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BOB PETERS/OLYMPIC COORDINATION AUTHORITY

**Building the Games**  
Volume One  
Chapter Two



The curved roof of the grandstand, which looks like a sail floating in space, sits 25 m above the ground and is suspended from a 41 m high mast. This innovative design means there are no columns above the seating platform and all spectators get an uninterrupted view of the action on the field, with its balsam 91.44 x 54.86 synthetic pitches, for warm-up and competition. A hockey pitch and small grandstand next door had been the home of hockey in New South Wales since it was opened in 1984. This pitch became a warm-up pitch during the Olympic hockey tournament.

**Sydney International Archery Park**

Playing host to an amazing medal haul for South Korea, the Archery Park is one of the simplest yet most elegant of all Olympic venues.

Building of the archery complex began on a 6.5 ha site adjoining the Haslams Creek and Mangrove Creek wetland areas in Homebush Bay in February 1998. Six months later, the A\$3 million Sydney International Archery Park was officially opened, part of a network of open space forming the Millennium Parklands.

The centre consists of open space for the archery fields and a multi-purpose pavilion. The building design is distinctly Australian, suggesting either a beach umbrella or a lean-to hay shed. A temporary grandstand seating 4500 people was erected to cater for Olympic and Paralympic spectators.

The Archery Park is enveloped by the impressionistic 'Forest of Poles' artwork, which evokes the long sleek lines of the arrows used by competitors.

**NSW Tennis Centre**

Located at the southern end of Olympic Boulevard, the NSW Tennis Centre is the gateway to Homebush Bay. Its sprawling outside courts are one of the first sights visitors get of the massive Olympic precinct.

The Tennis Centre's 10 000-seat amphitheatre-style centre court is the showpiece of the venue. The centre court is designed to meet the needs and comfort of spectators, with the circular shape providing optimal seating and viewing locations. The innovative roof design provides shade to 70 per cent of the seats. Built by the same people who designed the

famous Wimbledon Number 1 Court, the centre court evokes memories of the home of tennis.

The Centre's most distinctive feature, the circular centre court stadium, was awarded first prize in the 2000 Royal Australian Institute of Architects annual awards.

The Tennis Centre also has two show courts, seven match courts and six practice courts. All have the preferred north-south orientation to optimise playing conditions.

Visitors approach the Tennis Centre down the tree-lined Olympic Boulevard and enter by bridges through a casuarina grove on the banks of Boundary Creek. A racecourse and horse stud existed on the Tennis Centre land during the mid-nineteenth century and the site was the home of the Australian Jockey Club between 1841 and 1869.



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Competing at the Games

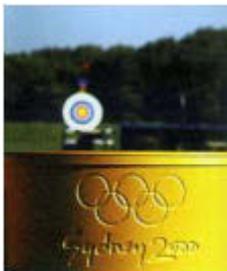
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18. The Sydney International Archery Park played host to the largest archery tournament ever held in Australian history

19. Athletes and officials alike were pleased with the venue and the performance of the 600 venue staff

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DARREN MCWARRALL/SPORT

competition sessions. The 10 m diving platform was expanded from a width of 2 m to 3 m to comply with IF rules governing synchronized diving.

**Swimming:** the one start rule was instigated for the Sydney 2000 Games.

**Archery**

The format of the archery competition obviously appealed to the crowd. In most matches, the result came down to the last arrow and the crowd reacted to perfect shooting with a cry of "10, 10, 10, Do it again!" The new breed of competitive archer drew strength and confidence from the positive crowd support. This was evident when Simon Fairweather won the gold medal for Australia on the back of an ebullient home crowd.

The high emotion on the sporting field was matched by the spirit of the competition team. Part of the reason for the remarkable enthusiasm was due to introducing all team members to the 'art of archery', giving them the opportunity to experience the sport on the very same field where champions would be determined.

A highly exciting format was presented to both the spectators at the venue via the large on-site video screens, and to the

television world. National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and European Broadcasting Union spoke highly of the presentation.

