## Shooting Venue Hits Mark at Beijing Games

The final rounds are fired this weekend in the competition for medals in shooting at the Beijing Olympics．

Among the venue＇s admirers is the chef de mission of the United ArabEmirates，who told Around The Rings the shooting facilities exceeded his expectations．
＂It is well organized and the hospitality is fantastic，＂ said Mohammed Al Khaja Saturday at the Beijing Shooting Range in the Shijingshan District，some 23km from the Olympic Village．
＂The smiles do not go away from the faces of the organizers and volunteers．The atmosphere in the grounds is great．The spectators are cheering their Chinese athletes but still have respect for others．＂
＂I have no complaints，＂said Al Khaja，who is a board member of the UAE national Olympic committee．

Several thousand visitors took in the final qualification rounds and finals of the men＇s 25 －meter rapid fire pistol in the newly built shooting range hall－covering 45,600 square meters－and the men＇s skeet in the neighboring clay target field on Day 8.

According to a BOCOG spokesman，average attendance rates have reached 85 percent of capacity for the two shooting venues．The final range at the shooting hall accommodates 8,600 spectators，while the clay target field holds 5，000．

The 15 Olympic shooting events consist of nine men＇s events and six women＇s events；the disciplines

are rifle，pistol and shotgun．Sunday is the last day of competition with a final gold medal up for grabs in the men＇s 50 m rifle three positions．

The running target and the women＇s double trap events contested at the Athens Games were axed from the Beijing Olympic program．

The UAE won a first Olympic gold medal at Athens 2004 with Shaikh Ahmad Mohammad Hasher Al

Maktoum in the double trap shooting event．
But the two UAE shooters competing in Beijing in trap，double trap and skeet are leaving empty－ handed．

Still，Al Khaja，who heads the UAE＇s eight－member delegation in Beijing，is confident his country can pick up a judo medal at the Games．
－Mark Bisson

## IOC Ousts Swedish Wrestler Who Shunned Bronze



Ara Abrahamian removes his bronze．／Getty Images

Poor sportsmanship costs the Swedish Greco－Roman wrestler Ara Abrahamian a bronze medal after a podium protest two days ago．

The IOC Executive Board，acting on the recommendations of an IOC Disciplinary Commission， ruled behavior against the spirit of fair play．

## ON THE SCENE IN BEIJING

Abrahamian walked off the podium during the Aug． 14 medal ceremony，leaving his medal on the mat after the Greco－Roman 84－kilogram finals．

He became incensed after a disputed penalty led to his semifinal defeat by Italian Andrea Minguzzi，who went on to win gold．
＂Mr．Abrahamian is a Swedish athlete who stepped down from the podium and laid his medal on the
floor during the awards ceremony for the men＇s Greco－Roman wrestling 84kg event，＂the IOC said in a statement．
＂He had received one of two bronze medals awarded．＂

According to the document outlining the IOC decision， the athlete told the three－member IOC Disciplinary Commission that he had nothing against the Games or other athletes．

Abrahamian said he believed that，during the semi－
（continued，page 9）

全世界同处一方
分享同一梦想

全世界各民族参加一个和平竟䫡，庆祝我们拥有一个美好并充满青春活力的世界。这次，巴西有史以来最大的奥运代表团热切希望能亲身感受乓林匹克的价値，并且荣幸地期待上百万的巴西体育爱好者的支持。

里约2016年奥运申办委员会，巴西奥委会叓心祝贺中
会，让 205 个国家奥委会的一万多个运动员梦想成真。

## The whole world in one place，sharing the same dream．

All nations joined in one peaceful competition， celebrating the best of world＇s youth．
The dream of the largest Olympic Brazilian delegation ever is to live by the Olympic values and honor the expectations and support of millions of Brazilian fans．
The Rio 2016 Bid Committee and the Brazilian Olympic Committee would like to congratulate the Chinese people and the Beijing Organizing Committee for the excellent preparation of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games，which will make the dreams of over 10，000 athletes from 205 National Olympic Committees come true．

## Bidding in Beijing: Final Presentation Crucial Say IOC Members

A word of advice for cities bidding for the 2016 Olympics: the final presentation is crucial and influential.
"We know there are a lot of colleagues (fellow voters) who come in that morning on the day of the presentations and election, with no clear favorite, they're totally undecided," said Monaco IOC member Prince Albert.

According to Danish IOC member Kai Holm, there are two decisive factors for a successful bidding city - politics and the final presentation.
"If Sochi didn't have (Russian president Vladimir) Putin present its bid, it probably wouldn't have won," he said.
"So it is important how you behave in the final round."

