

THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

The following list contains the names of all the known Olympic winners in boxing and in boxing for boys (if dates of their victories survived). Also included are the most famous winners in pancration and wrestling. It is impossible to separate boxing from hand to hand fighting since many boxers competed also in pancration. Boxers such as Theagenes, Cleitomachos, and Polydamas as well as wrestlers entered the pancration event. Seven of them won laurels in both events at the same Games. In some cases it is not certain in exactly which competition an Olympic winner got his laurel wreath, especially in the earlier Olympic Games. Some old sources also list some other Olympic winners in boxing and boxing for boys but lack of dates has caused them to be omitted from this list.

Some additional notes and questionable items:

1. They say that Hejtomokles, son of Hipposthenes, famous wrestler, won five laurel wreaths in boxing competition at Olympia. It may have been from 588 B.C. (48th Olympic Games) or 584 B.C. (49th O.G.) until either 572 or 568 B.C. (51st or 52nd O.G.)
2. One source says that Tissandros won the laurels four times from 540 B.C. (60th O.G.) until 528 B.C. (63rd O.G.).
3. There was a law in Olympia forbidding the awarding of the laurel wreath to a man who killed his opponent. This accident may have occurred at the 72nd O.G. in 492 B.C. Kleomedes of Astypalaia was the winner.
4. Theagenes defeated Euthymos in a terrific boxing fight but was so exhausted that he forfeited in the final of the pancration to Dromeus in 480 B.C. (75th O.G.). He was required to pay two talents of gold as a penalty and was not allowed to enter the boxing competition in the next O.G. This was the only time where the victor was awarded the laurels in pancration without combat.
5. Theagenes may have won both laurel wreaths in boxing and pancration in the 77th O.G. in 472 B.C. (or four years later) but it is not certain.
6. Polydamas (or Pulydamas) was the strongest and most famous pancratiast ever. He lost to Promachos of Pellena in 404 B.C.
7. Cleitomachos of Thebes attempted to win laurels in both boxing and pancration in the 142nd O.G. in 212 B.C. but was defeated by Capros of Elis, an undefeated wrestler who was the first athlete in the history of the Olympic Games to win victories in both wrestling and pancration.

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8. Chajron of Pellena is also known as Chejlon of Patras.
9. Pejssidoros of Rhodes is also known as Pejsirodos of Turioi.
10. Onomastos of Smyrna was the first winner in boxing and also the author of its rules - 688 B.C. (23rd O.G.)
11. Pythagoras of Samos won in boxing or in wrestling. There may have been two winners with the same name - one of them the famous Greek philosopher.
12. Arrhachion died shortly after winning his bout in pancration in 564 B.C. He received the laurel wreath upon his lifeless body.
13. Timasitheous of Croton defeated Milo. It was the first defeat of this famous wrestler.
14. The names of the cities are given in English transcription, but in some cases this was not possible and other forms are given (e.g. Milet, Efez, Pellena, etc.).
15. The names are usually given in the most popular form and end in "os", although in some English publications the ending is spelled "us". Thus, Euthymos = Euthymus, Amykos = Amykus, Glaukos = Glaukus, etc.
16. The term "atraumatistos" was used to indicate a bout in which the winner was unhurt by his opponent. Kleoxenos of Alexandria in 240 B.C. (135th O.G.) was the first to win in this manner. Melankomas of Caria in 49 A.D. (207th O.G.) also won in this way.

Dr. Jan Skotnicki

Winners of the Ancient Olympic Games

Organized in Olympia, Greece in 776 B.C.
Hand to Hand Fighting: boxing, wrestling, pancration

