

1968 O L Y M P I C S

AT U-T'S SUPERB SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

There will be an Olympic setting for the second annual AAU Junior Olympics Championships on the University of Tennessee campus at **Knoxville, Tennessee, August 6-7-8, 1968**, the youthful athletes, all regional champions, will be housed in the Presidential Court Complex, a group of modern dormitory buildings, that will take on the aspect of an Olympic Village.

The boys and girls, ranging in age from 11 to 17, will gather for their meals in the dining unit of the complex, but instead of coming from all over the world as in the Olympic Games, they will hail from all over the United States. And the scenes of the competitive efforts by these young champions will be within a few moments' stroll from their living quarters. The Quaker Oats Company of Chicago again will sponsor the games.

Participants in the 1968 AAU Junior Olympics Championships will vie for honors in track and field, swimming and diving, gymnastics and trampoline in what has been termed the finest athletic facility in the nation. In fact on a recent visit to the **Knoxville** campus, Spike Claasem, Assistant Sports Editor of the Associated Press, declared, "This the finest athletic facility in the country"

Later he added, "That may be an understatement. This could be the finest in the world."

In this vein was the comment made by Fred Russell, noted sports editor of the Nashville Banner, who remarked, "Tennessee has the best athletic operation I have seen." And for this state of affairs, Russell paid tribute to Dr. Andy Holt, Tennessee president, athletic director Bob Woodruff, and Coaches Doug Dickey, Ray Mears, and Chuck Rohe, track.

"My neighbor for many years, Dr. Holt," Russell commented, "is one of the finest, ablest human beings I have ever known. He has a feel for sports"

Dr. Holt was among those who gave vigorous support to the community effort that sought the Junior Olympics Championships for **Knoxville**---a group that included Governor Buford Ellington, Mayor Leonard Rogers, the **Knoxville** newspapers, Chamber of Commerce and U-T's athletic and housing departments.

"All of us at the University of Tennessee are delighted to have the young athletes from throughout America on our campus to participate in the AAU Junior Olympic Championships of 1968," Dr. Holt stated.

"One look at U-T's superb sports and recreational facilities--- the Student Aquatic Center, the Tom Black Track and Recreational Area, the Stokely Athletic Center, the Neyland Stadium and other developments---will convince anyone that this institution believes in a strong athletic program. The University is the 23rd largest institution of higher education in the nation, and it strives for excellence in all of its endeavors, athletic as well as academic.

"We are highly pleased that the Junior Olympics have elected to make use of these facilities, and we cordially welcome not only the participants but also the coaches, chaperones, parents and all of the visitors to our campus for this significant event,"

Knoxville, Tennessee, August 6-7-8, 1968

In keeping with the plan of expanding the games' program each year, the AAU Junior Olympics Advisory Committee this year added gymnastics, including trampoline, and diving to the track and swim activities that marked the agenda. A year ago, 533 boys and girls, regional titleholders, gathered in Washington for the first championships, plus several hundred Junior Division (11-12-year-olds) who participated in an Invitational Meet. They were welcomed to the Capital by Vice-President Humphrey. With the added sports this year, a huge field of 714 young champions, plus coaches and chaperones, will be flown to Knoxville and housed in the campus Olympic Village by The Quaker Oats sponsors.

With this extended program has come a change in the ages of the competitors as compared to a year ago when participation involved the two older groups---intermediate and senior---from 13 through 17. For swimming, and diving too, the intermediates again will compete but the seniors will give way to the juniors (11-12). Some of the senior division swimming entries, particularly among the girls, are contenders for places on the U.S. Olympic team that will go to Mexico City next October and it was felt they should have free rein to fulfill such aspirations.

Track and field will remain the same with the intermediates and seniors eligible. Gymnastics will have two classes, 14 and under and senior (15-17), and there will be one trampoline class of 17 and under.

Construction of Tennessee's vast new athletic plant, built at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million and occupying more than 11 acres virtually in the center of the campus, was completed only last year. Clashing in such up-to-date surroundings, the second meeting of AAU Junior Olympics champions in direct competition should be productive of record-breaking performances.

The Tom Black Track, named for a Knoxville business leader and U-T benefactor, is considered of Olympic qualifications. It contains a \$150,000 all weather 9-lane quarter-mile Tartan track, runways for jumping events, a permanent seating of 3,000 with space for portable stands for 7,000 more.

The Natatorium consists of two 50-meter Olympic swimming pools, one indoor and one outdoors. Each has eight lanes for competitive purposes and each has a separate diving well equipped with boards and the usual levels. The gymnastics and trampoline activities will take place in the handsome all-purpose field house, the Stokely Athletics Center, which seats 12,500 for basketball and 9200 for indoor track. The Arena has four-lane, 10-laps-to-the-mile un-banked track of Tartan composition and foam rubber pits for the jumps. Thus another advantage the Junior Olympics Championships will enjoy at Tennessee will be the fact that both the track and swimming programs can be moved indoors in case of inclement weather.

Track and swimming competition will follow along the lines of the 1967 inaugural meet with five events for each of the four groups in each sport. In track there will be sprint, 440- or 880-yard run, hurdles test and high and long jump. Senior boys will have a sixth event---a one-mile-run. The aquatic agenda will remain the same with races at 100 meters in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly and 200 meters individual medley. A relay race is listed for each age classification in both track and swimming.

In gymnastics, the title contenders will compete in the all-around, the girls in four events using optional exercises only and the boys in six events utilizing the compulsory exercises. For the trampoline performers, ten compulsory exercises are listed for the boys and ten for girls.

The 714 entrants at Knoxville will have qualified for the Championships by means of 13 regional competitions in each sport. Appropriate medals will be provided by, The Quaker Oats Company for the first six in each Championship event and to the first four in each Regional test.

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This is the time of the year when things are really humming in AAU Junior Olympic circles with youngsters engaging in AAU Association Championship meets from coast to coast in various sports. Among the deluge of superior feats in track and field was a long jump by Dora Lee Roberts of Riverdale, California. Competing in the junior division (12-13 years old), of the Central California AAU Junior Olympics, little Dora made an amazing leap of 19 feet 1 inch to eclipse the class record for the event by more than one foot. Her jump surpassed the listed intermediate mark of 19'3" set in 1967 by Janet Macfarlane of Gridley, California.

Two years ago in 1966, Dora Lee established midget (10-11) Junior Olympics division records in the long jump of 16' 8" and high jump of 4' 7". That year she also won honors with her brother, Ray, as the outstanding sister-brother combination.

Additional articles are welcome for possible posting on this site. We are looking for articles on athletes that participated and the results of the 2nd Games in Knoxville, Tennessee. Fax these articles to 509 457 0931 Credit will be given for these articles.

**Paul R. Campbell
Chairman, AAU Junior Olympic Games**