Lillehammer 2016
Youth Olympic Games
Go beyond.
Create tomorrow.

The story of the Lillehammer 2016 Youth Olympic Games

Editor
Magne Vikøren

Writers
Tonjes Indenrud
Jens August Østergaard
Erik Høyme Rogn
Erik Ulateig
Eirik Høyme Rogn

Design
Erik Høyme Rogn

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THE ROAD TO THE GAMES

Lillehammer 2016 facts
From Felli to fireworks
Opening Ceremony
Flying right into the IOC’s world
Green Prince impressed
Vision accomplished
Hand over, put off
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Lost 10 kilos – became a heavyweight
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THE TORCH TOUR

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Troms: Tromsø
Nordland: Bodø
Nord-Trøndelag: Steinkjer
Sør-Trøndelag: Trondheim
Møre og Romsdal: Molde
Sogn og Fjordane: Stryn
Hordaland: Voss
Rogaland: Stavanger
Vest-Agder: Kristiansand
Aust-Agder: Arendal
Telemark: Morgedal
Vestfold: Sandefjord
Østfold: Fredrikstad
Buskerud: Drammen
Akershus: Jessheim
Oslo
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RETROSPECT

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We counted 256
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PART 1

THE ROAD TO THE GAMES
Establishment

During the 119th IOC Session in Guatemala City, the IOC approved the creation of the Youth Olympic Games.

Singapore 2010

Singapore is first in line and arranges the first summer version of the Youth Olympic Games. Over 3,600 athletes compete in 26 different sports.

Innsbruck 2012

Innsbruck, Austria arranges the first winter version of the Youth Olympic Games after winning the bid over Kuopio, Finland. 1,059 athletes participate.

Nanjing 2014

The Chinese city of Nanjing arranges the second Summer Youth Olympic Games. 3,759 athletes participate.

LILLEHAMMER 2016 FACTS

15 DISCIPLINES

70 MEDAL EVENTS

203 COMPETITIONS

71 PARTICIPATING NOSC

1,067 ATHLETES

48 VENUES

10,444 ACCREDITATIONS

375 CULTURAL EVENTS

175 LYOGOC AUTOMOBILES

54,000 BUS PASSENGERS

206 TEMPORARY ROAD SIGNS

840 SQ.M. WAREHOUSE

212,604 SPECTATORS

20,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN VISITS

33 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

21,143 PARTICIPANTS IN TRY THE SPORT

3,278 VOLUNTEERS

517 FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS

39 YOUNG AMBASSADORS

133 EMPLOYEES

2,085 HOTEL ROOMS IN USE

713 LYOGOC TELEPHONES USED

170 WITH ACCESS POINTS

653 JOURNALISTS ATTENDING

6,739 Media teams in the national presses from August 2012 until after the Games.

500,000 Unique visitors to the Lillehammer 2016 homepage during the Games.

3,072,000 Views of the national broadcast streams and the streams from the Games.

141 Different countries that broadcast photos etc. from Lillehammer 2016.

1,102,000 Followers on Instagram.

17,600 LinkedIn following.

5,000 Snapchat followers.

16,300 Facebook audience.

170,000 Twitter followers.

6,500 Journalists attending.

141 Different countries that broadcast photos etc. from Lillehammer 2016.
This is the story of how the legacy of the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics was transformed into a unique new creation by an eager young generation with a story of its own to tell.

On the road to 1994, IOC sports director Gilbert Felli coordinated with Norway and Lillehammer for an event that would be recognized as “the best Winter Olympic Games ever.” In December 2011, when the same director Felli officially introduced Lillehammer as host for the 2016 Youth Olympic Games, great expectations were created around the world. Lillehammer, the region, and Norway would experience a new Olympic adventure. This time, it would be young people in focus: as athletes, as performers in cultural events, as volunteers, as spectators - and as the organizers.

Børre Roglien, the head of the Norwegian Confederation of Sports at the time, made a promise on that December day in 2011: “We will build upon the 1994 legacy while creating a new legacy built by and for youth - for Norway and the rest of the winter sports world.” With those words, Mr. Roglien set the course for the four-year journey, guided by the official slogan, “Go beyond. Create Tomorrow.”

Work began at a feverish pace in the country’s Olympic Region – inland Norway. Ground was broken and building began for housing units that would accommodate the world’s best youth athletes during the Games. New venues were constructed in record time.

Historical sports jewels – the venues built for the 1994 Winter Olympic Games – were upgraded, once again to be the host for fantastic competitions under the Olympic Rings. The knowledge, experience, and expertise from those 16 historical days would be ready as a new Olympic Cauldron would be lit exactly 22 years later on February 12, 2016.

On that day, fireworks once again lit up Lysgårdsbakken in a new magical Opening Ceremony. During the 10 days that followed, 254,000 spectators embraced Lillehammer 2016 and the beauty of sport, education, and culture, all in balance. There would be blue skies, long queues, and unique experiences – made by, with, and for young people. The young athletes and 3,278 volunteers would make their indelibly positive mark over the next 10 days. Over half of these volunteers were under 30 years old, building a movement where the young are taken seriously, seeing the possibility to learn, develop, and be a part of a fellowship for longer than any one person.

Youth and fellowship created a truly unique event, with memories that will warm long for years and generations to come.

In this publication, we will share stories about Lillehammer 2016, how it was organized and how it was staged, but mostly we will share with you the story of how thousands of young people dared to Go Beyond and Create Tomorrow. Tomorrow has now become today. Enjoy the stories.
The Opening Ceremony sold out long before February 12. A total of 13,500 spectators had tickets to the event, taking place exactly 22 years after the opening of the XVII Winter Olympics in 1994. National broadcaster NRK was heavily involved with a live transmission of the entire ceremony on NRK3. The event would be broadcast via the Olympic Broadcast Service (OBS) and to rights holders the world over.

“I wasn’t nervous on the opening day, even though this worried President Bach. Any problems with my nerves disappeared when the dress rehearsal was held the day before. I knew then that we would be fine,” says Kjersti Vikør, who had gone through many weeks of preparation with an eager but inexperienced group of 800 performers.

“The fact that you are not nervous makes me nervous.” Honest words from IOC president Bach to head of ceremonies Kjersti Vikør, hours away from the Lillehammer 2016 Opening Ceremony.
team girls, paraglider pilots, bumper car drivers, and marching bands to Norwe- 
gian National Team Telemark skiers. I had a lot to work with,” recalls Vikør 
with a grin.

What everyone had in common was 
that each person was far outside of his or 
her comfort zone. No one had ever done 
this before.

