August 12, 2008 Today's Weather 87°F | 31°C Heat Index: 89°F | 32°C Thunderstorms Possible

Olympic Green a Wasteland for Now

AROUND THE RINGS BEIJING

五环旗下

The Olympic Green remains a desolate part of Beijing on Day Three of the Games. The broad expanse that includes the Olympic Stadium, Water Cube and other venues, including sponsor pavilions, is generally unpopulated during the day, with even fewer people visiting at night.

BOCOG spokesman Sun Weide says as more events take place around the green in the coming days, more crowds are expected. Rain was also a factor in Monday's washout of visitors.

Nonetheless, with special tickets required for entry for people without accreditation or tickets to Olympic events, attracting crowds may be a tough chore for Beijing organizers.

Most of the ordinary Chinese who might come to the domain can be seen on the outside, peering through a fence at the marvels their tax dollars have helped finance.



The lonliest umbrellas in Beijing wait for visitors seeking shade in the Olympic Green. (ATR/B.Mackin)

One U.S. visitor told Around the Rings she felt so alone during a visit to the Green that she felt unsafe.



Close Races Expected for Athletes' Commission

Tennis greats Justine Henin of Belgium, Amélie Mauresmo of France and Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario of Spain will battle off the court for a seat on the IOC Athletes' Commission.

Because of a change in the rules, only one athlete from each sport can serve on the commission at the same time. Thirty athletes from 14 sports are vying for four open spots on the commission.

Only accredited athletes at the Beijing Olympics are allowed to vote. Ballots must be marked for four athletes from four different sports to ensure diverse representation.

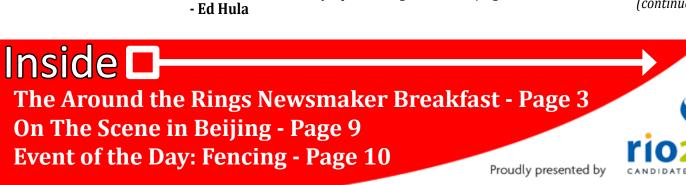
Polling places are open in each of the three Olympic Villages in Beijing,

Qingdao and Hong Kong, as well as in the four cities hosting the football competitions, Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang, and Qinhuangdao. Voting closes on Aug. 20 and new members will officially be introduced during the closing ceremony.

Russian Alexander Popov, whose current term is expiring, is running for re-election against six other athletes from aquatic sports, including Australia's Grant Hackett.

Other big names on the ballot include Liu Xiang of China (athletics), Julie Foudy of the United States (football) and Wilson Kipketer of Denmark (athletics).

(continued on page 7)



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竞赛,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奥林匹克的价值,并且 荣幸地期待上百万的巴西体育爱好者的支持。

里约2016年奧运申办委员会、巴西奧委会衷心祝贺中 国人民和北京奥运组委会出色地准备了2008北京奥运 会,让205个国家奥委会的一万多个运动员梦想成真。

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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.





Breakfast in Beijing: U.K. Olympics Minister Talks Fun, Funding

The London Olympics Minister promises a fun Games in 2012. Tessa Jowell made the commitment at the second Around the Rings Newsmaker Breakfast sponsored by McDonald's and hosted by Around the Rings editor Ed Hula.



London 2012 Tessa Jowell (ATR)

"London will be great fun. There will be live sites throughout London. We also expect to have a system where if you leave before the events are all over, your ticket will go back into a pool and will be reallocated so we maximize spectator access. The park will become a destination during the Games. London is a city of fun," said Jowell during her appearance at the ATR Newsmaker Breakfast.

Jowell also shared her perspective on the London 2012 Olympic process.

Ed Hula: You were a doubter at first whether the bid for London 2012 was practical weren't you?

Tessa Jowell: I wasn't a doubter in the sense that I never doubted that London hosting the Games would be an extraordinary thing for London and the U.K. I was concerned that we didn't go into it with our eyes closed. You can't win a bid unless the government is 1000% behind it. I had to spend many months building support for a bid.

EH: What are your impressions of Beijing? **TJ:** I've been coming to China pretty much every year for the last seven years. I've seen a lot of change. I think what they've done is astonishing. I want to join them in congratulating them in what they've achieved. We're here not just to enjoy sport but to understand the intricacies of hosting a Games and that's our invaluable opportunity. **Reporter question:** How do you see the rising property prices affecting perpetrations for the London village? **TJ:** The fact that we are renegotiating the financial package, which will support the development, has no impact on the pace of development of the village. We have already started work on site.

EH: Has it caught you by surprise, this credit crunch?