Holm, who is due to retire this year, said the process of selecting a host city is continuing to evolve and improve.

Prince Albert, speaking at the Around the Newsmaker Breakfast on Friday, noted that upon becoming a member in 1985, and before rules changes occurred, he and fellow IOC members frequently visited bid cities.

Buthe believes if a candidate city provides
enough detailed information about its bid and enough time for IOC members to digest it, that is enough to help make the right decision.
"Having said that, the last presentation before the election of the host city is very important," Prince Albert remarked.

The catalyst for change was the scandal that tainted the awarding of the 2002 Winter Games to Salt Lake City. It resulted in expulsions and sanctions for a string of IOC members.
"As itturns out, the IOC members probably never are going to visit the city again," Holm said at the ATR Breakfast.


Madrid mayor Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon appears at a Madrid 2016 press conference / Getty Images
"Butwe have some improvements coming. Next summer, the four bidding cities will come together in Lausanne, together with all the IOC members, and have a chance to present what they are doing."

Prince Albert of Monaco: "The last presentation before the election of the host city is very important." (ATR) He said IOC members will then have an opportunity to ask any questions they want of candidate cities.
"That's a very big improvement from now, where we have no connection whatsoever."

Nicole Hoevertsz, Aruba IOC member, said the 2016 candidate cities are doing a good job with efforts to form personal relationships with IOC members, their constituency.



## Today’s Highlights

- 8 a.m. - ATR Newsmaker Breakfast: Sponsor Roundtable - GE, Panasonic, Samsung and McDonald's representatives talk about the benefits of Games sponsorship, marketing and presence in China.
Venue: McDonald's, Olympic Green, north end.
- 6 p.m. - Coca-Cola Live Positively Award.

Venue: Shuang Experience Center.

## Quote of the Day

"Andrew Bogut is a cornerstone for this team but he can't carry this team. When we win we win. When we lose it's (apparently) Andrew Bogut's fault."


- Brian Goorjian, Australian basketball team coach on his star center, Milwaukee Bucks NBA star Andrew Bogut, after Australia's 95-80 victory over Russia.


## Main Press Centre

- 11 a.m. - Joint IOC/BOCOG press briefing


## Beijing International Media Center

## www.2008bimc.cn

- 10 a.m. - Executives from the TaiShan Sports Industry Group and Guangzhou Dayang Motorcycle Co. hold a press conference on manufacturing for the Olympics. Hall 2.
- 12 p.m. - Health officials from the city and BOCOG take questions about medical services during Games. Hall 1.
- 2 p.m. - Economists from the government and Chinese research institutes hold a press conference on the Oympics and China's economic development. Hall 1.
- 2:30 p.m. - Senior leaders from the Shanghai government hold a press conference on development of the city's Pudong New Area. Hall TBA.


## Coming Up!

- Aug 19, 8 a.m. - ATR Newsmaker Breakfast: The CEO of Sochi Olympics will brief on the work taking place in the early stages of planning for the Winter Olympics and how these Games will change Russia and Sochi.


## 2008 Medal Projections

|  | Gold | Silver | Bronze |  |  |  | Total | Silver |  |  | Bronze | Total |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U.S. | 47 | 24 | 31 | 102 | France | 7 | 17 | 14 | 38 |  |  |  |
| China | 41 | 21 | 28 | 90 | Poland | 6 | 5 | 6 | 17 |  |  |  |
| Russia | 30 | 31 | 25 | 86 | Netherlands | 5 | 5 | 10 | 20 |  |  |  |
| Great Britain | 18 | 12 | 20 | 50 | Ukraine | 5 | 5 | 7 | 17 |  |  |  |
| Germany | 18 | 12 | 20 | 50 | Kenya | 5 | 3 | 5 | 13 |  |  |  |
| Italy | 10 | 13 | 12 | 35 | Hungary | 4 | 7 | 5 | 16 |  |  |  |
| Australia | 10 | 12 | 15 | 37 | Czech Republic | 4 | 5 | 2 | 11 |  |  |  |
| Korea | 9 | 14 | 7 | 30 | Cuba | 3 | 9 | 6 | 18 |  |  |  |
| Japan | 9 | 7 | 17 | 33 | Canada | 3 | 6 | 2 | 11 |  |  |  |
| Spain | 8 | 4 | 9 | 21 | Belarus | 3 | 3 | 7 | 13 |  |  |  |

Based on results in recent World Championships. Projections are by Luciano Sara, former director of sport for the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), and deputy CEO of TOROC 2006. Sara has been projecting medal counts for 10 years by analyzing past performances.