“Our artistic team had a solid back- 
ground from theater, but no one had 
ever constructed outdoor scenes and 
backdrops before. There were not many 
of the performers who had spent a lot of 
time on stage, so we practiced hard to get 
everything to work in sync,” Vikør says 
as she thinks back to her 
fi rst rehearsal 
with 12-year old cross-country skiers.

“The young skiers kind of freaked out 
when they understood that they would 
have to do a lot more than walk around 
on skis. This was new to them and ev-

eyone else. But we delivered, all of us,” 
Vikør says, leaving us with a wide grin, 
from ear to ear.
ROYAL TEST: PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS

Princess Ingrid Alexandra (12) had the honor of lighting the Olympic Cauldron at the Opening Ceremony in Lysgårdsbakken, just as her father had done 22 years before.

“This was special,” says Crown Prince Haakon, talking with local newspaper GD about his daughter’s assignment. With the Opening Ceremony in 1994, King Harald was responsible for the Official Opening of the Games. This time, it was his granddaughter’s turn to climb the stairs, reaching bravely up to the giant cauldron with Olympic Torch in hand.

The Crown Prince describes his reaction when first approached by the LYOGOC about his daughter performing the historic duty.

“First, I thought that this would be nice, that she should do the same as I had done in 1994. But, we are parents and we started to have other more parental thoughts. She is a child who first and foremost has to go to school – but when Ingrid Alexandra was asked, it was something that she really wanted to do,” explains the Crown Prince.

The assignment was carried out perfectly by the young heir to the throne as her family sat in the Royal Tribune and followed the action.

“While I enjoyed the Opening Ceremony very much, I missed a bit as I was occupied by thoughts of Ingrid,” the Crown Princess shared with the newspaper the day after. “Right then I was a mother to a 12-year-old girl who was to light the Olympic Cauldron. Of course, I was a proud mother!”

Lighting of the Olympic Cauldron was the first official international assignment for the young princess, and the Opening Ceremony was sent direct on NRK to a number of TV channels throughout the world.
FAMILIAR FIREWORKS

Just as Crown Prince Haakon and daughter Princess Ingrid Alexandra have a historic link to 1994, the fireworks that closed out the Opening Ceremony also have a story to tell.

Like father, like son, as they say, as it was the son of the Lillehammer 1994 fireworks supplier who delivered and put on the show at Lillehammer 2016. This spectacular and well-received show seemed a question of family honor, as it was done on a shoestring Games budget.

“There has been a grand show for so little money. They just would not end. A fantastic show!” says Lillehammer 2016 CEO Tomas Holmestad.

For a long time, it seemed that the fireworks show would suffer from expanding costs similar to a teenager outgrowing his clothes. Discussions about whether or not to have fireworks continued, and they were nearing a conclusion that had to come at a board meeting on January 19, just three weeks before the Opening Ceremony. The discussions ended quickly thanks to board member Gerhard Heiberg: “There are going to be fireworks at the Opening Ceremony – even if the budget goes up in smoke!”

No one protested. That same evening the order was put in for the fireworks, and as we know, it resulted in a show that Lillehammer has seldom seen. As the final flares of light faded into the night, the unanimous conclusion was, “Those fireworks were the best board of directors decision ever!”
It is January 2012. Siri Hatlen’s telephone rings. Minister of Culture Anniken Huitfeldt is on the line. The former minister gets right to the point – she wants Siri as chairman.

“I was a little quiet. I had never heard of the Youth Olympic Games,” laughs Hatlen.

During the course of a few minutes, the minister explains the concept. Sport, culture, and education in one event, with a unanimous Norwegian Parliament in support.

“I asked for a few days to think about it, but I did not need it. During the course of that short conversation, I knew it was something I wanted to do,” explains Siri Hatlen.

A few days later she is on that plane to Innsbruck, where plans for the first Winter Youth Olympic Games are underway. On the plane, she receives a detailed briefing but is uncertain and excited as to what awaits her.

“I only knew of the IOC through the media, and it felt like I was barging into a world dominated by closed rooms and many men,” she recalls.

Immediately after landing, she is taken directly to a meeting. There are indeed many men. She is seated right by then-IOC president Jacques Rogge. He is the creator of the Youth Olympic idea and welcomes the fresh chairman with open arms.

“I was a bit nervous. This was President Rogge’s brainchild, and I felt privileged to have an important role,” explains Siri.

Siri quickly establishes a close professional relationship with the Belgian. “Mr. Rogge is a warm and welcoming person who supported us from the start. To have him and Gerhard Heiberg as supporters was very important,” says Siri. “It was extremely nice to have Jacques Rogge as a guest in Lillehammer the entire event and see close at hand his unwavering enthusiasm.”

Rogge came with words of wisdom to the newly appointed chairman during their first meeting. “This will change your life forever,” President Rogge said to me. I have said the same to many young people in our organization,” says Siri Hatlen, who now can look back on her Olympic adventure, which began with a single telephone call.

“We succeeded; we did it! With solid backing from the entire IOC, young leaders in key positions, and a fantastic team lead by Tomas. Everyone delivered according to our vision, ‘Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow.’ We did it in the Norwegian way, with the values and goals that lie behind the Youth Olympics. I am happy and proud to have been a part of this,” Chairman Hatlen concludes.
First LYOGOC Employees onboard
The first four employees are recruited for leadership positions in the LYOGOC, to begin in August/September. Atle Roll-Matthiesen (CEO), Tomas Holmestad (Project Control, Economy), Kristin Nilseng (Staff and Administration) and Magne Vikøren (Communication and Public Relations) comprise the quartet that will kick-start LYOGOC.

Board Appointed
Minister of Culture Anniken Huitfeldt appoints a LYOGOC Board of Directors led by Sir Haakon. Parliament adopts a resolution for majority government ownership with the partners: Norwegian government (51%), the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (24.5%), and the Municipality of Lillehammer (24.5%).

Crown Prince Haakon joins us
Crown Prince Haakon will serve in LYOGOC’s Main Committee, with an advisory function for the LYOGOC Board of Directors, with members appointed by the owners, as well as members from the municipality, county, sports federations, regional federations, governmental agencies and other organizations.

First Major Visit from the IOC
The IOC Coordination Commission that will follow-up and coordinate LYOGOC progress makes its first visit. The visit is led by IOC member and Olympic Ice Hockey Champion Angela Ruggiero (USA). Commission members are guided on tours to most of the venues to be used for Lillehammer 2016.

