

Australia's Olympics of Yesterday Today

9-18-2000

Richard C. Crepeau

University of Central Florida, richard.crepeau@ucf.edu

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/onsportandsociety>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

 Part of the [Cultural History Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Other History Commons](#), [Sports Management Commons](#), and the [Sports Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Crepeau, Richard C., "Australia's Olympics of Yesterday Today" (2000). *On Sport and Society*. 201.
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/onsportandsociety/201>

This Commentary is brought to you for free and open access by the Public History at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in On Sport and Society by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact lee.dotson@ucf.edu.

SPORT AND SOCIETY FOR H-ARETE
September 18, 2000

It was last Friday and the Olympic Games were about to begin. Little did I know that the time-space continuum was about to collapse in upon me.

In preparation for the Millennial Olympic Games I signed on with the Sydney Morning Herald for an e-mail newsletter they send out each day, and of course I have "bookmarked" their web site.

So Friday morning I checked my e-mail and suddenly realized that the Opening Ceremonies had already taken place even though they would not be shown on NBC until Friday night. The ceremonies did take place Friday night but they were long since over by Friday morning.

So I went to the web site to read the stories and see the pictures and read the commentary. I was in trouble almost immediately as the writers kept referring to "last night's opening ceremony" which of course I would see tonight which wouldn't be "last night" until tomorrow.

As I read the story my confusion heightened when I noticed that although it was clearly Friday morning, I was reading the Saturday morning paper. Today is tomorrow, last night is tonight, tomorrow is today, and the opening ceremonies were and will be spectacular.

And this was just the beginning.

It does take a bit of the edge off the games to see events nearly 24 hours after completion while often knowing the result.

And then this beauty: I don't know who was doing the game but I watched the last two innings of the U.S.-Canada softball game which seemed to have aired about a month after it happened. I knew of course that this was a no-hitter, first in Olympic history (a short history, but still a first). Whoever the MSNBC announcers were they never once mentioned the no-hitter. I suspected they were doing the old, "don't mention it, you will jinx it" routine. But they didn't even hint at it.

End of inning graphics did inform us that Canada had 0 hits, but if you missed that visual too bad.

So the game ends. Now they celebrate the no-hitter, right?

Wrong.

They still don't mention it. Finally after some further promos and commercials Jim Lampley appears somewhere in a time capsule to tell us something significant had just happened. Well not just happened, but did happen some twenty-four hours or a few minutes earlier.

Could it be a related phenomenon that these same announcers made reference at one point to the second base-person? Yes, the second base-person. I am not making this up.

I am glad they had no need to refer to the vertically challenged-stop who was the other part of the double play combination. The brilliant play-by-play person transformed a check-swing and a ball hit to an infielder into a bunt. Tape delay is bad enough but total incompetence combined with politically correct language was too much.

Now we switch to Tom Brokaw who can tell us another WWII story, because as you know he wrote a best selling book, *The Greatest Generation*, and then wrote a bunch more, all of which he shamelessly plugs with "news" pieces on the NBC Nightly News.

And so we go to break and see plugs for "Ed" and other high art from NBC.

Back to you Bob. What day is it? Just where is Australia anyway and how are the Summer games going in these last days of winter?

Don't worry we are going up close and personal with a touching story of the swimmer, gymnast, etc. who was hit by a car, overcame a deadly disease, or beat the odds in some other way, and now is going for the gold on tape delay on MSNBC, CNBC, or NBC whether the two cable nets are on your system or not.

But first, let's plug some more NBC programming, then we'll have a look at the Sydney Opera House. Have the Open Ceremonies happened yet? Have they happened on tape delay yet? Should we jump off the Sydney Harbour Bridge now, or wait for 15 hours?

Let's talk to the first base-person on the Australian softball team.

G'day mate.

Thanks, and now back to Bob who is about to introduce Jim who has a special report on the fact that there are actual events taking place, some of which happen in real time, but none of which you will see within a 12 hour window of the actual event.

I think its time to go online.

Good morning, good afternoon, and good night.

On Sport and Society this is Dick Crepeau reminding you that you don't have to be a good sport to be a bad loser.

Copyright 2000 by Richard C. Crepeau