# A SPECTACULAR SETTING FOR SPORT 

CHICAGO'S PLAN IS CENTERED IN THE HEART OF THE CITY WITHIN ITS
EXTRAORDINARY CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT, HOSPITALITY
AND SHOPPING DISTRICT. CHICAGO IS HONORED TO BE A CANDIDATE CITY.


## Event of the Day: Archery's ' $V$ ' Shape Earns ' $A$ '

The Beijing Olympic Green Archery Field isn't an iconic venue like the Panathinaiko Stadium in Athens was in 2004 or the Lord's Cricket Ground will be in London in 2012. But the V-shaped, "Court A," hit the bulls-eye in providing an intimate setting.
"It's the first time we have such a high and closeby stand," FITA Secretary General Tom Dielen told Around the Rings. "We wanted them even a little bit closer, maybe lower."

The Koreans built an exact replica of the 5,000-seat stadium at their training camp so archers could get used to the proximity of the crowd.

Unlike Court A and the smaller Court B, for the London Games, Dielen said the Olympic venue may return to only one court after the ranking round.

Dielen said officials have analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of having two fields. Only one field would prolong the schedule by one day during the elimination rounds. However, he said archers who competed only on the B field in Beijing "feel a little bit second-class. That is something we are not happy with. Everyone should have the feeling of shooting in front of the big crowd, the video board."

An advantage to having two fields is that all archers can be televised. Athens had one field with four targets, but only two targets were televised.

## Shooting for More Interest

Dielen told ATR that the sport is trying to fine-tune its product and might change the way it is scored. FITA is already doing analysis of the subject.
"We may go to three arrows in a set, best of five, like tennis," he said. "It changes in a few cases the outcome, but the perception, if someone does a bad arrow, is different."


Thunderstorms drove spectators out of the Olympic Green Archery Field earlier in the week. / Getty Images

Dielen said archery will also work with broadcasters to make the sport more interesting. During the World Cup Final in September in Lausanne, FITA will test the use of heart-rate measurement.
"We can see what the archers are really seeing as pressure," he said. "The other thing we are wanting to do where cost isn't an issue, is show where the archer is aiming in real time. It's not as easy as it might look. We don't want to put something on the archer's bow to change the weight of the bow. We're talking to the universities about how we might do it."

## All Archery All the Time

Dielen said archery has been working since 2005 on a world plan. "The objective of that plan and

the vision we have there, is to make archery internationally recognized as an important Olympic sport."

A World Cup debuted in 2006 composed of four tournaments and a final. "It was necessary to keep people interested," he said.

## A Voice Within IOC

FITA President Dr. Ugur Erdener of Turkey was one of two new IOC members elected at the IOC session in Beijing. He became the second FITA President nominated for IOC membership, following Jim Easton, FITA president until 2006.
"Our president selected from 110 candidates shows we are on the right way to get that recognition," Dielen said. "This is showing that our sport has progressed quite a lot in the last few years. We are one of the few sports that have more than one representative as IOC members."

## Slinging Arrows

A Chinese reporter asked the FITA officials if it was possible to change the rules to limit Korea's stronghold. Korea won five total medals and two golds, while China and Ukraine each won a gold.
"We can't start creating rules to prevent a country from winning medals," Dielen said.
"This would be crazy. Probably the team that is the best in the world to adapt to the rule changes is the Koreans. The reason is they have a very professional approach to the sport."

Dielen said the edge Korea holds is getting smaller and smaller. "They are not as invincible as they have been."

Archery had 49 NOCs qualify for the Olympics, a new record and Dielen remarked the skill level was high.

- ATR Staff


## LEAVING DIFFERENCES BEHIND



# On the Scene in Beijing: IOC Revokes Medal <br> <br> (continued from cover) 

 <br> <br> (continued from cover)}
final match at the competition in Beijing, he was prejudiced by blatant errors in judging which caused him to lose.
"Any disruption by any athlete, in particular a medalist, is in itself an insult to the other athletes and to the Olympic Movement," the IOC said in the report.
"The fact that, in this case, the Athlete's gesture was carried out in a calm manner does not diminish in any way the severity of the offence."

The IOC Executive Board announced it had disqualified Abrahamian from his event and excluded him from the Beijing Games.

But his medal will not be awarded to another athlete, with the IOC noting "the sanction is not directly linked to facts which took place during the competition itself but during an awards ceremony."
"Thus, it would not be justified to award a bronze medal to the wrestler who placed behind the Athlete."

The IOC report noted that Abrahamian also complained about his silver medal finish at the Athens Olympics. The report says he told the commission that bad judging led to his failure to win the gold medal there.

The IOC Disciplinary Commission is comprised of IOC members Thomas Bach, Sergey Bubka and Denis 0swald.