Curling Trousers for President Rogge
IOC President Jacques Rogge and Minister of Culture Anniken Huitfeldt presided over the Official Opening of the Curling Hall in Lillehammer. The Minister placed the cornerstone for a venue that will prove to be popular before, during, and after the Games.

“Enjoy this fantastic sport, and we will meet in 2016 for the Youth Olympic Games here in Lillehammer,” was President Rogge’s message. The IOC President does not leave empty-handed, receiving a pair of specially designed Curling trousers for which the Norwegian national team is famous.
CROWN PRINCE IMPRESSED

In an exclusive interview with regional newspaper GD reporter Asmund Hanslien, the Crown Prince tells just why he was such an active supporter.

“There are two main reasons – it is large and complex event – staged for the benefit of young people. This made Lillehammer 2016 important for me, and I wanted to contribute. It also is a unique combination of sport, culture, and education. This I like.”

Beyond Sport
“The Youth Olympic Games concept has interesting dimensions related to ethics, antidoping, fair play, and team building. Themes are always important in sport, but also for society in general,” says the Crown Prince.

The Crown Prince is impressed by the young Lillehammer 2016 organization and its achievements. He says, “There has been a strong focus on success factors and what is left as a footprint, a legacy, after the Games. Lillehammer 2016 has attracted young trainers and leaders, as well as venue managers and sports technical experts who are committed to ensuring quality and long-term growth of our events. The Youth Olympic Games have caused the Olympic venues from 1994 to upgrade and added new venues such as a new ice hockey training hall, a curling hall, and new student housing.”

What has the Crown Prince learned from being on the committee?
“I have learned more about project management. It is an exciting prospect to go from ‘zero’ to a major organization, where the idea of legacy is at the foundation in all planning. This has been done well, a process where I have enjoyed a strong learning process.”

Asmund Hanslien, Gudbrandsdølen Dagningen
VISION ACCOMPLISHED

November 2012 - “Idle chatter. We should be working on concrete plans for transport and logistics. Not throw away time to find some high-flying vision.” These words belonged to an extremely skeptical Tomas Holmestad. Then something happened.

“Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow.” This was our vision for Lillehammer 2016. In the autumn of 2012, we began a process to define our values, promises, and visions that would be the guiding factors for the Youth Olympic Games. Ingolf Sten Jønson, who had a strong hand in creating the motto for the 1994 Olympics, facilitated the process – one about which Tomas Holmestad, then our project and economy director, made it crystal clear just what he thought.

“I was probably the most skeptical person in the room, and that said something. Never good at faking things, and if I do not believe in something, I cannot hide it. What is funny is that I have become the biggest supporter of our vision than anyone,” says Holmestad with a chuckle. Holmestad took over the role of CEO in July 2013.

Thanks to a holistic process that included 80 people from media, sport, education, culture, and business, the organization committee found its values and vision. “Awesome and Humble. Playful and Determined.” supported the vision.

“Our vision was perhaps the biggest single success. It gave us clear guidance about where we were going. It unleashed an unbelievable togetherness and momentum as we neared the Games,” says Holmestad.

Volunteers received relatively limited training for concrete work activities before the Olympics – but all were drilled constantly about the vision for Lillehammer 2016.

“Many volunteers did not know in specific detail level what they could expect during the Games but knew exactly why they were doing it,” says Holmestad. He refers to a meeting with a volunteer right before the Opening Ceremony. “I asked what he was doing, expecting an answer about responsibilities and such. Instead, the volunteer answered proudly, ‘What am I doing? I am creating tomorrow!’”
Opening date moved

Lillehammer 2016 has been moved forward two weeks to avoid a date conflict with the Oslo’s Biathlon World Championships. The new dates are February 12 – 21, meaning that Lillehammer 2016 will begin exactly the same date as the XVII Winter Olympic Games Opening Ceremony 22 years earlier.

1,000 days to the Games

The 1,000-day countdown to Lillehammer 2016 starts today. Many join the celebration, including Minister of Culture Hadja Tadjik and alpine skier Aksel Lund Svindal. The hosting Winrockdays are introduced to Social Media, and our one-man PR & Communications team travels to Speik and Hamar with a large banner where youngsters write down their hopes for the future. In Lillehammer, people do the same, where they also proudly wave the Olympic flag.

The road to the games

Cornerstone placed for the Youth Olympic Village

Erlend Flåten, a student at the Norwegian College of Elite Sport (NTG), together with Elise Arnheim, the Board Chairman of the Oppland Student Association, place the cornerstone for the 360 new student-housing units for what will be the Youth Olympic Village (YOV) during Lillehammer 2016. The cornerstone itself contains textbooks from NTG, sports equipment and a large banner where youngsters write down their wishes for the future. This symbolizes knowledge, sport and hope for the future for students, and also for the young athletes that will live here during the Games. This is the biggest building project that the committee will undertake.

Youth Hall opens

The new Youth Hall is now ready for use, with the first match played today. Lillehammer ice Hockey Club U8 players divide into two teams with NHL champions Pittsburgh Penguins and Winnipeg Jets uniforms. The hall will be used for training and matches during Lillehammer 2016.

The re-visit

Speik hosts the second IOC Coordination Commission. For IOC member Yang Yang, this is a reunion with the Olympic Cavern Hall, where she took part in her first World Championships in 1995. “After traveling the world over I understand how unique this hall really is,” Yang Yang comments.
Two years before the Games, the organization committee had completed an agreement with the Innlandet Hospital Trust, with Lillehammer Hospital assuming operational responsibility for planning and coordinating game-time medical operations and contingencies.

“When the hospital assumed this role, we linked it with the Sports Medicine Project, a project with the goal of establishing specific hospital services together with those working with sport and youth and various regional sports events,” says Thomas Moger, Lillehammer 2016’s chief medical officer (CMO) and Sports Medicine Project manager.

The hospital used the Lillehammer 2016 initiative to raise the level of hospital personnel expertise. “This cooperation created values that will benefit the entire region. It gives us increased knowledge and expertise with different types of diagnosis and injuries, good routines, and procedures for a more holistic treatment process. Together, this enables us to offer improved services to all hospital patients – including those who are not top sports talents,” explains assistant CMO Hans Kristian Holm.

In addition, experience gained through the project spread knowledge about training and injury prevention to younger sports participants, with lectures and seminars held in the region before the Games that addressed these topics.

Services provided during the Games were made possible thanks to major efforts by hospital employees, in cooperation with numerous regional organizations. Professionals included 37 doctors, 62 nurses, and 52 people from pre-hospital services. Norwegian People’s Aid, the Aktivklinikken, and the Syhusapoteket (Hospital Pharmacy) were also active supporters.

