

A proposal from a reader

## Any Chance to Open the Paralympic Games Ahead of the Olympic Games?

On September 30, 1981, a vote was cast to decide the site of the 24th summer Olympic Games held in 1988, at IOC headquarters in Barden Barden, West Germany. Seoul, the capital of Korea, and Nagoya, a city in Aichi prefecture, Japan competed in a single vote. Contrary to expectations, Seoul received 52 votes and Nagoya got only 27, so Seoul won. It was a surprising outcome. Japanese representatives were dumb-struck at their unexpected defeat and Koreans jumped with joy, crying, "Hurrah ! Hurrah !". The scene relayed by TV showed the contrast of a success and a failure.

In Korea, an unprecedented construction boom followed; big consortiums were involved in building hotels, constructing subways and new roads, each being completed one after another. It was clear that the whole nation was thrown into working hard for the Olympic Games. The whole nation was united to achieve the given mission. No terrorism or accidents interrupted the successful mission of the Olympic Games.

Relieved from the pressure of the Olympic Games, Korea started to prepare for the Paralympic Games, the games for the disabled. I acted as an interpreter for the wheel chair basketball game. I visited various stadiums, but I saw almost no spectators, in spite of the free admission. At the Olympic Games, spectators had to pay for admission tickets and for popular games, that is, you had to know someone to get a ticket, or you would have no chance. There was a difference between the two games. Those players of Paralympics remarked that at the Olympic Games the stadiums were all full, but at the Paralympic Games, there were almost no spectators and this sight made them feel very sad. The participants camp was not the camp used by the Olympic Games, but it was arranged at another place some distance apart. The buildings used for the Olympic Games participants camp were already on sale. For the Olympic Games, TV companies all over the world paid over US \$ 10,000,000,000,000 and huge donations were made by those service companies like Coca Cola and other companies. IOC worked zealously in the Olympic Games, because there was a big profit, but in the Paralympics there was no profit, so the committee took it as a matter-of-course to be sequenced after the Olympic Games. The nation, lacking a clear understanding on the Paralympic Games, was very cool towards the events. The wheel chair basketball game was held on a Sunday, but there were almost no spectators. I, therefore, wish to suggest that since the Olympic Games will be earnestly carried out for a long time to come, why not hold the Paralympics before the Olympics? While people of the nation are still enthusiastic, the Paralympic Games should be held and the participants should use the same buildings used for the Olympic Games. Using the attraction of the Olympic Games and its sentiment we can convey to all nations positive meanings and emotions which are needed at this venue for all nations in the world.

My idea is to carry out the Paralympic Games at such venue first and then hold the Olympic Games next while all nations are still enthusiastic with the fascination of sports. Please take this idea into consideration.

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