TJ: I think we saw this coming. The Delivery Authority have taken precautionary actions in a number of areas. We have reviewed our assessment on construction inflation and they remain as they were before.

Reporter question: Can you tell us about what are the outstanding issues with Lend Lease? Given there was the multiplex problem with Wembley Stadium that caused a huge amount of problems for that company, could you explain the difference?

TJ: There are no parallels with the problems that were encountered with the Multiplex contract with Wembley. What is at issue with Lend Lease is how much debt will be raised from the banks with regards to the overall cost.

Reporter question: If there is a change in government, are there safety measures built into the budget that they can't change?

TJ: Well, god forbid, we are working on making sure the Olympics enjoys stability in every respect. You have to do your electors a courtesy of running it on a cross-party basis and that is what we've done. I brief regularly the opposition leaders, they are party to all the information available to me. It has been my aim to lift the Olympics above party politics. There is no place for partisanship in running an Olympics.

Reporter question: Are you concerned with the media structure in London that would sort of set the agenda without your consent?

TJ: We have a free unconstrained media in the U.K., that's how we are. Does it give me a hard time? You bet. It's better than the alternative. You have the media and then

you have the British public. And what is quite remarkable is the very high level of support the Olympics enjoy. The public are in a different place than a lot of our media a lot of the time.



McDonald's on Olympic Green is site for ATR Newsmaker Breakfasts. (ATR)

EH: This goal of bringing more young people in to sport, is measuring these goals by the 2012 Olympics is that realistic? Do you measure it by medals in 2012?

TJ: You don't measure it only by medals. We will measure success in the amount of sport kids are playing, the number of kids playing sport after they leave school. One of the commitments we've made is a guarantee that 16 to 19 year olds will be guaranteed 5 hours of sport a week.

Reporter question: London doesn't have as much acreage as Beijing to build a large Olympic Village.

TJ: There will be many comparisons between London in prospect and Beijing now. We will deliver our Games consistent with the vision promised to the IOC.

There are five more Breakfasts before the end of the Games: August 13 - British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell and VANOC President John Furlong; August 15 - a panel of IOC members discuss the future of the IOC ; August 17 - Sochi 2014 CEO Dmitry Chernyshenko; August 19 - a sponsor roundtable ;and August 23 - the first joint appearance by the four cities campaigning for the 2016 Winter Olympics.

Questions for guests can be e-mailed to newsmaker@aroundtherings.com.

- Ed Hula III



Today's Highlights

• **5 p.m.** – Relax at an informal Club Night at the BC Pavilion. Open to the public. 20 Qianmen Dongdajie, Chongwen district, just south of Tiananmen Square.

• **6 p.m.** – Press conference with IAAF President Lamine Diack and Secretary General Pierre Weiss following IAAF Council meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. until 6p.m. China Life Insurance Building, 17 Beijing Financial Street (Xi Cheng District).

Quote of the Day

Tream CAN

"A lot of people know what I'm doing back in the U.S. with being drug-tested [as part of the "Project Believe" program

that takes blood and urine samples]. That's part of something I'm doing to show my love for the sport. I definitely understand that [the burden of proving the gold medalist is clean] comes with the territory, because past champions have tested positive for drugs."

- U.S. 100m champion **Tyson Gay**, will face stiff competition from Jamaicans Asafa Powell and Usain Bolt in the race to be crowned "World's Fastest Man."

Main Press Centre

• 11 a.m. - Joint IOC/BOCOG Daily Press Briefing

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- **12 p.m.** British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell press conference to announce details of 2010 Games infrastructure and non-accredited media center.
- **2:30 p.m.** Chinese National Tourism Administration officials press conference. Hall 2.
- **4 p.m.** Top officials from Tianjin Binhai New Area hold a press conference on economic developments of the special economic zone surrounding in the coastal province. Hall 1.
- 5 p.m. Registration deadline for Pinggu Peach Garden

Coming Up!

• Aug. 13, 8 a.m. – ATR Newsmaker Breakfast – Vancouver 2010 CEO John Furlong and British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell will provide a progress report on the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games and the milestones that are still ahead.