In addition to this, Dr. Moger and his department coordinated efforts with anti-doping in close cooperation with AntiDoping Norge. Long-term development of expertise was also emphasized, creating the Chaperone Program, with assistants chosen from health and social-services students and trained by AntiDoping Norge. In total, 152 urine tests and 25 blood tests were conducted. The tests were conducted on 149 athletes from 39 nations, with no positive tests.

“Lillehammer 2016 is over, but the expertise remains. The event has provided us with a long-term increase in expertise,” declares Dr. Moger.
“Are they really going to let students make the design profile for the Youth Olympics?” The skepticism from branch professionals was strong, but four young women from the Gjøvik University College silenced their protests.

“It is awesome that young designers are involved. Especially when the event is as big and important as this,” Anja Rullestad proudly says. Along with Marte Stensrud, Live Andrea Sulheim, and Marianne Ågotnes, she is an Olympic designer – an Olympic design team before even completing their education.

To create the visual profile for the Olympics is challenging, but the decision was made early that this would be undertaken by youths. Despite warnings of caution from branch professionals, second-year media design students from Gjøvik University College were asked to develop suggestions for a logo and visual profile. The four young women won the competition with a colorful mountain chain and a stylish logo.

“We were amazed when we were

STUDIED AT NTNU GJØVIK

THE DESIGNERS

Anja Rullestad, Marte Stensrud, Live A. Sulheim and Marianne Ågotnes created the visual profile for Lillehammer 2016.

THE ROAD TO THE GAMES

ROCK-SOLID DESIGN

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given the assignment back in 2013. Now we can proudly look back on how we created something in a classroom means a lot. Our banner was everywhere, throughout all the venues, in the media; even on clothing we saw, people wore our logo and design,” Stensrud says, and continues: “The design comes directly from the slogan, ‘Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow.’ Our young design talents found inspiration in Norwegian nature and the magnificent mountain chains throughout the country. The strongest colors in the mountain chain symbolize solidarity and energy created when youth from the entire world come together.”

“This design symbolizes breaking down barriers, good and hard times, and achievement – what we knew we be the essence of the Lillehammer 2016 Games,” say the young designers. This Olympic adventure is only the beginning for the girls. In their last year of school, they established the company Malm Design – supplying graphic design services to the committee (the organization committee) even before the girls completed their studies.

**THE ROAD TO THE GAMES**

**OLYMPIC POSTAGE STAMPS**

In addition to putting their creative mark on the Olympics with their design, the four young women in Malm Design also created the official Lillehammer 2016 stamp for the Norwegian Postal Service.

Creating a postage stamp was not the top priority for the organization committee; the emphasis was on digital communication channels. One telephone call from the Norwegian Postal Service quickly changed all that.

“We learned that the chance to create a stamp was a very rare opportunity, and what an honor it was,” explains marketing and communication director Magne Vikøren.

The enthusiasm in the organization committee was even greater when the assignment went to the four girls in Malm Design. “This was an unbelievable and exciting assignment, and we really are proud of the result,” says Sulheim on behalf of the young women behind the design. The motive on the postage stamp was a blend of the feeling of a hike in the Norwegian mountains combined with the visual profile of the Games.
The date is February 12, 2014, the day that the organization committee is to get in tune with youth. Twenty years have gone since Lillehammer 1994. Two years until Lillehammer 2016.

Project manager Håkon Lauvålien stands outside Håkons Hall on Stampesletta, surrounded by 2,400 youngsters from Lillehammer, Gausdal, Øyer, and Ringebu. On their way out of the venue, fresh from their first encounter with the Youth Olympic Games project.

Lauvålien watches them pass. “This is the first time that we have met so many youngsters face to face. It is exciting to see how much they will care and want to get involved,” he says. He knows that this is a special group to understand and motivate.

The 2,400 youngsters now gather around a Stampesletta stage, with 18-year old Emma Speight ready to perform the new song “Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow.” The kids have learned a dance to the song, and on cue, the music begins. Immediately Lauvålien sees the effect: Everyone is dancing. The place is cooking, youngsters smiling, laughing, and dancing.

“Today I see the huge dimensions of these Games, fantastic to see the positive reception to the music and the day. The kids love it. Organization days are filled with planning, documentation, and meetings, and to come out today and see the real effect, kids dancing and having a good time to the sound of the Games - that makes it real,” says with a smile, turning back towards the stage as the music continues.

Olympic Atmosphere in Lillehammer

Today, twenty years after, Lillehammer Municipality has organized a retrofest on Lilletorget, with the walking street Storgata decorated with the design elements from 1994. Time has not only stopped; it has gone back a generation. Stein B. Olsen, Visit Lillehammer event coordinator and arguably the biggest Youth Olympics supporter found anywhere, joins the celebration. “I had to go up in the attic and dig out my old representation jacket. It still fits, what do you think?” he says with a laugh.
OPERATIONAL VENUE PLANNING

LYOGOC begins the operational planning at the venues. The first project is the Lillehammer Olympic Sliding Center (LOC), where Version 1 of a complete venue plan will be developed over six weeks. Thus begins work on Venue Operation Manuals that will provide guidance for venue activities during the Games.

MAY 13, 2014

ADECCO JOINS

Adecco becomes the first Lillehammer 2016 sponsor, contributing with both money and services for a top-level national sponsor agreement in what will prove to be an excellent cooperation.
As Øystein Wilhelmsen (27) approached the podium at the 2014 International World Ice Hockey Congress in Minsk, the young man from Lillehammer knew that he had put on some very big shoes.

One goal of Lillehammer 2016 was to stimulate increased expertise in the region. LYOCOG head of sports Jostein Buraas tells us, “To anchor these activities in the region, we approached regional event organizers and asked them to take responsibility for the staging of different sports competitions. We found that they were eager to contribute. We also agreed that where possible, youth should be given sports management responsibility, with mentors backing them up.”

Øystein Wilhelmsen enters our story. While a student in Lillehammer, he had become heavily involved in the Lillehammer Ice Hockey Club. Then, two years before the Games, the club approached him with an interesting proposition, the start of the road to the games.

Ice Hockey matches in Kristins Hall are very popular during the Games, with long lines waiting for tickets.
One of Wilhelmsen’s first assignments was to travel to Minsk to present to the Congress of the International Ice Hockey Federation. “The entire hockey world would listen to what I had to say about Lillehammer 2016. It was then I understood the responsibility that I had taken upon myself,” explains Wilhelmsen.