**Venue**

The Sydney International Archery Park, where all events in the Olympic archery competition were contested, is located at SOP. The 6.5 ha site adjoins the wetland areas in Homebush Bay and is part of a network of open space forming the Millennium Parklands. The permanent facilities will provide a legacy to archery in Australia and were designed to take full advantage of the environmental conditions. The Sydney International Archery Park had a Games-time seating capacity of 4500.

The venue was within a few bow-shots of the Olympic Village. This was almost unprecedented in Olympic archery and athletes benefited from the short trip times and the ability to vary their training schedule to suit weather conditions. Spectators used a shuttle bus from transport nodes in Sydney Olympic Park or walked the 2 km to the venue.

**Field of Play**

The turf archery field was divided into two fields of play, the competition field and the adjacent training and warm-up field. Underground drainage had been incorporated into the fields including a rapid 'soak through' area in the vicinity of the shooting line.

The competition field had eight targets and the practice field 22 targets. Target faces were selected by SOCOG tender from FITA licensed supplier(s). Swiss Timing provided timing and scoring equipment under the IBM results contract.

An athletes' rest area with information and refreshments was available for athletes as they proceeded to the practice field. A continuous covered shade, 4 m in width stretched the full length of the practice field and provided protection from sun and rain. Tables and chairs were provided for athletes waiting their turn for practice.

**Training sites**

Sydney International Archery Park 2-22 September

If scheduling of training became necessary, information was made available at the Sports Information Desk at the competition venue and also at the Sports Information Centre at the Olympic Village.

All training sessions were open to media. Media could request athlete interviews through competition management.