Olympiad	Year	Winner's Name, Place represented	Event
1st	776 BC	First official Olympic Games - no fighting	
18th	708 BC	Eurybatos of Sparta	1st winner in wrestling
23rd	688 BC	Onomastos of Smyrna	1st winner in boxing
27th	672 BC	Daippos of Croton	
32nd	652 BC	Komaioi of Megara	
33rd	648 BC	Lygdamis of Syracuse	1st winner in pancration
37th	632 BC	Hipposthenes of Sparta	1st winner in wrestling for boys
39th	624 BC	Hipposthenes of Sparta	wrestling
40th	620 BC	Hipposthenes of Sparta	wrestling
41st	616 BC	Hipposthenes of Sparta	wrestling
		Filytas of Sybaria	1st winner in boxing for boys
42nd	612 BC	Hipposthenes of Sparta	wrestling
43rd	608 BC	Hipposthenes of Sparta	wrestling - 6th win
48th	588 BC	Pythagoras of Samos	
52nd	572 BC	Tissandros of Naxos	boxing
		Arrhachion of Achaia	pancration
53rd	568 BC	Tissandros of Naxos	boxing
		Arrhachion of Achaia	pancration
54th	564 BC	Tissandros of Naxos	boxing
		Arrhachion of Achaia	pancration
55th	560 BC	Tissandros of Naxos	boxing - 4th win
56th	556 BC	Damagethos of Sparta	
59th	544 BC	Paraxidamus of Egina	
60th	540 BC	Milo of Croton	wrestling for boys
61st	536 BC	Rexibios of Opunt	pancration
62nd	532 BC	Eurymenes of Samos	
		Milo of Croton	wrestling
63rd	528 BC	Milo of Croton	wrestling
64th	524 BC	Milo of Croton	wrestling
65th	520 BC	Glaukos of Karystos	boxing for boys
		Milo of Croton	wrestling
66th	516 BC	Milo of Croton	wrestling - 6th win
67th	512 BC	Timasitheos of Delphi	pancration
		Timasitheos of Croton	wrestling
70th	500 BC	Filon of Corcyra	
		Agamator of Mantinea	boxing for boys
71st	496 BC	Filon of Corcyra	
72nd	492 BC	Kleomedes of Astypalaia	
73rd	488 BC	Diognethos of Crete	
		Agiadas of Elis	boxing for boys
74th	484 BC	Euthymos of Locres	
		Epikratos of Mantinea	boxing for boys
75th	480 BC	Theagenes of Thasos	
		Dromeus of Mantinea	pancration

Winners of the Ancient Olympic Games

Olympiad	Year	Winner's Name, Place represented	Event
76th	476 BC	Euthymos of Locres	
		Theagenes of Thasos; pancration	
77th	472 BC	Euthymos of Locres	
		Kallias of Athens, boxing for boys	
78th	468 BC	Menalkos of Opunt	
79th	464 BC	Diagoras of Rodos	
		Protolaos of Mantynea; boxing for boys	
80th	460 BC	Kyniskos of Mantynea; boxing for boys	
81st	456 BC	Antropos	
		Alkajnetos of Lepreos; boxing for boys	
82nd	452 BC	Ariston	
		Apollodoros; boxing for boys	
83rd	448 BC	Akusilaos of Rodos	
		Damagetos of Rodos; pancration	
84th	444 BC	Alkajnetos of Lepreos	
		Charmides of Elis, boxing for boys	
85th	440 BC	Gnaton of Dipeas; boxing for boys	
		Leukaros of Akarnania, pancration	
86th	436 BC	Filippos; boxing for boys	
87th	432 BC	Lykinos of Elis, boxing for boys	
		Dorieus of Rodos, pancration	
88th	428 BC	Dorieus of Rodos; pancration	
89th	424 BC	Kleomachos of Magnesia	
		Hellanikos of Lepreos; boxing for boys	
		Dorieus of Rodos; pancration	
90th	420 BC	Teantos of Lepreos; boxing for boys	
		Androsthenes of Meralos; pancration	
91st	416 BC	Androsthenes of Meralos; pancration	
93rd	408 BC	Polydamas of Skotoussa; pancration	
94th	404 BC	Eukles of Rodos	
		Pejsidoros of Rodos; boxing for boys	
		Promachos of Pellena; pancration	
95th	400 BC	Damarchos of Parresia	
		Xenodikos of Kos; boxing for boys	
96th	396 BC	Bykelos of Sikyon	
97th	392 BC	Formion of Hellicarnas	
		Neolaidas of Feneos, boxing for boys	
98th	388 BC	Eupolos of Thessaly	
		Antiparos of Milet; boxing for boys	
99th	384 BC	Damoxenidas of Menalos	
		Alketos of Kleitor; boxing for boys	
100th	380 BC	Hippos of Elis; boxing for boys	
101st	376 BC	Labax of Lepreos	
		Kritodamos of Kleitor; boxing for boys	
102nd	372 BC	Tersilochos of Corcyra; boxing for boys	
103rd	368 BC	Aristion of Epidauros	
104th	364 BC	Sostratos of Sikyon; pancration	
105th	360 BC	Filammon of Athens;	
		Sostratos of Sikyon; pancration	

