

GAMES OPEN

As founder of the games, Greece leads the procession at the great Helsinki stadium, where 80-thousand wait for President Paasikivi of Finland to open the 15th Olympic Games. Gold Medalist Harold Whitlock leads the British team. It's the biggest and best entry we've ever sent to the Games and we're hoping for big things, though results so far aren't too cheerful.

Japan have some fine swimmers, and now the huge Russian contingent, marching eight abreast. It's a pity that a heavy downpour mars proceedings for the most spectacular part of the Great Games. There's Lord Burghley, great hurdler of the old days. But now the athletes are assembled - and three thousand pigeons take the news all over Europe that the Games are opened.

Onto the track comes Paavo Nurmi (in a way the greatest runner of all time) bearing the torch which was lighted at Olympia in Greece, where nearly three thousand years ago the Olympics were started.

The flame which will burn throughout the Games is alight. It's the most dramatic moment of the ceremony. But even as the crowd applauds, Barbara Player, a German, is hustled away after circling the track in a futile private demonstration which left everybody guessing. But now it's all eyes on Helsinki.