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| 2008 Medal Projections | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|--------|-----|-------------|-------|------------|--------|-------|
| | | | | Bronze | | | | | Bronze | Total |
| U.S. | | 48 | 27 | 30 | 105 | Spain 🌋 | | 7 6 | 9 | 22 |
| China | * | 37 | 25 | 25 | 87 | Japan | | 6 6 | 20 | 32 |
| Russia | | 30 | 30 | 25 | 85 | Cuba 💽 | 5 | 5 7 | 5 | 17 |
| Great Britain | × | 20 | 9 | 20 | 49 | Kenya | 1 | 5 3 | 5 | 13 |
| Germany | - | 17 | 15 | 26 | 58 | Netherlands | 5 | 6 | 13 | 24 |
| Australia | * | 15 | 9 | 12 | 36 | Poland | | 5 5 | 9 | 19 |
| France | | 10 | 20 | 12 | 42 | Brazil | > 4 | 3 | 4 | 11 |
| Italy | | 9 | 17 | 15 | 41 | Canada 📕 | 4 | f 6 | 3 | 13 |
| Korea | :، | 9 | 9 | 8 | 26 | Hungary | | 4 5 | 10 | 19 |
| Belarus | - | 7 | 2 | 6 | 15 | New Zealand | ter a | 6 | 1 | 11 |

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

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Fredericks Pledges to Fight Doping

(continued from cover)



Wilson Kipketer of Denmark. and Claudia Bokel of Germany (ATR)

Frank Fredericks of Namibia, who won silver in the 100m and 200m at 1992 and 1996 Games, was elected last week by the commission to succeed Chairman Sergey Bubka.

"I think Frankie will take the Athletes' Commission to the next level. He's a perfect fit for the role," says Bubka.

Fredericks says he is humbled and honored.

"I will rely on my fellow athletes for guidance to ensure the voice of the athletes stays up-to-date and active in the IOC and that we remain constant in the fact that the Olympic Games are for athletes," he stated. "I will continue to support the fight against doping, because it is athletes who cheat but also athletes who are cheated."

Created in 1981, the IOC Athletes' Commission is the link between the Olympic athletes and the IOC and serves as the athletes' voice within the Olympic Movement.

- ATR Staff

Athletes' Commission Candidates

Luciana Aymar (Argentina, Field Hockey); Claudia Bokel (Germany. Fencing): Igor Boraska (Croatia, Rowing); Iztok Čop (Slovenia, Rowing); Khishigbat Erdenet-Od (Mongolia, Judo); Susana Feitor (Portugal, Athletics); Julie Foudy (USA, Football); Grant Hackett (Australia, Aquatics); Justine Henin (Belgium, Tennis); Chris Hoy (Great Britain, Cycling); Chih-Hsiung Huang (Chinese Taipei, Taekwondo); Salim Iles (Algeria, Aquatics); Otylia Jedrzejczak (Poland, Aquatics); Barbara Kendall (New Zealand, Sailing); Wilson Kipketer (Denmark, Athletics); Ching

Li (Hong Kong, Table Tennis); Liu Xiang (China, Athletics); Tereza Marinova (Bulgaria, Athletics); Amélie Mauresmo (France, Tennis); Dae Sung Moon (Korea, Taekwondo); Martina Moravcova (Slovakia, Murofushi Aquatics); Koji (Japan, Athletics); Alexander Popov (Russia, Aquatics); Camelia Alina Potec (Romania, Aquatics); Yumilka Ruiz-Volleyball); Luaces (Cuba, Sánchez-Vicario Arantxa (Spain, Tennis); Anna Sorokina (Ukraine, Aquatics); Nikola Stojic (Serbia, Rowing); Paul Tergat (Kenya, Athletics); Pedro Yang (Guatemala, Badminton).





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On the Scene in Beijing: Cyclist Heads Home

Hours after she was tested on July 30, Spanish cyclist Maria Isabela Moreno was on her way home to Spain. On Monday, the IOC announced she had tested positive for EPO and that her accreditation to the Games has been revoked.

Her positive test is the first of the Beijing Olympics. The IOC plans to conduct 4500 drug tests during the Games.



Spanish Sport Minister Jaime Lissavetzky and Spanish Olympic Committee President Alejandro Blanco take questions after Maria Isabela Moreno's positive drug test. (Getty Images)

Fewer Meetings Under Review

The smooth operation of the Beijing Olympics could lead to a cancellation of the daily IOC/BOCOG coordination commission meeting. Spokeswoman Giselle Davies says the gathering could be held every other day. Monday's session was led by IOC Vice President Gunilla Lindberg.

Coe Mourns Father

London 2012 chair Sebastian Coe may be in Beijing, but his heart could be far away. His father, Peter Coe, 88, died August 9 after a short illness. A London native, he was his son's coach, which helped Sebastian become a dominating miler in his prime. Peter Coe was a mechanical engineer by profession. Sebastian is one of four children in the Coe family.

Where's Jacques?

