth material like Teflon. Many also wear gloves.

Curling has ten segments called “ends.” During an end, a team delivers eight stones (two per person). The first player is the “lead,” the second is the “second,” the third is the “third” (or “vice skip”), and the last player is the “skip.”

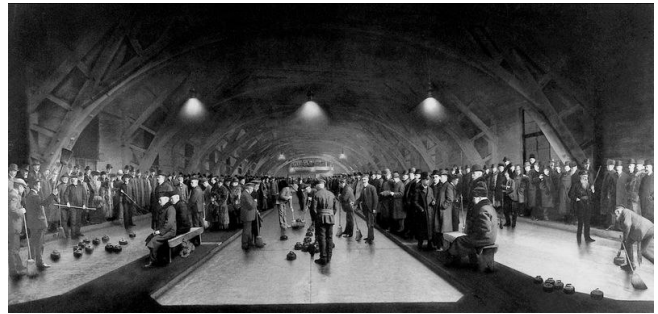
*Fit the words in all capital letters into the puzzle on page 75.*



*Curling Playing Area*



*Yukon Territory, Canada*



*Quebec, Canada*



*Ottawa, Canada*



*Alberta, Canada*



*Scotland*