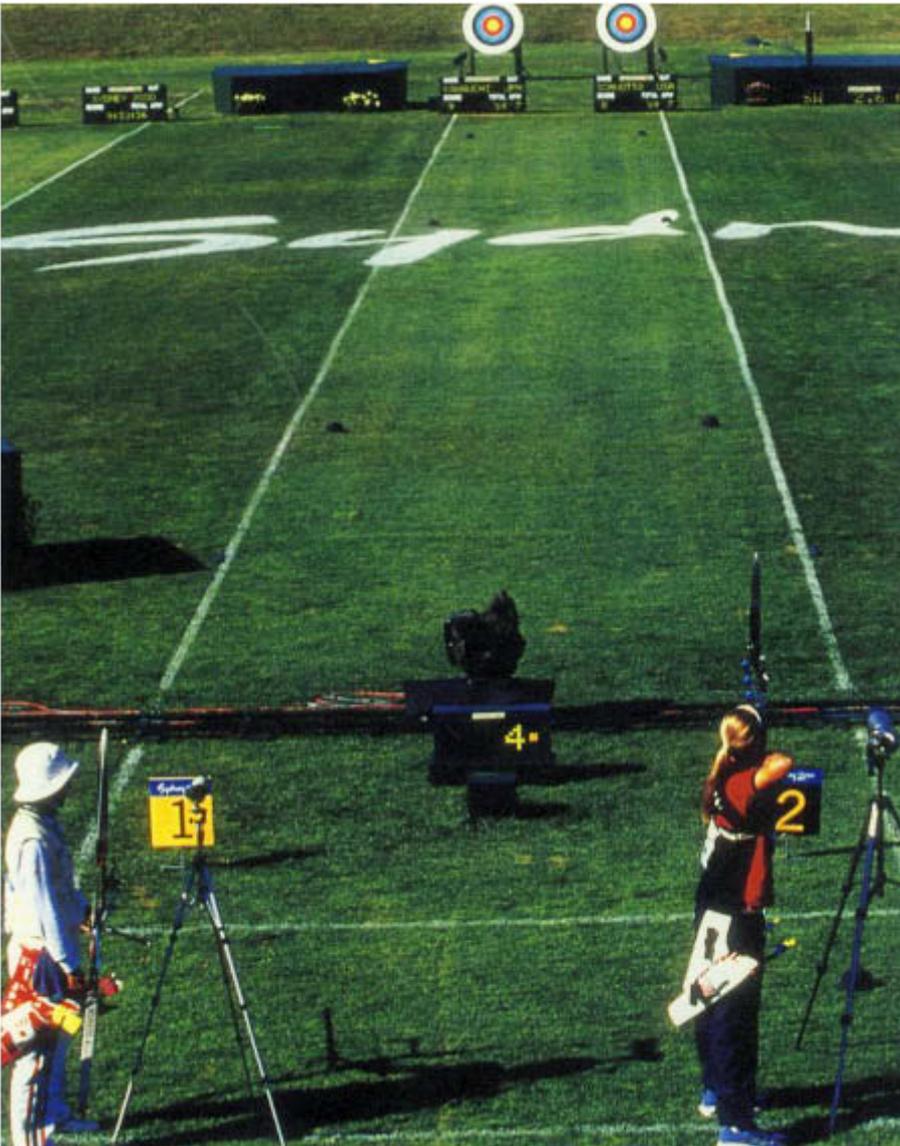
**Number of Athletes and Teams**

The quota for archery was 64 men and 64 women. There was a maximum of three male and three female archers per NOC.

**Competition Format**

Day one ranking round: The 128 archers shot the ranking round, women in the morning and men in the afternoon.

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HAMISH BLAIR/ALLSPORT

## Day 5

### DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

*The Tin Symphony of the Opening Ceremony had a careful and cohesive overall design. But within its composition of metal, colour and noise, a number of ingenious and individualistic small objects drew the eye.*

Like the Tin Symphony, Day 5 of the Games showed evidence of an overall program to support individual effort. For some time before the Sydney 2000 Games, Australian sporting bodies had been formulating and carrying out programs to support individual athletes, and this planning now paid off with a victory in archery.

On Day 5 Simon Fairweather won five sudden-death matches in a brilliant display of skill to win Australia's first gold medal in archery. Three years earlier, Australia's Athlete Olympic Program (AOP) had hired one of the world's most accomplished coaches, Korean Ki-Sik Lee, to assist him. Lee completely rebuilt Fairweather's technique, and helped him psychologically.

Fairweather's training had been based at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra, which had become a centre of excellence, providing athletes with outstanding coaches, facilities and scientific support while helping them to continue their education and acquire important life skills. Impressed by the quality of its programs, many foreign athletes trained at the AIS or one of its regional centres during the build up to the Sydney 2000 Games.

While Australia has always been 'sports mad', preparations for the Sydney 2000 Games stimulated new investments and program initiatives in the Olympic sports. The Games gave an enormous boost to the development of elite-level sports in the host country and the nearby region. For many Australian athletes, AIS programs and financial support had much to do with their startling successes at the Games.

The success of other programs supporting Australian athletes was also evident. The Fosters Sports Foundation was formed in 1997 to support the Olympic dream of athletes who had no funding of their own. In total, 338 athletes were sponsored, and 185 won selection at the Games. Many were medal winners.

Of course, the buoyant support of the enthusiastic home crowd also helped Australia to win more medals at the Sydney Olympic Games than at any earlier Games. Australian supporters of all ages were wearing their hearts on their sleeves, and tattoos of the Australian flag or the boxing kangaroo on their arms, legs, ankles, shoulders and faces. Patriotism had never been so highly visible. And it was audible too, as many shouted themselves hoarse for their favourites. After his medal ceremony, Fairweather gave the vociferous, patriotic home crowd 50 per cent of the credit for his win. The refrain "Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!"

resounded through the stands, becoming one of the popular hallmarks of the Games. This chant, originally heard at the Sydney Cricket Ground, is of obscure origins, but it certainly reaffirmed its popularity at the Sydney 2000 Games.

Day 5 also highlighted the success of the overall planning program for Olympic venues in Sydney, with the various venues proving how well suited they were to the particular nature of the sports they were showcasing and to promoting those sports.

