

THE PARTY OF THE YEAR: THE OPENING CEREMONIES AT THE 16TH WINTER OLYMPICS

by Stacy Dunn

When the Albertville Games organizing committee saw the Opening Ceremonies at the 1988 Calgary Games, I bet they all agreed that they would upstage Calgary's down-home welcoming celebration. Of course, that was what happened Saturday, February 8th. This spectacle had women wearing the signs, which introduce each country, on their heads and literally, space-age, blizzard-causing outfits. Speaking of zany outfits, the Canadian team wore firefighting-inspired coats. The party was a fashion designer's nightmare and a dancer's dream. Dancers dressed in crazy costumes and hung from a carousel in the middle of the stadium. This part of the show was beautiful as the dancers did fancy aerobic moves. The weirdest part was these dancers, who were dressed in metallic-looking outfits, hanging in the air by a crane and playing instruments. The crowd did a few waves and France's President Mitterand even joined in one of the waves. I expect that Albertville will go overboard at the Closing Ceremonies.

Albertville '92

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The media hoopla caused by the Winter Olympics is definitely crazy, but we must admit that we care how well Canada does in these games and like the human-interest stories of some of the athletes (remember Britain's Eddie the Eagle in the last Olympics, the ski jumper who celebrated his last place finish). Besides those aspects, the fast pace of the sports are really

fascinating; excellent goals and saves in hockey, flawless jumps in figure skating and ski jumping, and dizzying speed in the other skiing events as well as the speed skating and bobsleigh events make terrific television viewing. You can watch the highlights on CBC (channel 11 or 13) every night at 7PM until February 23rd. The following are events that should be important to us Canadians:

FRIDAY, FEB. 14 Hockey: CANADA vs. Czech.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15 Figure Skating: Kurt Browning goes for gold in the Men's Freestyle finals

SUNDAY, FEB. 16 Hockey: CANADA vs. C.I.S. (referred to as the Unified Team at these games)

MONDAY, FEB. 17 Curling: Men's GR1/Women's GR2; Canada's teams might be playing then and they are expected to do well.

TUESDAY, FEB. 18 Hockey: Quarter Finals (our boys might make it to here) Curling: Men's GR1/Women's GR2; Men's GR2/Women's GR1

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19 There are more Quarter Finals in hockey and more men's and women's curling in which you could see Canada compete. If you would like to avoid the influx of these two sports, I suggest you catch the women's original program in figure skating. Canada's Karen Preston and Josee Chouinard could finish in the top ten.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20 Hockey: TBD (Sorry, I do not know what "TBD" means, but it sounds important and Canada might be involved in it.) Curling: Canada might be in the tie-breaker (if necessary) or the placing matches 5&6. Short Track Speed Skating: This sport is roller derby-like speed skating and Canada's Sylvie Daigle is expected to win gold in the Women's 500m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21 Bobsleigh: 4-man runs 1&2 (We might see PEI's Dave MacEachern help the Canadian team capture a medal then.) Hockey: Semifinals Curling: Semifinals

SATURDAY, FEB. 22 Bobsleigh: 4-man runs 3&4 Curling: Men's & Women's Finals Short Track Speed Skating: Women's 3000m Relay Hockey: Bronze Medal Game

SUNDAY, FEB. 23 Hockey: Gold Medal Final Figure Skating: Parade of Champions (This gala is better than the competitions because the skaters feel no pressure from the judges or the audience.)

CLOSING CEREMONY: If you had seen the wacky Opening Ceremonies, you might want to watch this ceremony which might be weird as well.

Sports Rap