IOC President Jacques Rogge was absent from the Monday morning coordination commission meeting because he was sleeping the night before at his bunk in the Olympic Village.

So far, the IOC leader has taken in shooting, handball and hockey, touring the International Broadcast Center on Monday.

Iranian Pleads Illness

Iranian swimmer Mohammad Alirezaei says he was too sick to swim Saturday in a heat that included an Israeli athlete.

The excuse is good enough for the IOC, which says it takes Alirezaei at his word, avoiding difficulties that might have arisen if his no-show was based on religious or political reasons.



Mohammad Alirezaei was qualified for the 100m breaststroke. (Getty Images)

At the Athens Olympics, a world champion in judo refused to face an Israeli in a match, a move that cost him a possible gold medal, but won him adulation in Tehran and a \$5,000 bonus meant for Iranian medal winners.

Beijing by the Numbers

Attendance figures on Day Two of the Games: 290,000 spectators according to BOCOG media.

Russia House Throws Party

Russian hockey star Alexander Ovechkin was the featured guest at a Russia House party promoting the next two Winter Olympics.

Winter in Beijing was the theme

at Xiao wang fu restaurant by the shores of Qinhai Lake. The packed house had to scramble for shelter at one point during the evening to avoid the torrential rain.

Sochi 2014 CEO Dmitry Chernyshenko and Vancouver 2010 CEO John Furlong were joined by British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell.

VANOC director and 2002 crosscountry skiing gold medalist Beckie Scott and freestyle skiing world champion Steve Omischl were among the guests, along with IOC members Rene Fasel and Jean-Claude Killy, the chairs of the 2010 and 2014 coordination commissions.

Sochi 2014 originally envisioned a temporary ice rink to showcase hockey and figure skating in Beijing, but VANOC declined to participate. The British Columbia government originally planned to have a sheet of ice outside B.C. Canada Pavilion at Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall, but local authorities disapproved.

Rain Delays, Postpones Events

A second day of rain in Beijing could cause more complications for BOCOG after delays were posted Monday for archery, rowing and tennis due to downpours.



Both men's and women's tennis schedules will be adjusted after heavy rain. (Getty Images)

Although it has added wrinkles to the schedule, the rain has banished the searing heat.

- Ed Hula

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Event of the Day: Fencing Changes with the Times

Fencing has gone on the attack to become more spectator-friendly and avoid judging scandals like the one that marred the 2004 Olympics.

In Athens, Hungarian referee Joszef Hidasi was expelled from the Games and suspended for two years for making several errors in the goldmedal men's foil match. All of his decisions favored Italy in its victory over China.

"It was very troublesome," Rene Roch, president of the International Fencing Federation (FIE) says.



FIE President Rene Roch. (ATR)

To avoid another controversy, the sport has fully embraced video refereeing.Although no system can be perfect, Roch says, "This one is 95 percent satisfactory. It has cut down enormously the amount of complaint, trouble and sheer hassle where people continue to bother the referees about the decisions. Our sport can now take place in a degree of calm it didn't have before and which is most welcome."

When the lights designating a hit appear to flash simultaneously, the referee sometimes steps away from the piste, or fencing strip, and consults a video monitor nearby.

The referee can watch the action in real time and in slow motion, starting three seconds before the action and up to the hit. The referee also consults with the refereeing delegate, who has the option of requesting the referee review his decision at any time. In individual events, a fencer has two possible appeals to video refereeing during direct elimination bouts and one possible appeal during pool competition. If the fencer wins the appeal, he or she receives another appeal. In team events, the fencers have one possible appeal per relay.

Roch says the image has been slightly fuzzy when fencers are on all four pistes because of the split-screen, but the quality improves for the later rounds when there is just one bout at a time.

Video refereeing was introduced in 2005 in limited use then implemented fully at the 2006 World Championships in Torino.

Innovations Emerging

As a way to increase its visual appeal, the unsightly cables have been replaced with wireless fencing in which a portable device is placed under the fencer's mask. Every time there is a hit, the signal is transmitted via Bluetooth to the central apparatus. Sabre went wireless in Athens and all foil bouts are wireless for the first time in the Olympics in Beijing.

A transparent mask is also being used in all sabre and foil bouts. This allows the fencer's eyes to be seen.

Also for the first time, there are television cameras on all four pistes.

"Countries can ask for and get live TV at all times," Roch says.

Future of Fencing

Roch said the technological advances prove that the sport, which has been part of the Olympics since 1896, is changing with the times. Although the IOC constantly reevaluates the Olympic program, Roch says, "We don't see keeping in the Olympic Games any problem at all. Our



Italy's Matteo Tagliariol lunges on the way to a gold medal in individual epee. (Getty Images)

problem is to get more medal and more places."