For sports in which Australians had had little experience, the Olympic Games aimed to be the start – to encourage longer term enthusiasm for particular sports, and for sport in general. For example, the belief was that bringing people to the purpose-built Penrith Whitewater Stadium for international competition would encourage them to use the facility after the Games, allowing them to learn the risky sport in a regulated facility rather than in a wild, unpredictable river.

The Whitewater Stadium at Penrith Lakes, the only one of its kind in the world, was highly praised by athletes and spectators alike for enabling the best to be derived from the sport. The horseshoe design enabled the sellout crowds in the packed stands and on the banks of the course to learn about the sport at its best, while athletes and coaches could follow every step of the race from the infield.

During the men's C2 competitions on Day 5, the entire Slovakian team ran alongside the Hochschorner twins, Pavol and Peter, cheering and flag-waving all the way as the two powered their way through the rushing waves and rapids. When the Scoreboard showed that the twins had won, three team-mates dived jubilantly into the docking bay, hugging and kissing them. It was Slovakia's first gold medal of the Games.



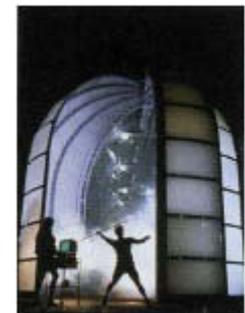
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ANDY ZANELI/FARFAX

## Day 5

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## Day 5



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AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

1. The home crowd at the Sydney Games proved to be colourful and creative in their decor and vocal in their support
2. A javelin thrower is tested in the Biomechanics Dome. The Australian Institute for Sport trains elite athletes in preparation for international sporting events
3. Coach Ki-Sik Lee and Simon Fairweather are pleased with their gold medal performance in the archery finals. Fairweather also trains at the Australian Institute for Sport





## ARCHERY

**Sydney International Archery Park, Sydney Olympic Park  
16–22 September 2000**

Magnus Petersson, the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games silver medallist, had said before the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, "Archery is always kind of the same, it is your own pressure that makes it hard. The biggest problem for a lot of archers is that they don't focus on what they are doing. They focus on the targets and their hits on the targets, which are 70 m away. Once you take the focus off yourself – your body and technique – and put it away 70 metres, then the body does not perform as well because you are not there. Your mind and body are not together."

The other archers must have paid attention to his advice as, on the first day of the men's elimination competition, the 1/32 round in which the number of contestants was halved from 64 to 32, there was record scoring. In the first round of the day Australian Simon Fairweather equalled the Olympic record for 18 arrows, with a score of 170 out of a possible 180, when he defeated Juan Carlos Stevens of Cuba. Fairweather's record lasted 1.2 seconds before it was bettered by Jocelyn de Grandis of France, who scored 171 to defeat Iouri Leontiev of the Russian Federation. The record lasted only another three hours before Korean Jang Yong-Ho scored 172 in a one-sided contest against Kuresa Tupua, of American Samoa.

More records fell on the following days. Yun Mi-Jin of Korea bettered the Olympic record by five points when she shot 173 in the women's 1/8 elimination round. The men's Olympic team record of 253 was equaled by Turkey in the 1/8 eliminations. In the quarterfinals, it was bettered by the USA, 255, and then further extended by Korea, 258. The combined total of 1994 shot by the Korean women for the qualifying round, 216 arrows, broke the existing world record of 1984.

Records were more difficult to achieve during afternoons when the wind picked up and archers had to contend with tricky cross-breezes. Since the finals were decided in the late afternoon, the archers who succeeded were those who could best adapt to the changed circumstances.

### Venue

Sydney International Archery Park was located at a unique and attractive 6.5 ha site in Millennium Parklands, adjacent to the wetlands of Homebush Bay. The A\$3 million complex was opened in July 1998. The targets were framed by extensive groves of mangroves and from the Park there were fine panoramic views of the Olympic Stadium, including the lit cauldron. The stands had seating for 3500. The venue featured two pole forests, made from 185 recycled electricity poles. The forests symbolised the historical links of archery

with places such as Sherwood Forest, home of mythical archers Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

### Competition

The first day of archery was set aside for determining rankings for the competition proper on the following days. Sixty-two men from 32 countries and 66 women from 34 countries each shot 72 arrows at 12 ends to determine the seedings for the elimination rounds.