## Phelps Wins Seventh, Barely

As Michael Phelps was celebrating his recordtying seventh gold medal of the Beijing Games, FINA officials were reviewing the video of the race following an official protest from the Serbian swimming team.

Phelps touched out Serbia's Milorad Cavic in the 100 m butterfly by .01 of a second -- the smallest margin of victory in the sport -- with an Olympic record time of 50.58 seconds. With the win, he tied Mark Spitz for seven gold medals in one Olympic Games, although he fell short of matching Spitz's mark of setting a world record in each event. Speedo, one of Phelps' sponsors, promised to pay Phelps $\$ 1$ million if he


A young football fan waits out the rain. / Getty Images
won at least seven gold medals.
Five FINA officials attended a press conference to defend the Omega timing system and verify the official results of the race.

The men's referee, Ben Ekumbo of Kenya, said he looked at the video footage from Omega. "It is evident from the video that it is an issue of stroking," he said. "One was stroking [Phelps] and the other was gliding [Cavic]."

He added, "The timing system in this case, Omega, was in perfect condition, was in perfect order."

Ekumbo said he offered the Serbian team the opportunity to see the footage for themselves even though the rules don't allow it.
"We didn't want them to go to sleep thinking that something is close and they don't have a chance," he said.

Cornel Marculescu, FINA executive director, said there was no doubt Phelps would win the gold medal. "The question was for him to share the first place."


He said Serbia had the option of appealing to the jury of appeals, but accepted the explanation of the referees and decided not to take that step.

Phelps said he had no idea there was a protest. "Beats me," he said. "That's the first word I've heard of it."

He said he saw the finish frame by frame. "It's almost too close to see," he said. He recalled that he was shocked when the U.S. $4 \times 100$-meter relay team won by .04 earlier in the Olympics. "It's possible I'm even more shocked than I was then," he said.

Cavic said he was happy to have won the silver, although gold would have been better.
"I'm not angry," he said. "If it's up to me, I would drop the protest. There is a gold medal at stake, but I came into this expecting bronze and I did one better and got silver and almost the gold. This is what the results showed on the electronic board."

The difference between bronze medalist Andrew Lauterstein of Australia, and fourth place, Ian Crocker


Jacques Rogge wearing the IAAF Award / Getty Images
of the U.S., was also .01 . There was no protest.

## Woman Stabbed During Games Returns to U.S.

The U.S. tourist who survived a knife attack while sightseeing on Day 2 of the Olympics has left Beijing by air ambulance. Barbara Bachman, whose husband, Todd, was killed in the attack at the Drum Tower, has been transferred to a hospital in the United States. Her three daughters have also returned to the United States, including Elisabeth McCutcheon, whose husband, Hugh, is the head coach of the U.S. men's volleyball team. Hugh McCutcheon remained with the team, which has already qualified for the quarterfinals to be played Aug. 20.

## Severe Storms Halt Shanghai Football Match

A severe storm in Shanghai forced the women's football quarterfinal between Canada and the United States to be temporarily halted on Friday evening.

Swedish referee Jenny Palmqvist halted the match in the 20th minute after a heavy downpour that soaked the sparse crowd in the 56,000 -seat stadium before play later resumed.

Eight minutes earlier, the U.S. had scored to lead the match 1-0 before Canada drew even in the 30th minute. The U.S. claimed victory, scoring the decisive goal in the 11th minute extra time.

The winner advances to the semifinal on Monday at Workers' Stadium in Beijing.

## Jet Set Treats Young Earthquake Victims

A group of 200 people from the earthquake zone in Sichuan, most of them children, will spend six days as guests of Jet Set Sports. The children will attend competitions such as athletics, basketball, boxing and table tennis.

## Where's Jacques?

IOC President Jacques Rogge will attend cycling, tennis and athletics on Saturday, Aug. 16. In the coming days, he'll head to Hong Kong for equestrian and Qingdao for sailing.

## Olympics Media Watch: Phelps Debate in U.S.

As the 2008 Beijing Games move into their second week, veteran print journalists reporting from Beijing seem to have a different view about the Michael Phelps phenomenon than NBC, which is counting on the swimmer's star power.

A case of "Phelps fatigue," perhaps?
While NBC's Dan Hicks immediately anointed Phelps as the "the greatest Olympic champion of all time" when the swimmer won his 10th career gold medal on Tuesday (with more to follow), the Chicago


Hard at work inside Main Press Center. /Getty Images

Tribune, the New York Times and Olympic historian David Wallechinsky are refusing to follow along.
"(Phelps) doesn't make my top five," wrote the Tribune's Phil Hersh, who has covered 14 Olympics. He ranks Carl Lewis No. 1 with nine track gold medals.
"Phelps needs one more Olympics" to join the club comprised of Lewis and Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi (nine gold medals at multiple distances), Wallechinsky told the Tribune.