Then the hard work of preparation began. Plans made, equipment purchased, volunteers recruited and trained. Wilhelmsen knew he was not alone. He could count on trusted people, including his mentor Tom Jøstne, experienced venue manager Andre Holen, the LYOGOC, and the Lillehammer Hockey Club with experience back to 1994 and even before. They had his back.

“The International Federation followed us closely and visit Lillehammer several times, contributing greatly under way. I learned a great deal by being part of the team in the organization committee, a beehive of young people with many creative ideas and energy. There was lot of hard work and late nights, but the experience I have gained will be with me for the rest of my life. I have learned project management, international work, and so much about organizing major sporting events,” says Wilhelmsen.

Among the many memorable moments throughout the Games, Wilhelmsen says that two stood out. “When the first hockey match was to be played before the Opening Ceremony, there was a long line of people waiting outside the hall that did not get to come in!” That is when I understood that Lillehammer 2016 was going to be very popular. It was nearly impossible to get into Kristins Hall during the entire 10 days,” he recalls. “I also remember the feeling of knowing that things will work out, even though they might not go exactly as planned,” he says. “Hat tip to the amazing volunteers who fixed things right there and then when problems arose.”
“You should try!” When the international mascot competition for the Youth Olympic Games began, Line Ansethmoen’s mother knew her daughter’s talent. Many creative drawings later, “Sjogg” was created.

Line Ansethmoen was as proud as a brand-new mother when interviewed by the IOC during the Games. “It is awesome to see Sjogg everywhere,” she says. “In a way, that little bobcat is my child who has succeeded in the big world.”

In fact, it was 18-year-old Line’s mother (or should we say, Sjogg’s grandmother) who first saw the advertisement for the mascot competition. Line did not need much convincing to bring out her drawing board. After beginning with different versions of reindeer and fox drawings, the little bobcat whose name would later be Sjogg was created. Line’s sporty little bobcat was voted as the winner in an international Facebook competition, which was viewed by more than 250,000 Facebook users, with over 50 mascot suggestions submitted. Her mascot suggestion was further developed, his fur color was adjusted a bit, and he was dressed up in a cool hooded jersey. The mascot was introduced in December 2014 and christened
“Sjogg” on Norwegian national television sent live from Birkebeiner Stadium. Sjogg means “snow” in local valley dialect – and, of course, snow means everything to the Winter Olympics. He was popular, with his popularity growing even further when Søndre Park was transformed into the snow and ice activity park “Sjogg Park” and a culture event was created that was called “Sjoggfest.” Sjogg became more and more visible over time, perhaps reaching his peak of popularity when he visited different kindergartens in the days and weeks before Lillehammer 2016. During the Games, the mascot created an unforgettable atmosphere in the venues, with nearly 10,000 spectators taking their very own Sjogg stuffed animal home as a souvenir.

Line described this success when she spoke with the IOC during the Games. “Sjogg’s eyes are very important. They are big and green and make him look very cute,” she says, sharing the secret that her pet cat was a big help in giving the mascot that perfect “cat feeling” when Sjogg was being created.
Oslo withdraws its bid for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games after it becomes clear that support from the Norwegian government is lacking. The debate about the bid has continued for a long time, but Oslo2022 did not get the backing it needed. Now, more curiosity and national media are focused upon Lillehammer 2016.

During the course of two hectic days in Oslo, a newly established ceremony team develops the basis for the concept for the Opening Ceremony. Winter weather, play, and inclusion are among the keywords chosen. The concept, the ideas, and the team will grow over the next 15 months.

The Volvo national dealer Bilia becomes the official vehicle partner for the LOYOGOC, and once again, Volvo will serve the Olympians in Lillehammer, just as it had been a partner back in 1994.

The hunt begins for new stadium announcers, using creative methods. At a local shopping center, an audition was held today in the best talent search style. Omar hopefyl took the best to convince the jury with their best sport commentary. The winner is teenanger Christian Funderud Wedum who has learned his craft by watching TV sports competitions with the sound off—providing his own running commentary. During the Games, Christian will conduct interviews at Birkerbeineren Ski Stadium and by the end of the Games, he will go up in the commentator booth and announce a Cross-Country ski event himself.

World Cup Lillehammer organizers christen an area in Birkebeineren Ski Stadium as “Ungdomstoppen” – the Youth Peak. Ungdomstoppen – difficult uphill terrain in the public zone – is put to good use during the World Cup where a lively group of youngsters stand cheering with banners and bells, surely a taste of the Youth Olympic Games to come.
A bid process for the Olympics is a laborious process that demands detailed planning. It is the same for the Youth Olympics. In either case, not everything always happens exactly as planned.

According to the bid documentation, Lillehammer 2016 was to be staged from February 26 to March 6, 2016. Historically, it is the best time for snow and climate conditions, and the dates were also chosen to avoid conflict with the traditional Norwegian winter holidays. Over 2,000 hotel rooms were booked for these days. The venues were reserved.

Then something happened.

“Oslo was awarded the Biathlon World Championships, the dates set to March 2–13, 2016,” says COO Erik Ulateig. “This could not be changed and conflicted with the Youth Olympic dates. After discussions with the IOC, we moved dates for Lillehammer 2016 to avoid problems with regards to attendance, media, equipment, and personnel. It was natural to consider February 12 as the start date – just as the Winter Olympics in 1994. All in the inland region remember that date – when the Olympic Flame was lit.”

This decision set in motion major changes – including all the hotels in the regions that had to be rebooked. “Even though the new days were during the same period as the Danish winter vacation, all hotels did everything to make this work,” continues Ulateig.

There were also other challenges. Plans for the halfpipe had been initiated way back in 2007 or 2008, and since then the sport had developed tremendously in scope and popularity. “I contributed to the bid process, and back then we had placed the halfpipe competition in Lillehammer at what we call the ‘salt-lake slope’ in Kanthaugen,” explains Ulateig, continuing, “By 2015, the halfpipe itself had become much bigger and demanded a larger hill than the one at Kanthaugen. We looked at all possibilities, both at Kanthaugen and at Hafjell, and we even looked at possibly moving the competition to Innsbruck. But, together with FIS and the IOC, we all agreed that Oslo was the best alternative – and Oslo Winterpark welcomed us with open arms.”

And so it happened that even though the Oslo 2022 application hit the rocks when all was said and done, Oslo staged an Olympic event after all.
Lillehammer received a new monument, a giant countdown clock counting days, minutes, and seconds to the Games — and raising the pulse of the organization committee.