### Women's Individual

There were surprises in the early elimination rounds when many of the favoured archers were defeated. In the 1/8 round Kim Nam-Soon of Korea beat world No.2 ranked He Ying of China, and Yun Mi-Jin of Korea disposed of world No.3 Alison Williamson of Great Britain. World No.4 ranked Karen Scavotto of the USA was defeated by Sayoko Kawauchi of Japan by 159 to 157. The quarterfinals saw the departure of world No.8 Natalia Bolotova of the Russian Federation, Sayoko Kawauchi of Japan, Natalia Valeeva of Italy and Joanna Nowicka of Poland.

As a result there were all-Korean semifinals; the three members of the Korean team were joined by Choe Ok Sil, the only representative from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Ranked only 144 in the world, she was a surprise survivor to this round. However, Choe Ok Sil was defeated 114–107 in the semifinals by Kim Nam-Soon, who equalled the Olympic record of 114 points for 12 arrows.

The gold medallist was the 17-year-old Korean schoolgirl Yun Mi-Jin. She showed great poise to win both the semifinal and the final by narrow margins in the difficult windy conditions.



OLIVIER MORIN/AFP

Archery  
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1. Competitors line up during the women's individual ranking on the first day of competition
2. A target during the men's individual ranking round
3. Nataliya Burdeyna of Ukraine (left), Karen Scavotto of the USA (centre) and Turkey's Natalia Nasaridze check their hits after the women's ranking round



DARREN MONAGHAN/SPORT

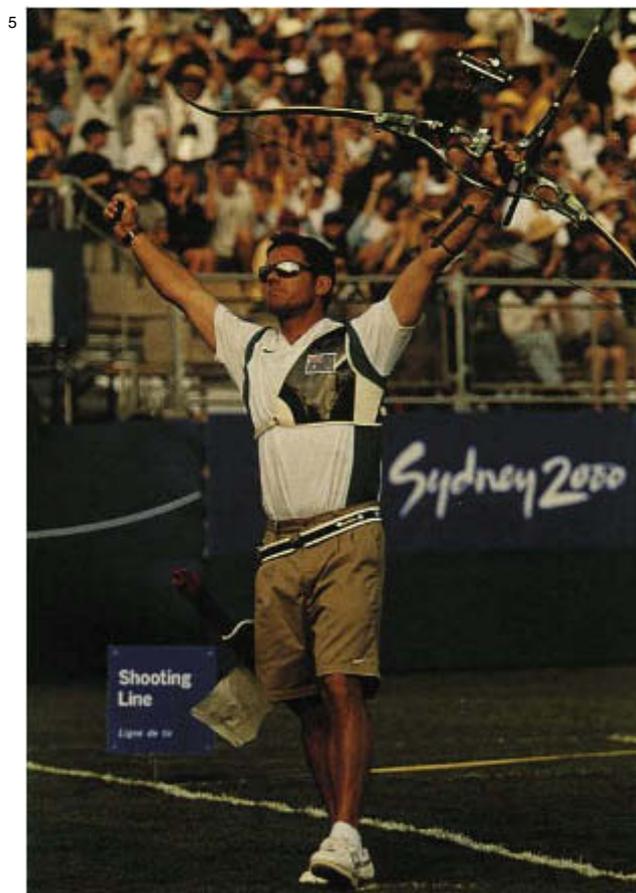


She beat her more experienced compatriot, 29-year-old Kim Soo-Nyung, by 107–105 in the semifinal. Kim had come out of retirement to compete in these Games. Considered by many to be the greatest female archer of all time, her bronze medal in this event added to her previous Olympic tally of three gold and one silver.

