

Olympics

[Introductory Music]

Narrator 1: Every four years an event of breathtaking excitement, color, and pageantry takes place in the world of sports: the greatest of all athletic competitions, the Olympic Games. In 1952, American athletes performed magnificently in competition, achieving the final victory in the unofficial team standings. Contributing greatly to that victory were 80 men of our armed forces. Here, released for the first time on The Big Picture, is the story of our armed forces athletes in one of the most closely contested Olympiads of all times.

Narrator 2: This is Helsinki, Finland: modern capital of an ancient people; the 1952 host to the greatest of all athletic competitions, the Olympic Games. Here in the European northlands of Scandinavia, a small tough people puts out the carpet for the athletes of the world.

No less than 67 nations are represented in this Olympics, from the one man entry of little Luxembourg up to the huge squads of the United States and the Soviet Union. The Americans, including 80 servicemen, will compete against the athletic cream of five continents. It is the five continents that are symbolized by the interlocking circles of the official Olympic flag. The colors of the circles – blue, yellow, black, green, red – were chosen because at least one appears in every flag of the world. The visiting athletes travel without charge on Helsinki's trolleys. A special bus takes them to their quarters in Olympic Village at Käpylä six miles away. At the entrance gate to the village, differences of politics, race, and religion are checked outside, just as in ancient Greece when even wars were suspended during the Olympic Games. Inside this self-sufficient [...]