1996 Summer Olympics

The hearts of athletes palpitated against their ribs before the race. The atmosphere was tensed. They warmed up and got ready for the race. "Bang" the gun sounded. The racers sped off instantly. Each of them was determined to win. Their minds were filled with thoughts of receiving the gold medal gloriously." Yeah! Here’s the winner!" the commentator yelled as he points at an athlete who was panting heavily. The winner, a Canadian, punches his fist into the air. He waves his hand in the air and a thunderous applause followed after. His name was Donovan Bailey. Beads of perspiration trickled down his forehead. He looked relieved. He had set a new world record of 9.84 seconds for men’s 100 metres relay. It was the 1996 Summer Olympic held in Atlanta, Georgia, United States, where Donovan had won the race.

Opening ceremony

Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic torch during the opening ceremonies. For the torch ceremony, more than 10,000 Olympic torches were manufactured by the American Meter Company and electroplated by Erie Plating Company. Each torch weighed about 3.5 pounds(1.6 kg) and was made primarily of aluminium, with a Georgia pecan wood handle and gold ornamentation.

Slovene gymnast Leon Štukelj arose at the opening ceremony as one of the oldest living sportsmen in the world at age 97.

Summer Olympics was a grand one. The cost to stage the Games was US$1.8 billion. Governmental funds were used for security, and around $ 500 million of taxpayer money was used on physical infrastructure. Alanta relied on commercial sponsorship and ticket sales to pay for the games.
Although it was an exciting event, there were a crowd of criticisms. These are two of them. Coca-Cola, whose corporate headquarters is in Atlanta, received criticism for being the exclusive drink offered in Olympic venues. In addition, the city of Atlanta was found to have been competing with the IOC for advertising and sponsorship dollars. The city licensed street vendors who sold certain products over others, and therefore provided a presence for companies who were not official Olympic sponsors.

A report prepared by European Olympic officials after the Games, was critical of Atlanta's performance in several key issues, including the level of crowding in the Olympic Village, the quality of available food, the accessibility and convenience of transportation, and the Games' general atmosphere of commercialism. The opening ceremony, featuring 500 cheerleaders and 30 pickup trucks, was also seen as "garish" by some observers and considered questionable in taste by many foreign visitors, and many American spectators claim it had nothing to do with American culture.

There was always a mascot for the Olympic Games. The mascot for the Olympiad was an abstract, animated character named Izzy. In contrast to the standing tradition of mascots of national or regional significance in the city hosting the Olympiad, Izzy was an amorphous, fantasy figure.

The Olympiad's official theme, "Summon the Heroes," was written by John Williams, making it the third Olympiad for which he has composed. The song "The Power of the Dream", composed by Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and David Foster, with words by Linda Thompson was performed in the opening ceremony by Céline Dion. Her melodious voice touched the hearts of the audience and sportsman.

At the closing of the ceremony Trisha Yearwood performed the Olympics song "The Flame" just before the torch was extinguished.
Why must I write about the 1996 Summer Olympic Games? Well in this games Donovan Bailey had set the world record for the 100 metres men’s relay, that why I wrote about it.

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