

# Olympics explained, analyzed

Associated Press  
Innsbruck, Austria — Following thumbnail sketches of the Olympic sports, explaining their distances, rules and winners are judged:

**ALPINE SKIING**  
There are three events for men and women in Alpine skiing — the giant slalom and slalom.

The fastest skier wins the gold medal. The second fastest wins the silver and the third fastest the bronze. It sounds simple, but there are often protests over the results because a skier must pass through a number of compulsory gates on the way down. If a gate is missed, or if the skier dislodges a gate with his or her skis, he or she is disqualified. Men and women have one run each in the downhill — which is steeper, longer and has fewer gates than the slalom. They each have two runs in the slalom. Men have two runs in the giant slalom and women have one. In every race with two runs, the best combined time wins.

There are 25 gates on the men's downhill course, which is just short of two miles long. The women's downhill course is just over 1½ miles long and runs through 23 gates. The gates are arranged in an elongated "S" pattern, designed to force skiers to brake somewhat, effectively slowing speeds which can exceed 90 miles per hour. The outstanding features of the downhill are speed and courage.

In both slalom races, skiing technique is most important. Competitors must pass through a large number of high gates placed close together, requiring great artistry and balance.

The men's giant slalom, considered half-a-downhill and half-a-slalom, is three-fourths of a mile in length. The women's giant slalom is just short of a mile. The women's course is longer than the men's because the men make two runs to the women's one. There will be about 50 gates on both courses.

The men's slalom course is just over a quarter-mile long and the women's course is just under a quarter-mile. There will be about 60 gates on each course.

In all three races, guards watch the gates closely to see if a skier passes through properly. The skier

may knock off slalom gates with his shoulder. But if he dislodges a gate with his skis that is called straddling and the skier is disqualified. If a skier believes a guard has made a mistake, he may file a protest which will be considered by a group of judges.

## FIGURE SKATING

There are three figure skating competitions in the Winter Games: individual, pairs and dancing.

Individual skaters must compete in compulsory figures, short and free skating programs. An individual skater's final score is broken down in three elements. Compulsory figures make up 40 per cent of the score. The freestyle counts for 4 per cent, and the other 20 per cent is made up from a fixed freestyle routine, called the short program. Skaters who excel in freestyle routines have an advantage over less creative skaters.

In compulsory figures, a skater carves figures on the ice. The perfect compulsory figure involves a correct print, a firm control of balance, appropriate size and accurate repetition of the figure. Judging is based on control of balance and beauty of movement and on what is called trace, which means the print, size and repetition of the figure.

In the short program, each individual skater follows the same routine, although they have some freedom of movement. It is shorter in duration than the freestyle program. Freestyle is the artistry of skating. Competitors skate to music of their choosing, interpreting as they wish with a series of maneuvers, including jumps and twirls. Judging is based on good arrangement, the number of difficult moves and the variety of the performance.

In pairs, a man and a woman skate in unison and harmony with each

other although they do not always have to skate together. The entrants skate a short compulsory program, which is identical for all entered, and a five-minute freestyle presentation to music of their own choosing. Judging is the same as in the individual competition.

Ice dancing is a new Olympic event. A man and a woman skate in unison and harmony through three compulsory set-pattern dances, an original set pattern dance in which each couple chooses its music and a free dance program. The free dance has no required moves. Judging is the same as in the individual and freestyle competition.

## HOCKEY

The ice hockey tournament is the one part of the Winter Games which starts before the opening ceremony on Feb. 4.

Twelve nations are entered and they will play six qualifying matches on Feb. 2 and 3. The six winners go into Group A and play a round-robin tournament. Each team plays five matches in the 9,000-seat Olympic Ice Hall for the gold, silver and bronze medals.

The six losers of the qualification matches go into Group B and play a similar round-robin tournament. But they have no chance to win a medal.

The Olympic rink is 15 to 20 feet wider than the average playing surface in the United States. The larger surface puts more emphasis on passing and coordinated offense than does the average American rink.

Russia, strong favorites for the gold medal, must beat the host nation, Austria, in the qualifications to get into Group A. The United States, given a chance at the bronze medal, must overcome Yugoslavia.

## WEIGHT WATCHERS

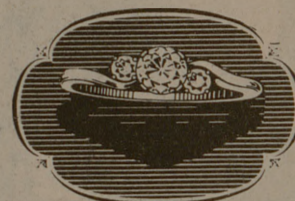
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## Congress expected to ban military aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House is expected to join the Senate and vote a ban on continued military aid to Western-backed factions in the Angolan civil war.

The issue is scheduled to be raised when the House takes up the \$90-billion defense appropriation bill today. That bill contains a Senate-approved amendment to prohibit U.S. funds from being used for the fighting in the southwest African nation.

Appropriations Committee Chairman George Mahon said he expects the amendment to be approved by the House today "by a wide margin."

In another development, Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash., said Monday that he had 200 co-sponsors to a resolution advising President Ford not to aid any military faction in Angola unless the Congress specifically approves such assistance. Bonker said he considered the support for his resolution indicative as to how the vote on the funds will go.

The administration has included \$28 million in the defense appropriations bill for support of the Western-backed National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and its ally, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The Soviet Union has been

supplying arms, and Cuba has sent men, to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

A fund cutoff would affect only direct appropriations to Angola. Bonker has voiced concern that U.S. funds could be channeled through Zaire for use in continued support of the anti-Soviet factions.

Monday, the State Department's assistant secretary of state for African affairs, William E. Schaefe, told the House International Relations Committee that U.S. efforts to aid the two Angolan factions were a response to Soviet and Cuban military intervention.

"We must recognize that the Soviet Union has strained the fabric of détente by its lack of restraint and unilateral actions in Angola," he said. "We were not hostile to the MPLA before it decided to impose its rule on the strength of Soviet and Cuban bayonets."

Schaefe described Angola as a demonstration by the Soviet Union as to how it will use what he said was power only recently gained "to intervene militarily anywhere in the world."

"If we allow the Soviet Union to get away with this intervention 8,000 miles from its borders" Moscow will be encouraged to try similar forays elsewhere in the world, Schaefe told the committee.

## News Briefs

**DETROIT'S** school officials say that yesterday's integration of the city's elementary schools through court-ordered busing was a success. But they and civil-rights leaders have some concern about violence in the high schools, which are to be integrated today.

**PATRICIA HEARST'S** trial for bank robbery was expected to begin today. Jury selection reportedly will focus on attitudes toward kidnap victims, radicals and the wealthy.

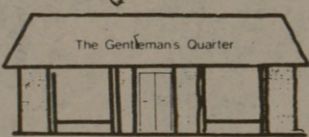
**ISRAELI** Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has arrived in the U.S. on a 12-day visit in an attempt to maintain American diplomatic support and to

restore threatened multi-million dollar U.S. aid cuts.

**THE PALESTINE** Liberation Organization says it will intensify its armed struggle with Israel now that the U.S. has vetoed a United Security Council resolution calling for an independent Palestine and Israeli withdrawal from lands captured in the 1967 War.

A **TANK-LED** three-pronged attack has been launched by the Soviet-backed Popular Movement MPLA against the Western-backed National Union. MPLA military sources say that their forces are less than 50 miles from the UNITA capital of Huambo.

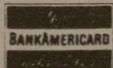
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