Winners of the Ancient Olympic Games

Olympiad	Year	Winner's Name, Place represented	Event
106th	356 BC	Sostratos of Sikyon; Chajron of Pellena;	pancratation wrestling
107th	352 BC	Atenajos of Efez Chajron of Pellena;	wrestling
108th	348 BC	Chajron of Pellena;	wrestling
109th	344 BC	Damaretos of Messenia Chajron of Pellena;	wrestling - 4th victory
110th	340 BC	Asamon of Elis Telestes of Messenia;	boxing for boys
111th	336 BC	Mys of Tarent	
112th	332 BC	Satyros of Elis	
113th	328 BC	Satyros of Elis	
114th	324 BC	Duris of Samos Astyanax of Milet;	pancratation
115th	320 BC	Pyttalos of Elis; Astyanax of Milet;	boxing for boys pancratation
116th	316 BC	Chojrilos of Elis; Astyanax of Milet;	boxing for boys pancratation
117th	312 BC	Aristofon of Athens;	pancratation
118th	308 BC	Theotimos of Elis; Antenor of Milet;	boxing for boys pancratation
119th	304 BC	Kallon of Elis;	boxing for boys
120th	300 BC	Archippos of Mytilene Nikon of Boeotia;	pancratation
121st	296 BC	Kalippos of Rodos Nikon of Boeotia;	pancratation
122nd	292 BC	Filippos of Arcadia	
135th	240 BC	Kleoxenos of Alexandria	
141st	216 BC	Cleitomachos of Thebes;	boxing and pancratation
142nd	212 BC	Cleitomachos of Thebes Capros of Elis;	pancratation and wrestling
145th	200 BC	Moschos of Kolofon	
149th	184 BC	Epitherses of Egypt	
150th	180 BC	Epitherses of Egypt	
156th	156 BC	Aristhomenes of Rhodes;	pancratation, wrestling
159th	144 BC	Xenothemis of Milet	
165th	120 BC	Agesarchos of Arcadia	
172nd	92 BC	Protofanos of Magnesia;	pancratation, wrestling
177th	72 BC	Atynas of Adramicia Isidoros of Alexandria;	wrestling
178th	68 BC	Straton of Alexandria;	pancratation, wrestling
179th	64 BC	Straton of Alexandria;	pancratation, wrestling
182nd	52 BC	Marion of Alexandria;	pancratation, wrestling
185th	40 BC	Taliarchos of Elis;	boxing for boys
193rd	8 BC	Nikofon of Milet	

Winners of the Ancient Olympic Games

Olympiad	Year	Winner's Name, Place represented	Event
198th	13 AD	Aristeas of Caria;	pancratation, wrestling
201st	25 AD	Democrathes of Magnesia	
		Hermas of Antiochia;	pancratation
202nd	29 AD	Democrathes of Magnesia	
		Hermas of Antiochia;	pancratation
203rd	33 AD	Democrathes of Magnesia	
		Heras of Laodicae	
204th	37 AD	Nikostratos of Kyliken,	pancratation, wrestling
207th	49 AD	Melankomas of Caria;	
216th	85 AD	Artemidoros of Adana;	pancratation
217th	89 AD	Sarapion of Alexandria;	boxing for boys
218th	93 AD	Heraklejdes of Alexandria	
220th	101 AD	Archibius of Alexandria;	pancratation
221st	105 AD	Archibius of Alexandria;	pancratation
226th	125 AD	Deidas of Arsinoe	
230th	141 AD	Mark Tullius of Bithynia	
231st	145 AD	Mark Tullius of Bithynia	
238th	173 AD	Fotion of Efez	
		Demostratus Damas of Sardes;	pancratation
239th	177 AD	Demostratus Damas of Sardes;	pancratation
240th	181 AD	Asclepiades of Alexandria;	pancratation
243rd	193 AD	Asclepiades of Alexandria;	wrestling
244th	197 AD	Asclepiades of Alexandria;	wrestling
246th	205 AD	Plutarchos	
291st	385 AD	Varazdates of Armenia or Ardawazd	
		last known winner	
	393 AD	Decree of Caesar Theodosius I forbidding the	continuation of the Olympic Games
	404 AD	End of gladiators' battles	

Notes - Rodos was also known as Rhodes.
Spartha was also known as Sparta.