The New York Times' Jere Longman, no newcomer to Olympics coverage himself, took on the subject in a lengthy Thursday piece, wondering: Is Phelps the "greatest Olympian ever or, remarkably but somewhat less loftily, the greatest swimmer ever?" Longman earlier had written that Chinese media and people interviewed on the streets seem to have subdued or even zero interest in Phelps' quest for gold.

Meanwhile, NBC is 100 percent invested in Phelps' living legend status. And who can blame NBC Olympics executives for their All Phelps All the Time approach? Phelps is among factors driving record prime time viewership.

NBC's "Today" program on Friday added a few more logs to the inferno. It devoted a segment that positioned Phelps as a financial empire, which he certainly is. But "Today" co-host Matt Lauer did not challenge a bold assertion by Phelps' agent Peter Carlisle, who said, "The world is receiving Michael Phelps as a global icon."

Los Angeles Times columnist Bill Plaschke writes that if Phelps wins eight gold in Beijing it will be "the greatest single Olympics performance in history." But
this measured assessment was a passing phrase in a column devoted to under-the-radar doubts some might have about how Phelps manages to be so dominant.
"Please, let this be clean," Plaschke adds. "Please, let this be real."

## Olympics More than Phelps

0wingto 24/7 Internet coverage, Phelpsundoubtedly has attracted record media impressions during these Games. But he's certainly not the only story.

Media outside the U.S. are demonstrating a typically broader scope of coverage. The Financial Times lamented the loss by Switzerland's Roger Federer to American James Blake as "a disaster for the eternally benighted Olympic tennis tournament."

The Times of London and the AsianWall StreetJournal are not about to allow controversies stemming from the Opening Ceremony to fade. On Friday, the Asian WSJ reported that the 56 ethnic minority children who marched during the ceremony were, in fact, all kids plucked from China's Han majority class. "New Fakery Scandal", read the Times Online headline.

A prominent political columnist in the U.S., Charles Krauthammer, even weaved an Olympic thread through a piece this week. He wrote that President George Bush had a "mini-[Hurricane] Katrina

moment when he lingered in Beijing yukking it up with our beach volleyball team while [Russia's Vladimir] Putin flew [home] to direct the invasion of a neighboring country."

## Other observations from the U.S.

Media outrage remains widespread toward a decision by Opening Ceremony directors to hide a not-as-cute, vocally talented child in the shadows, while a lip-syncing very cute child received global TV exposure. Chicago Sun-Times sports columnist Jay Mariotti was scathing in his denunciation: "The Communists did what they had to do ... not caring about backlash in the lives of two girls."

The most jarring news story of the Games so far, the murder in broad daylight of a Minnesota businessman by a knife-wielding Chinese madman,


Champions in a league above Phelps? Clockwise from top left: Larysa Latynina, Mark Spitz, Paavo Nurmi and Carl Lewis. / Getty Images
has seen a surprisingly short run on the media radar. The death of the U.S. men's volleyball coach's father-in-law did not fuel the expected endless wave of media speculation about vulnerabilities in China's Games security web.

Even though it has nothing to do with television images seen around the world, or the quality of athletic performances, a number of media members continue to harp on empty seats at venues.

- NBC seems obsessed by the fact that some Chinese people eat fried bugs. Mary Carillo did a prime-time segment on the subject, followed closely by "Today's" Al Roker sampling deceased insects on camera.
- Former NFL running back Tiki Barber is teaming with "Today" weekend anchor Jenna Wolfe for afternoon reports on MSNBC. A lot of smirking and sarcasm is in the air with these two. Not exactly out of the Jim McKay playbook, shall we say?
- Coaching legend Bela Karolyi is a risky choice for NBC as their in-studio gymnastics expert alongside Bob Costas. His Romanian accent is still thick after all of his years in the U.S. But Karolyi's genuine enthusiasm and candid observations (he will not yield on accusations that some of the Chinese female gymnasts are under 16) make great TV. Washington Post TV critic Paul Farhi wrote, "Karolyi seems the like the most honest man on the air."

The best advertising campaigns among Olympic sponsors are by Visa (narrated brilliantly by actor Morgan Freeman), McDonald's and The Home Depot. Meanwhile, Hilton's campaign, using the theme, "Families win together," is moving, but includes images of injured gymnastics siblings Morgan and Paul Hamm, who withdrew from the Games.
-Steve Woodward


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