

Olympic Summer Games

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OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES.

The first week of the Olympic Games has already ended and has been of varied success to our very numerous Swiss competitors. The Swiss athletes came to London in great numbers and tried very hard to gain honours for our colours. This was indeed no small matter amongst the world's best athletes. The first week's event can be summarised as follows, as far as Swiss compatriots are concerned.

Athletics.

A very fine performance has been set up by the Swiss walker Gaston Godel, who finished a brilliant second in the 50 km walk and thus earned a silver medal for Switzerland.

Another medal has been gained in the 10.000 metres walk by Fritz Schwab, Zurich, who finished third in this hard fought competition. Both Godel and Schwab walked very stylishly and belonged to the few who did not get any warnings as to their faulty style.

In the races and field track events, the Swiss athletes fought valiantly but without special success. It is worth while mentioning that Bernard (Switzerland) reached the semi-final in the 110 metres hurdles with the very good time of 14.9 seconds. Wahli, Bienne, qualified for the final of the high jump with a height of 1.90 metres. He was, however, not classified amongst the medal winners.

Our representatives in the 800 metres race, Volkmer and Streuli, equally reached the semi-final of this event, but did not qualify for the final.

Switzerland had three representatives in the marathon race (42 km), in which, amongst 41 competitors, they classified:

K. Schiesser, Switzerland	22 rank
J. Jutz, Switzerland	29 „

The Swiss champion H. Frischknecht abandoned the race.

Three Swiss athletes competed in the decathlon battle. Two finished this competition, namely Nussbaumer and Gerber, with very good results.

Pentathlon.

Our country had three officers in this military event. They finished the competition surprisingly well and the final results were:

6 rank: Lieut. B. Riem, Switzerland	74 points
7 rank: Oblt. F. Hegner, Switzerland	79 „
27 rank: Cpt. W. Schmid, Switzerland	119 „

This is the best performance ever shown by Swiss participants in modern pentathlon. It may be added that Lt. Riem finished first in the pistol event within the pentathlon.

Shooting.

The Swiss were faithful to tradition and gained a brilliant first place in the free rifle competition (full-bore), 300 metres. E. Grünig, Switzerland, reached a total of 1120 points and finished 6 points ahead of the runner up, Jänhonen, Finland. Grünig's performance constitutes also a new Swiss record. The other results of the free rifle competition were:

9 rank: Horber, Switzerland	1080 points
11 rank: Ciocco, Switzerland,	1078 „

In the free rifle (small-bore) 50 metres competition, the three Swiss, Horber, Grünig and Ciocco did not qualify for the medals.

In the competition for pistol shooting, 50 metres, the Swiss R. Schnyder gained a silver medal, finishing second with 539 points. Beat Rhyner, Switzerland, was fifth with 536 points, and Heinz Ambühl, Switzerland, 15th with 524 points.

Swimming.

Three Swiss girls and two men competed in the swimming events. Although the men showed great skill in the springboard diving and high diving, they were not placed amongst the first ten. As to the girls, their participation was meant for instruction purposes.

Wrestling.

High hopes accompanied our Swiss wrestlers in the free style events. They earned one silver medal and two bronze medals. Fritz Stöckli, Switzerland, finished second in the semi-heavy weight; A. Müller, Switzerland, was third in the feather weight and Baumann, Switzerland, finished third in the light weight.

Graphic.

The well-known Swiss designer A. W. Diggelmann took part in the competition for sports posters and graphics. He earned a brilliant second and third place, thus adding two more medals to our list.

The results achieved in the second week of the Olympic Games will be described in the next issue.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, August 27th, 1948.

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