The countdown monument was unveiled exactly one year before the Games, with 23-year-old Emilie Fekene as master of ceremonies. Together with Fekene and 15-year-old hockey talent Carl Erik Kraabøl, Crown Prince Haakon dedicated the countdown clock, a gift from Omega. A crowd was on hand in the winter darkness, including Omega’s president, Stephen Urguhart, and IOC vice president Nawal El-Moutawakel. Lillehammer had opened yet another chapter in its storied Olympic history.

“Afterward, I got a little stressed each time I walked by the clock,” admits Fekene, coordinator for all venue announcers during the Games. “I was just proud, but as the days and minutes ticked by, I could feel the tension rising. Would we get everything done? Well, we sure did,” says Fekene with a laugh.

THE ROAD TO THE GAMES

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON

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“I must admit I was nervous since the Crown Prince was there. I was only supposed to introduce him, still, it was a big deal for me — but I did get a hug from him,” Fekene says, smiling.

The countdown monument was a popular photo opportunity on the road to the Games — but for the organization committee, it became a clear symbol of time moving fast towards the Opening Ceremony.

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THE UNVEILERS

Hockey talent Carl Erik Kraabøl and Crown Prince Haakon unveil the countdown clock with hundreds watching.
The Søndre Park outdoor theater is tested for the first time with one year to go to the Games.

Unveiling of the countdown clock exactly one year to the Games.

Full throttle in the slide when Søndre Park is tested as a venue for Lillehammer 2016.

Alexander Gamme holds a lecture at the Tyrili Climbing Center.

Crown Prince Haakon meets the Lillehammer 2016 team, then holds a short unveiling speech.

The Gjøvik Olympic Mountain Hall attracts 1,400 students to learn about the Games.
Hafjell now has status as a National Venue for Slalom and Giant Slalom. With this status comes a 30 million NOK yearly subsidy to be used to wards snow production equipment that will increase and improve the snow provided, much faster than before.

UKM JOINS THE TEAM
An excellent partner for the Lillehammer 2016 Culture Program, the Norwegian Youth Festivals of Art (UKM) is the best source of young culture, music and production talents in Norway. During the Games, 100 youth from 15 Norwegian counties will be used as artists and organizers.

THE ROAD TO THE GAMES

15 MNOK TO THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM
“The Olympic Museum will be completed in time for the Youth Olympic Games.” This is the clear message from the Minister of Culture Torild Widvey.

IOC COORDINATION COMMISSION RETURNS
The fourth IOC Coordination Commission has been held. After a careful review of the Sports Program, the decision was made that Medal Ceremonies would be moved to the venues, taking place after each medal event. The Closing Ceremony will be downscaled, held in the Sjogg Tent for athletes, trainers and their delegation staffs and leaders. The Commission also inspects the Youth Olympic Village, where the IOC has contributed 108 MNOK and is pleased with the YOV and planning for Lillehammer 2016.

HELHAN HANSEN ON BOARD
As in 1994, Helly Hansen has become the Official Clothing Partner for Lillehammer 2016, to provide outfits for up to 5,000 volunteers and employees. The agreement includes the delivery of some uniform packages, which will include an inner shell jacket, outer bubble jacket, trousers, sweater, winter cap, and backpack—all with the visual identity of Lillehammer 2016.

The gray Olympic jacket we know from 1994 is nearly impossible to wear out, they still can be seen all through the region. Now we get a whole new Olympic collection for a new generation,” says the organization committee’s CEO Tomas Holmestad.

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THE VOLUNTEER CRISIS THAT BECAME AN ADDED VALUE

The alarm sounded on August 18. There were not nearly enough volunteers to stage the Youth Olympic Games.

“We have a crisis situation,” CEO Tomas Holmestad screamed out in front-page headlines of the local newspaper. He explained that to organize Lillehammer 2016, over 3,000 volunteers were needed. On paper, the numbers looked good, and the number of 3,000, in theory, had been reached. The problem was that over 50% were foreigners (1,600), and the region didn’t have the capacity to accommodate more than 500 of them.

“Now we need everyone’s help,” Holmestad told the local newspaper GD. Holmestad kept it simple: With less than six months to Lillehammer 2016, the organization needed 1,000 local volunteers.

GD mobilized, wrote editorials, and encouraged people to support volunteerism. The response was immediate, and the phones at the committee did not stop ringing during the next days. Activities bloomed all over town.

Alpine legend Kjetil André Aamodt gathered several hundred people at Håkons Hall, talking about volunteerism’s importance. Oppland and Lillehammer asked their employees to join. Local schools began numerous projects. Øyer Municipality changed directions; it would open the local junior high for volunteer accommodation. Local sports organizers (Birken, World Cup, and others) appealed to their volunteers join the Youth Olympic bandwagon.

But it was first and foremost hundreds upon hundreds of youths who decided that Lillehammer 2016 was where they wanted to be in February. Applications streamed into the LYOGOC. GD kept score, and its readers followed the progress towards the magic number 1,000. When the hunt for volunteers ended on October 1, there were a grand total of 7,636 people who had applied to become volunteers. The soon-to-be-legendary Lillehammer 2016 volunteer hunt had resulted in over 2,000 local volunteers.

“Simply put, we just didn’t have jobs for everyone. We ended up with the luxury of having too many applications,” communication and PR director Magne Vikøren explained to NRK in the beginning of December, after several hundred local applicants were told that it just wasn’t possible for them to join the volunteer corps.

The shortage became a surplus as the Olympic Region awakened to life. The Olympic spark had become a wild fire.
KICKOFF AT GJØVIK HIGH SCHOOL

COOL LESSONS

Through the ‘Learn and Freeze’ project, 400 students learn to build and decorate with ice and snow.

OLYMPIC RINGS EFFECTS

The Youth Olympic Games has brought out the best in young creative souls. These youngsters made the most of the opportunities, finding new ways to benefit society.

A fountain of projects and initiatives came from all sources imaginable when the Olympic rings came “home” to inland Norway after 22 years. Lillehammer 2016 leaves behind a legacy of cooperation, with grassroots support from organizations throughout the Olympic region having been an important part of this success. One good example of this broad cooperation is ‘Active Mind, Active Body’ (Aktiv Sinn), an initiative where thousands were involved, made possible thanks to a 15 million kroner grant from Sparebankstiftelsen.

The Governor of Oppland led the work in close cooperation with the Lillehammer 2016 organization to create and implement projects promoting health, aimed at junior high school students. “This age group tends not to have strong exercise habits, and we improved this with their ideas and involvement,” says County Governor Stian Hauge to NRK. During a three-year period, a wide range of activities were created, as diverse as a Frisbee golf course in Øyer to an obstacle course in Lunnar, all for the use by youngsters.