In the final Yun secured a one-point lead against Kim Nam-Soon, which she maintained to the end, winning a close contest by 107 to 106. She needed to score nine points with her final arrow and said afterwards, "When I was doing the last shot, I left it to God." The bronze medal was won by the third Korean, Kim Soo-Nyung, though her North Korean opponent fought courageously to lose by only 101 to 103. This contest was also decided on the final arrow.

4. Korea's Kim Nam-Soon takes aim during the women's individual competition. In addition to the silver in this event, she won a gold medal in the team competition

5. Simon Fairweather wins Australia's first archery gold medal in front of a wildly excited home crowd



The clean sweep by the Korean women repeated their country women's achievement of 1988 and was the first time since then that the athletes of one NOC have taken all three medals in the individual competition. Their feat was all the more surprising given the Koreans' world rankings of 65, 67 and 28 coming into Sydney.

### Men's Individual

Seedings and rankings mattered little in the men's individual competition, where upsets were the order of the day and some of the favoured athletes exited at an early stage. World ranked No.2 Lionel Torres of France was defeated in the first elimination round by Christian Stubbe of Germany and world ranked No.1 Michele Frangilli of Italy was defeated by Kim Chung-Tae of Korea in the 1/8 elimination round.

However, the biggest surprise was that none of the favoured Korean men progressed to the semifinals, leaving relative outsiders Wietse Van Alten of the Netherlands, Victor Wunderle of the USA, Simon Fairweather of Australia and Magnus Petersson of Sweden to contest the medals.

Thirty-year-old Simon Fairweather, ranked 29 in the world, shot with great consistency throughout the day. He defeated Wunderle in the gold medal decider by 113 to 106, becoming the first Australian to medal in archery. At his fourth Olympic Games Fairweather finally fulfilled the promise he had shown in 1991, when he won the world target championship at Krakow in Poland. Fairweather attributed his improvement to his Korean coach, Lee Ki-Sik, who was brought to the Australian Institute of Sport as part of the Olympic Athlete Program. "He has completely changed my attitude and my technique. He's pretty much a member of my family," Fairweather said.

Wunderle had reached the final by defeating Petersson by 108 to 107 in the semifinal. Van Alten of the Netherlands defeated Petersson, by 114 to 109, to win the bronze medal.

### Team Events

There were 26 teams. The 14 men's teams came from Korea, the USA, Kazakhstan, Turkey, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, People's Republic of China, Ukraine, Australia, France, Russian Federation, Japan and Norway. The 12 women's teams came from Korea, Ukraine, Chinese Taipei, People's Republic of China, Germany, Turkey, Italy, Sweden, the USA, Australia, Poland and Georgia. The competitions were held following the individual events. There were four elimination rounds, culminating in the gold medal matches. Each team of three archers shot 27 arrows from three ends. The format of competition was similar to that of Atlanta in 1996 but was extended from one to two days.

### Women's Team

The Korean team of Kim Soo-Nyung, Kim Nam-Soon and Yun Mi-Jin were ranked fourth in the world, but were hot favourites to win the team event because of their performances in the individual event and because of historical precedent. Korea had won at every Olympic Games since 1988, when the team



JUDA NGWENYA/REUTERS

competition, defeating the world champion Italian team by 255–247 in the 27-arrow final. The Koreans were just one point ahead going into the final nine arrows, but then scored 87 out of a possible 90, six 10s and three 9s. They had demonstrated their good form when they beat Ukraine in a quarterfinal, achieving a score of 258. This broke the Olympic record of 253, set by Australia at Atlanta.

The USA posted an impressive score, defeating Sweden in their quarterfinal by 255 to 244, but was beaten in the semifinals by Italy 244 to 241. The Americans, however, won the bronze medal in a close match against the Russian Federation. The match was tied at 239 after 27 arrows but the USA won in a shoot-out, by 29 to 26, when each archer shot an arrow in rotation.

competition was established. In the quarterfinals Korea scored six successive 10s to open up an 87 to 80 break against the USA and won by 252 to 240, eclipsing the Olympic record of 249 they had set in Atlanta.

