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Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Collection - Official Duties, Eastern Area Air Force Track and Field Meet, Pre-Olympic Trials

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U.S.A.F. Pre-Olympic Trials

The United States Air Force has divided the country into four areas for athletic activities. The Eastern Area is bounded on the west by the Mississippi River and on the south by the southern Kentucky and Virginia borderlines. The various areas afford an opportunity for Air Force Units to compete for area honors and for areas to compete for Air Force honors. The sports program includes golf, tennis, basketball, bowling, boxing and track.

On the eve of the 1948 Olympics, the USAF desires that its youth try out for the United States Olympic team. The winners of events in each area track meet will be sent to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, where an Air Force Wide Track Meet will be held.

The winners of events in the Air Force Meet will comprise an Air Force team to compete in Chicago where the AAU Olympic Trials will be staged.

The Olympic Games

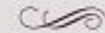
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To win an Olympic event was one of the greatest honors that a young man could give his state. The victors were honored by their states, receiving special state honors, having statues erected to perpetuate their memory, and frequently being cared for by the state for the rest of their lives.

The ancient Olympics died out about the 4th century before Christ and were revived in 1896 in Athens as the modern Olympic Games.

Except for war interruptions the World Olympics have continued to be held by various host nations since 1906. The United States has won all but three times when Great Britain twice and Sweden once defeated her. This year, for the first time since 1906 the World Olympic Games will be held in London, England.

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