Mythical Heroes of Hand to Hand Fighting

Date	Place	Event
?	Olympus	Apollo beat Ares during the games organized by Zeus after his victory over Kronos (Chronos).
c.1250 BC	Elis	Pelops organized the 1st Olympic Games after the death of Ojnomaos, king of Elis. Names of winners unavailable.
c.1245 BC	Troezene	Theseus beat and killed Kerkyon and then initiated the Isthmian Games in honor of his father Posejdon.
c.1240 BC	Knossos	Theseus defeated Tauros during the visit to Crete at King Minos' court.
c.1230 BC	Thebes	Mekysteus won the games organized in commemoration of King Edyp.
c.1220 BC	Bithynia	Polideukes (Pollux) knocked out Amykus (Amykos), King of Bebrykos during the expedition of the Argonauts.
c.1215 BC	Elis	Polideukes won the boxing competition in the Olympic Games organized by Heracles after his victory over King Augias. Heracles scored two laurels in wrestling and pancration (both on the same day).
c.1210 BC	Elis	Nestor gained the victory in the games organized in honor of King Amarynkeus of Elis after the conquest of Pylos.
c.1200 BC	Sicilia	Heracles defeated Eryx, king and boxing champion of Sicilia in five consecutive fights. Eryx was killed in the last one.
c.1195 BC	Troy	Paris beat Hector and Deifobos and won the games organized by King Priam.
c.1193 BC	Lesbos	Odysseus defeated Filomajedes, king and wrestling champion of Lesbos.
c.1184 BC	nr. Troy	Epeios beat Euryalos in boxing competition during the games organized by Achilles in honor of Patroklos. At the same games Odysseus drew with Ajas (Ajax) in wrestling.

Mythical Heroes of Hand to Hand Fighting

Date	Place	Event
c.1184 BC	Troy	Dares defeated Butes in the games organized after the death of Hector.
c.1177 BC	Sicilia	Entellus beat Dares in the games organized by Eneas to commemorate the first anniversary of his father Anchises' death.
c.1176 BC	Scheria	Loadamas gained a victory in boxing at the games organized by Alkinoos, King of Feaks, during the visit of Odysseus on the island.
c.1175 BC	Ithaca	Odysseus knocked out Iros in 5 seconds with a single punch on the jaw after his return home.

According to: Homer, Pindar, Pauzanius, Apollodoros, Virgil and Robert Graves.

Biographies

Onomastos of Smyrna, born c. 715 B.C., was the first official winner in boxing competition at Olympia (at the 23rd Olympic Games in 688 B.C.). He compiled the rules of this sport whose principles were the same as in modern boxing: it was permissible to attack the head and body of the opponent, but it was forbidden to hit below the waist, or to hold or kill the contestant. Matches were to a finish, when one of the competitors was knocked out or abandoned the contest. There were no weight categories nor a ring - the whole stadium could be used for the fight. There were no gloves then but narrow thongs of skin were used to protect the hands of the boxers.

Eurybatos of Sparta, born c. 735 B.C., was the first official winner in the wrestling competition (18th Olympic Games in 708 B.C.). This oldest kind of fighting was in principle similar to the classic style of modern wrestling, but, as in the boxing, there was no ring or weight categories. The wrestler had to throw his man three times to the ground to win.

Lygdamis of Syracuse, born c. 675 B.C., was the first official winner in pancration (pancratium) at Olympia (33rd Olympic Games in 648 B.C.). He was also the first author of its rules, later modified by Leukaros of Akarnania in 448 B.C. This competition was the combination of boxing and wrestling like the early American "catch as catch can", and was the most brutal event in the Ancient Olympic Games with many competitors dying. All tricks were permissible including kicking, biting or strangling. The loser had to abandon but it was forbidden to kill the opponent. They say that Lygdamis was as big and strong as the legendary Heracles of Thebes. Probably he stood 218 cm. high and weighed about 140 kg. (7'2" and 300 lbs.) and had tremendous strength.