In the gold medal match the Koreans led their Ukrainian rivals by five points with six arrows to go, but then established a 12-point buffer to win comfortably by 251 to 239. Their combined total of 502, for the semifinals and final, created a world record. Germany upset the world No.1 ranked team, Turkey, to win the bronze by 240 to 234 points.

### Men's Team

The Korean team of Jang Yong-Ho, Oh Kyo-Moon and Kim Chung-Tae made up for their disappointment in the individual

Korea, with three gold medals, one silver and one bronze, dominated the tournament. It was their best result since the Seoul Games of 1988 when the nation won three gold medals, two silver and one bronze. The Koreans' training had combined the traditional eastern practices of meditation and mind control with the scientific and technical methods of the western world. In a nation where archery is widely practised the Korean archers returned as heroes.

For host nation Australia, the gold medal in the men's individual event was a wonderful outcome which was greeted with much enthusiasm. Australia had expected to medal in the men's team event, as every host nation had won this event since it was introduced to the Olympic schedule. It was not to be, but the nation had a new Olympic hero and a wonderful venue for aspiring archers.

### Archery Volume Two Chapter Five



6. Sharing a laugh during the all-Korean medal ceremony for the women's individual competition: Yun Mi-Jin (centre), Kim Nam-Soon (right) and Kim Soo-Nyung

7. Detail of a bow during the women's individual competition

8. Korea, Italy and the USA on the dais after the men's team competition

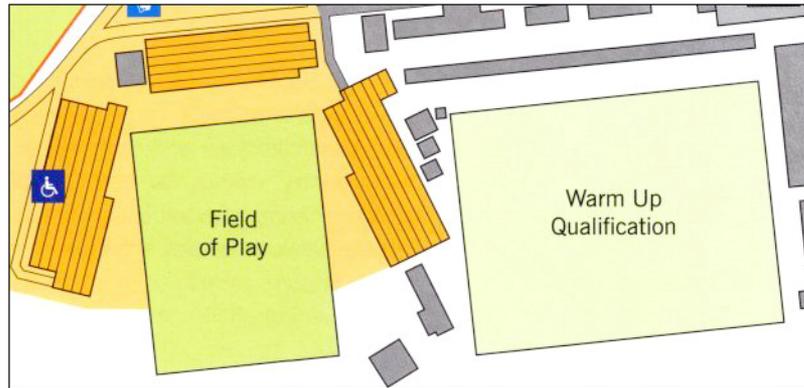


EZRA SHAWALLSPORT



DARREN MCNAMARALLSPORT

## SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY PARK



<b>Architect</b>	Stutchbury & Pape
<b>Location</b>	Millennium Parklands, Sydney Olympic Park Homebush Bay
<b>Construction commenced</b>	Field January 1998, Balance February 1998
<b>Construction completed</b>	July 1998
<b>Opened</b>	31 July 1998
<b>Cost of construction</b>	\$3 million
<b>Cost of Olympic overlay</b>	\$5.4 million
<b>Operator of venue</b>	Archery NSW
<b>Use before Games</b>	Archery test events and training
<b>Use during Games</b>	Archery
<b>Use after Games</b>	Permanent venue for Archery Society of NSW for competition, training and sports development.
<b>Seating capacity before Games</b>	0
<b>Seating capacity during Games</b>	4500
<b>Seating capacity after Games</b>	0

**Special features**

Purpose built venue consisting of a warm up and competition field. Enclosed by natural mangrove wetland and two sculptural pole forests made from 185 recycled electricity poles. Designers wanted roof to resemble character of shelter in Australia. Using idea of the verandah, a fly roof was created with a distinctive twist to it.

**Highlights**

Received national architecture award for design and environmental excellence at Royal Australian Institute for Architecture Awards.

Competition Venues  
Volume One



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