Hands-on career development

The county worked closely with the LYOGOC to create a ‘Venue of Education’ in an Olympic Region where youths receive practical training within their career choice areas. Examples include students who assisted with doping control or ensured proper nutrition for volunteers.

Coordinator Lone Selbekken from North Gudbrandsdal High School was very satisfied with cooperation with the LYOGOC. “‘Active Body, Active Mind’ helped students go far beyond the normal theoretical school day of studies, giving them exciting, real-world assignments. By getting students on our team, they have become excellent ambassadors – youth proud of their region and what it has to offer,” Selbekken concludes.

THE ROAD TO THE GAMES

Crown Prince Haakon greets the students managing the volunteer hotel.
The competition to win the Pierre de Coubertin School Prize has begun. This is an activity-focused competition for high schools in Oppland County. All activities are welcomed and counted as part of the competition – jogging, playing in a band; anything goes.

On October 1-4, 2015, representatives from 70 countries participate in the Chef de Mission Seminar, with the entire organization involved in the event, possibly the most important ‘test event’ before the Games. Young participants are able to test out the education program “Learn & Share.”

On October 5-6, 2015, the IOC says, ‘Lillehammer will rock the YOG’ With less than 130 days to the Opening Ceremony, everything is falling in place for Lillehammer 2016. This is the clear message from the IOC Coordination Commission during this fifth and final visit. “The Lillehammer leadership should be proud of what they are building. Lillehammer 2016 will have a fantastic combination of sport, culture and inspiration,” says Angela Ruggiero. The visit concludes with a concert at the Tyrili Climbing Center, where Comet Kid shows what the band can deliver.

On October 5-6, 2015, IOC says, ‘Lillehammer will rock the YOG’

On September 21, 2015, school competition

In brilliant autumn sunshine, 249 people participate today when LYOGOC employees and family climb 255,764 steps at Lysgårdsbakken. This beautiful day sees nearly 1,700 people visit the ski jump venue to watch the event. The fastest up the stairs with a ‘reverse hill record’ – Øyvin Kvaale, with a time of 4.01. The fastest woman is Liv Hilde Drugli, who uses 5:12 to climb the 951 stairs up Lysgårdsbakken.

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On October 5-6, 2015, IOC says, ‘Lillehammer will rock the YOG’
Sjøgg Park in Lillehammer is filled with activities that attract over 35,000 visitors during the Games.

**RECORD FESTIVAL IN RECORD TIME**

Six months before Lillehammer 2016 began, there was one employee responsible for the Culture Program with a total budget of nothing (0 NOK). How could anyone have known that it would grow to be the largest culture festival for youths ever held in Norway?

The ambition had been in place right from the very start—Lillehammer 2016 would be a balanced festival of sport, culture, and education. To achieve this, the culture efforts would have to be much stronger than at previous Youth Olympic Games. By early autumn, the festival had a name (Sjøggfest), several commercial partners, some great ideas—and just the one LYOGOC employee to organize it who was quite busy managing other projects as well.

First full-time employee Pia Litleskare (26) came straight from culture studies at BI Norwegian Business School to become booking manager August 2015, the first full-time employee with Sjøggfest. In the beginning, she thought that there might be
BY THE NUMBERS

**Concerts**
108

**Lectures**
32

**Courses and Activities**
69

**Film Screenings**
29

**Art and Dance Exhibitions**
96

**Art and Design Exhibitions**
70

**Surprises**
181

*Unannounced cultural events

The result was eight whiteboards completely covered with suggestions of exciting artists. That, in addition to endless hours of research on the internet, provided the basis to allow Litleskare and her gang to create the most awesome culture festival for youths ever on Norwegian soil, with young and unknown talents balanced with heroes such as Nico & Vinz, Au-Ra, Highasakite, and others.

"There is so much happening in Norwegian culture these days, which makes it easy for us to attract over 150,000 spectators to our 11 million NOK after funds became available as a result of strong budget control. Now it was time to put the pedal to the metal with the rest of the festival venues. There was no turning back now. Within just 72 days at the first concert, there was no time to waste. By Christmas, more than 150 artists had been signed, and the Sørgartet team had grown from three to 30, all necessary to plan concerts, films, lectures, activities, and surprises at 24 different venues.

Young and Absolutely Norwegian

"When Sjoggfest was announced, we were absolutely Norwegian program," says Litateskare. It did not take long for Litateskare to understand why they had created the event. 

"Early in the process, we created a focus group with local youths and students between 14 and 25 years old. We gave them guidance that the artists must be Norwegian and under 30 years old and asked them to come up with suggestions," Litateskare explains.

The turning point came in the beginning of October, when during just one week the main venue, Bruket, fell in place. And the board of directors — who knew what surprises were waiting around the corner — was literally crying tears of joy," says a very happy Litureshkar.

"It was a cool old place. Creative, fun, and flexible potential, an old industrial building, almost like the Mesna River in downtown Lillehammer, dreamy log dreams. It was a cool old place. Creative, fun, and flexible potential, an old industrial - and the location was amazing. Central but a bit hidden. A great combination," Røgn explains.

With only a short time to the Games, the dream seemed likely to remain a dream, but for Eirik, failure was no option. When the empty museum location suddenly became available in October, he grabbed the opportunity, what turned out to be a short and successful process. He inspected the premises a few days afterward and went to Stian Søgnaes, Technical Production Manager.

**Practical Challenges**

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Stian Søgnaes was not immediately convinced. "We were once on a helicopter flight over the road to the Games - it was a cool old place. Creative, fun, and flexible potential, an old industrial - and the location was amazing. Central but a bit hidden. A great combination," Røgn explains.

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The practical side of Stian Søgnaes al always comes when he walks through a future venue. "Where will the stage be? How much electricity? How much weight will the roof hold? All these considerations come into mind. What will the weather be like? How many people can it hold? All these questions came into mind. I didn't realize it would take much longer than a good venue until much later," he explains.

Søgnaes wasn't thinking of making a cool venue that was Litureshanaert,
he needed to look at practicalities such as emergency exits, capacity, and technical requirements. “The building was long and narrow, and I didn’t think we could go a capacity of more than 300. As we worked closely with the municipality and the fire department, we found ways to increase capacity to 900,” says Stian Sagholen, continuing, “The rooms had enough physical space for many more than that, but we created different smaller zones to get an intimate and close feel – something that functioned very well.