Hipposthenes of Sparta, born c. 650 B.C., was the first winner in wrestling for boys (37th Olympic Games in 632 B.C.) and five consecutive times got the laurels in wrestling (from the 39th Olympic Games in 624 B.C. until the 43rd Olympic Games in 608 B.C.). He was the most famous wrestler of the seventh century B.C.

Hejtomokles of Sparta, born c. 625 B.C., was the son of Hipposthenes. It is said that he was an undefeated boxer and wrestler and won five laurel wreaths at Olympia either in boxing or in wrestling (or maybe in both of these competitions) but the dates are not available. Possibly it was between 604 B.C. and 584 B.C.

Biographies

Tissandros of Naxos, born c. 595 B.C., was the only man to gain four consecutive victories in boxing competition at Olympia (from 572 B.C., 52nd Olympic Games, till 560 B.C., 55th Olympic Games - although one source says it was 32 years later (540 B.C. - 528 B.C.)).

Arrhachion of Achaia, born c. 595 B.C., undefeated pancratiast, was the first man to win three Olympic laurels in this brutal competition. In the 54th Olympic Games he died shortly after the strenuous fight in which he defeated his man, and received the laurel wreath upon his lifeless body. This was the only such occurrence in Olympic history.

Milo of Croton, born c. 560 B.C., the most famous wrestler in Ancient Greece, won Olympic laurels six times as well as laurels in Isthmian, Pythian and Nemean Games. He was unbeatable for years and had his first defeat in wrestling when he was almost 50 years old (512 B.C., 67th Olympic Games), by his young countryman Timasitheos. His opponent was much faster and ran until Milo resigned because of exhaustion when he was unable to catch his man. It was Milo's last battle for he retired afterwards and soon died (c. 510 B.C.). Milo was not only perfectly built and very strong but also a polite man with magnificent knowledge, the pupil of the famous Pythagoras of Samos (Olympic winner). His tremendous strength was famous because of a legendary feat. He was able to take an adult bull weighing about 400 kg. (880 lbs.) on his shoulders, carry it around the stadium, then kill it with only one blow of his fist and eat it during the day.

Glaukos of Karystos, born c. 540 B.C., was one of the most famous young boxers. He won his first laurel wreath at Olympia in the boxing competition for boys in the 65th Olympic Games (520 B.C.) and many others in other Games. Early in his career he was known as a very strong man with a powerful punch but later was also famous because of his boxing style.

Kleomedes of Astypalaia, born c. 520 B.C., good boxer and dangerous hitter was the most unfortunate winner in the history of the Olympic Games because his opponent Ikkos (Ikkon) of Epidaurus died as the result of their boxing match in the 72nd Olympic Games (492 B.C.). (Some say that it was four years earlier). He did not receive the laurel wreath because one of the Olympic Laws forbade giving it to any man bearing the blame of death. Poor Kleomedes went crazy and after he returned home destroyed a school causing 60 children to lose their lives. Citizens of Astypalaia wanted to kill him but Kleomedes disappeared. It was said that he was kidnapped by the gods of Olympus.

Biographies

Euthymos of Locres, born c. 510 B.C., was the most famous boxer in Ancient Greece. He won three laurel wreaths at Olympia from the 74th Olympic Games in 472 B.C. until the 77th Olympic Games in 472 B.C. as well as many times in other competitions. He was beaten only once by Theagenes in the 75th Olympic Games in 480 B.C. in the most terrific fight ever seen at Olympia. Euthymos was a perfect boxer and dangerous puncher. He was famous also because of his fabulous victory over the "Demon of Themessa".

Theagenes of Thasos, born c. 505 B.C., was a fantastic boxer and pancratiast, the first man who won Olympic laurels in both boxing (75th Olympic Games in 480 B.C.) and pancration (76th Olympic Games in 476 B.C.). He was a terrific hitter, uncommonly hard and tough but also very fast and a good runner. He won about 1,400 laurel wreaths in all sports. He competed in boxing, pancration, wrestling and two kinds of races: diaulos (about 400 meters) and dolichos (about 4,000 meters). He was never defeated although he lost once in the 75th Olympic Games (480 B.C.) when he was so exhausted after his victorious fight with Euthymos that he forfeited to Dromeus of Mantinea in the final battle of pancration. It was the only time in Olympic history where the pancration victor received his laurels without combat. As a penalty, Theagenes had to pay two talents of gold and was not allowed to enter the boxing competition in the next (76th) Olympic Games.

