

GAMES OF THE XXVII OLYMPIAD IN SYDNEY 2000

WOMEN'S FIRST

The **Sydney Games** marked a real milestone in the achievements of women in sport.

Many "first" occurred on this occasion, and it is worth celebrating their success:

- One hundred years after 19 women representing 5 National Olympic Committees competed for the first time in the Games, over 4000 women athletes took part in competition (almost 40%)
- For the first time, 54 teams were lead by women carrying their national flag at the opening parade.
- Australian hockey star Rachael Hawks was given the honour of pronouncing the Olympic oath on behalf of the athletes.
- The torch relay became a celebration of women's participation.
- Only 9 National Olympic Committees did not have women in their team (26 in Atlanta)
- Birgit Fisher won two gold medals in canoeing to become to first woman in any sport to win medals 20 years apart.
- In weightlifting, two records were set when Maria Isabel Urrita took Colombia's first ever medal in an Olympic Games while Karnam Malleswari took a bronze and became the first woman to win a medal for India.
- Sri Lanka won its first women medal when 200 m specialist Jayasinghe took the bronze
- Two Bahraini women athletes were also the first women from an Arab Gulf country to compete in the Games.