Fencing is only allowed 10 events in the Olympics although it has 12 in the World Championships: foil, epee and sabre for men and women. The sport decided to have all six individual events, but only four team events. For this Olympics, there are no team events in women's epee or men's foil.

For the first time, the sport has achieved full gender parity at the Olympics. Although the U.S. women swept the sabre event, Roch said the sport's breadth of participation was demonstrated by Azza Besbes of Tunisia making the quarterfinals. She is the first African to advance that far into the bracket.

An Unwelcome Aspect

Roch believes fencing's development into what he calls a "big sport" is a mixed blessing because it attracts issues like doping. Italy's Andrea Baldini, the number one ranked men's foil fencer, failed a drug test at the European Championships in Kiev in July.

Baldini tested positive for the banned diuretic furosemide, which is more commonly known as Lasix and appears on the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned drug as an alleged masking agent.

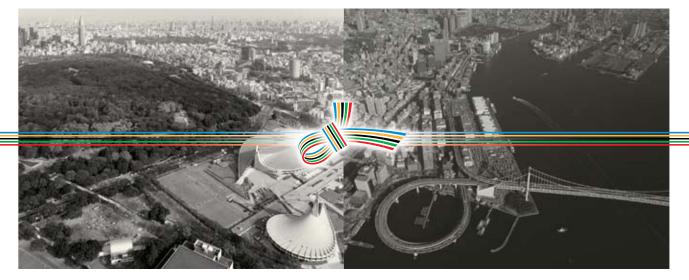
"Even though there are sports a lot worse than us," Roch says, "it is attention we can do without." Sports Da August 12, 2008

Day

| 1 | | Events | Time | Venue | | Events | Time | Venue |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| 10 11 | Archery | W's individual elimination rounds | 10:00 - 13:30 & 15:30 - 19:00 | 13:30 & 15:30 - Archery Field | | M's individual sabre competition and medal rounds | 10:00 - 14:30 & 19:00 - 21:30 | Fencing Hall |
| | Badminton | Mixed doubles, M's singles and doubles rounds | 10:00 - 13:30 & 18:30 - | BJUT Gymnasium | Gymnastics - Artistic | M's team final | 10:00 - 11:00 | National Indoor Stadium |
| | Basketball | M's preliminary rounds: groups A,B | 22:00 9:00 - 13:00, 14:30 - 18:30 & 20:00 - | Olympic Basketball Gymnasium | Handball | M's preliminaries: groups A,B | 9:00 - 12:15, 14:00 - 17:15 & 19:00 - 22:15 | OSC Gymnasium |
| | Beach Volleyball | W's preliminaries: pools B,D,F; M's preliminaries: | 00:00 9:00 - 15:00 & 18:00 - | Chaoyang Park BV | Hockey | W's matches: pools WA, WB | 8:30 - 12:00 & 18:00 - 22:30 | Olympic Green Hockey Stadium |
| | | preliminaries. pools A,D,F M's fly, bantam | 00:00 13:30 - 17:00 | Ground Judo Workers' | | W's -63 kg, men's -81 kg competition and medal rounds | 12:00 - 20:30 | USTB Gymnasium |
| Boxing | rounds | & 19:00 - 23:00 | Gymnasium | | Repechages: W's | 16:00 - 18:30 | SY Rowing- Canoeing Park | |
| | Canoe/ Kayak - Slalom | M's C1, K1 semifinals and medal rounds | 15:40 - 18:30 | SY Rowing- Canoeing Park | | | | and M's LWT double sculls, LW M's four, women's quadruple sculls, W's and M's eight |
| | Diving | W's synchronised 10m platform final | 14:30 - 15:30 | National Aquatics Center | Sailing | Races: laser, laser radial, RS:X W and M, 470 W and M | 13:00 - 15:00 | Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center |
| | Equestrian | Eventing individual jumping qualifier and final ; team jumping final | 16:00 - 16:30, 19:00 - 20:30 & 22:30 - 00:00 | HK Equestrian (Shatin) | Shooting | Men's double trap, 50m pistol competition and medal rounds | 9:00 - 16:15 | Beijing Shooting Range CTF |
| | Football | W's first round: groups E,F,G | 17:00 - 21:30 | Tianjin; Beijing; Qinhuangdo; Shanghai; Shenyang | Softball | Preliminaries | 9:30 - 14:00 & 17:00 - 21:30 | Fengtai Softball Field |

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