Diagoras of Rodos, born c. 500 B.C., famous boxer, winner of the 79th Olympic Games (464 B.C.) when he was about 40 years old, stayed for years in the shadow of Euthymos and Theagenes. He was the father of three undefeated boxers and pancratiasts: Akusilaos, Damagetos, and Dorieus (a triple winner in pancration). In the 83rd Olympic Games (448 B.C.) after Akusilaos (in boxing) and Damagetos (in pancration) received their laurel wreaths they supported him on their arms in triumph around the stadium. Diagoras was so excited with joy that he suffered a heart attack and died although he was only about 50 years old. His statue in Olympia was 186 cm. high.

Alkajnetos of Lepreos, born c. 470 B.C., was the only boxer who gained Olympic laurels first as a boy (at the 81st Olympic Games, 456 B.C.) and then as an adult contestant (at the 84th Olympic Games, 444 B.C.). He had to wait 12 years for his second Olympic victory. Two of his sons gained victories in boxing for boys; Hellenikos won the laurels at the 89th Olympic Games in 424 B.C. and Teantos won another one four years later.

Biographies

Polydamas (or Pulydamas) of Skotoussa, born c. 430 B.C., was the greatest pancratiast who ever lived. He was about 200 cm. tall and about 150 kg. of muscle (6'7", 330 lb.). He had tremendous strength and was able to kill a big lion with only his bare hands, to stop a running chariot pulled by three horses or to immobilize a wild bull by holding its hind hooves. Once during the visit at the court of the Persian King Darius II he had a simultaneous fight with the three strongest "immortals" and killed all of them. In spite of his fantastic possibilities he won only one Olympic wreath (at the 93rd Olympic Games in 408 B.C.). During the next Games he lost in the final battle to Promachos of Pellena.

Chajron of Pellena, known also as Chejlon of Patras, born c. 380 B.C., was a tyrant of Athens and a pupil of Plato the famous Greek philosopher. He gained four consecutive victories in wrestling from the 106th Olympic Games in 356 B.C. until the 109th Olympic Games in 344 B.C.

Cleitomachos of Thebes, born c. 240 B.C., was the first competitor who won Olympic laurels in both boxing and pancration in the same day. It was during the 141st Olympic Games in 216 B.C. He tried to repeat this success in the 142nd Olympic Games in 212 B.C. but lost to Capros of Elis, an undefeated wrestler who gained fame as the first man in Olympic history to gain two laurels in wrestling and pancration in the same day, like the legendary hero Heracles a thousand years before.

Straton of Alexandria, born c. 90 B.C., was the only contestant who achieved a double victory in wrestling and pancration twice (178th Olympic Games, 68 B.C. and 179th Olympic Games, 64 B.C.). Alexandria was recognized then as the cradle of expert boxers, wrestlers and pancratiasts. Also born there were: Marion, who repeated Straton's success at the 182nd Olympic Games in 52 B.C.; Isidoros, unbeaten wrestler, winner of the 177th Olympic Games in 72 B.C.; and Kleoxenos, famous boxer, who was the first to gain the laurel wreath unhurt by his opponent (atraumatistos) in the 135th Olympic Games in 240 B.C.

Melankomas of Caria. There were two boxers of this name - father (born c. 20 A.D.) and son (born c. 45 A.D.). Both were undefeated boxers with such fantastic defenses that they were absolutely unobtainable for their opponents. Senior gained a victory as "atraumatistos" at the 207th Olympic Games in 49 A.D. without being hit. He was so fast that rivals were unable to reach him and resigned because of exhaustion. He was the second and the last one to win as "atraumatistos" in Olympic history. Junior was the favorite of Caesar Titus but never won Olympic laurels. He was famous because of his feat of holding his arms extended non-stop for two days.

Biographies

Varazdates of Armenia, known also as Ardawazd, born c. 350 A.D., was the last known Olympic winner and the first "barbarian", to win the laurel wreath. He was the King of Armenia, nominated by Rome from 374 A.D. until 378 A.D. He then abdicated and received the title of Prince. Driven out of Armenia, he settled in Britain. He won the laurel wreath in boxing at the 291st Olympic Games in 385 A.D. after which sporting competitions fell into abeyance.