Winning Attitude
He believes that Bruket’s success came from the same values and hard work found in the rest of the Sjoggfest team and the organization as a whole. “Our own staff, culture project students from the University College, and other volunteers who contributed gave everything to create the coolest youth culture festival Norway has ever seen. We have a winning attitude, and that is good – especially when you win,” Sagholen said with a laugh.

He also had responsibility for technical installations at all the other Sjoggfest venues, and he sometimes felt the pressure, especially with challenges at the outdoor Sjogg Park venue in the warm weather.

“I will never forget the moment before the first show with Todd Terje on February 13. I had not slept in two days. So exhausted, we were forgetting each other’s names and looking for our sweaters when we had them on our backs. It was all worth it when we saw the joy of the public. I slept so well that evening,” Sagholen recalls.

THE ROAD TO THE GAMES

HE ROAD TO THE GAMES

Before and after
During several intense winter weeks, antique vehicles are replaced by musicians, fans, and a disco ball.
The 1994 Winter Olympics set new standards within environmental work. In 2016, the Olympics once again visited Lillehammer, where youths created a renewed legacy that included the first Norwegian ISO certification as a sustainable event.

Lillehammer 1994 was the first “green” Olympics—abounding with stories that included the legendary edible plates made of potatoes and vegetable oil. Environmental standards in the Olympic Movement had been raised forever, with such standards included in the Olympic Charter after the 1994 Games were completed.

In 1994, the goal was to find new technical and practical environmental solutions. During the course of the several decades, the global perspective had now changed and had a more holistic focus on sustainability in a broader perspective.

“Early in the process, we contacted the Norwegian University of Science and Technology for guidance as to how we should work with sustainability with a modern perspective. Three students each wrote their master’s theses recommending how this should be achieved,” explains Vegar Strand, CFO with responsibility for Lillehammer 2016 sustainable activities.

“One of the key questions was if our organization should seek certification as an Eco-Lighthouse or an ISO certification, as London had done. An ISO certification would have a broader effect and was arguably more relevant in relation to an event. In addition, this would give us more international credibility.

“The students strongly recommended that we should choose ISO 20121. This is an international standard that was created in 2012, developed for sustainable events,” Strand continues.

“However, this was not the simplest choice. No Norwegian event had achieved such certification previously, and the challenging task to ‘Go Beyond and Create an environmental event Tomorrow’ began. Environmental routines were included in all plans, venues, and functions. In addition, eight special focus areas were identified,” explains Strand.

“We created a special task group led by 22-year-old Åshild Aarø. After numerous visits from the certification organization SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, we were awarded ISO 20121 certification after one and a half years of work in November 2015. Finally, during the staging of Lillehammer 2016, SP visited once again to confirm the certification,” Strand concludes.
**New website launched**
The new website is launched, with a full overview of all activities during Lillehammer 2016. It is the main form of communication during the Games, built for high levels of traffic. Note the website crashed for a short time after the Opening Ceremony because of huge levels of traffic.

**Sjoggfest launch**
Matoma, Nico & Vinz, Aurora, and Highasakite are only a few of the international stars that Sjoggfest will offer. The Spoggfest Program includes over 150 cultural activities, with more to come.

**The Road to the Games**

**November 1, 2015**

**The Olympic Princess**
Today, organization committee delivered excellent royal news. “We hereby announce that the Royal House has accepted the invitation on behalf of Princess Ingrid Alexandra that she will perform the historic honor of lighting the Olympic Cauldron,” announces a proud CEO Tomas Holmestad.

**December 5, 2015**

**NRK will broadcast the Games**
National broadcaster NRK has secured the rights to the Games with live TV and radio broadcasts beginning with the Opening Ceremony broadcasted direct on NRK3, with an edited version on NRK1. NRK mp3, the youth channel in NRK, is establishing their own studio in Lillehammer to follow the pulse of the Games.

**November 26, 2015**

**The road to the games**

**November 5, 2015**

**New store in town**
Christmas lights up Lillehammer’s walking street, the same day that the Lillehammer 2016 Megastore officially opens. Offering a wide range of clothes, caps, pins, bags, backpacks, and mascots, we once again are experiencing ‘Pin Fever’ twenty-two years after! During the Games, there will also be a store in Håkons Hall. Trofé is the Official Supplier of license products. With a location centrally in the town, the shop turned into a informal meeting place for those who wanted to know more about the Youth Olympic Games before and during the Games. During the Games there was also an additional shop in Håkons Hall.

**November 26, 2015**

**Sjoggfest launch**
Matoma, Nico & Vinz, Aurora, and Highasakite are only a few of the international stars that Sjoggfest will offer. The Spoggfest Program includes over 150 cultural activities, with more to come.
It was a warm sun that lit the Olympic Flame in Athens, but Runa Møller Tangstad was shining even brighter that day.

The 17-year-old from the northern Norway town of Brønnøysund had an important role in the lighting of the Olympic Flame. She was part of a youth delegation that had traveled from Norway to Athens to bring the flame safely home. Runa Møller Tangstad was accompanied by fellow leaders Ola Søybe (18) and YOG gold medal winner Grace Bullen (18) as the trio led the Norwegian delegation that included cross-country skiing legend Vegard Ulvang, who had taken the Olympic Oath on behalf of the athletes in 1994.

The Olympic Torch was lit in a ceremony in the historic Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, the venue where the first modern Olympic Games were staged in 1896. A dish-shaped mirror captured the warm Athenian rays and lit the flame, with a ceremonial Torch Relay following at the stadium, where the three young Norwegians were torch-bearers.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. Awesome. The stands were full of Greek schoolchildren and famous Greek athletes. When the mirror caught the sunbeam and lit the torch, I felt butterflies in my stomach. I knew I was part...
“of something historic,” Møller Tangstad says. The ceremony ended when Møller Tangstad, likely the youngest ever, held a speech where she promised to care for the Olympic Flame and treat it with the respect it deserves: “Thank you for the opportunity to take the Olympic Flame home to Norway. Thank you for the attention and support this will provide young sports leaders. We will take good care of it and use it to better the future of sport.” Møller Tangstad spoke with great emotion that moved the crowd.

Bullen, the 2014 Youth Olympic champion in wrestling in Nanjing 2014, also thought that it was a unique experience to be present in Athens. “That we were able to run with the Olympic Torch shows that youth can lead the way forward in sport. Hopefully, this will inspire others to continue in their own types of sport, either as an active athlete or as a volunteer. Sport creates a unique bond between people, and I hope that more young people can join in the experience,” Bullen explains.

After the actual lighting of the Olympic Flame in the stadium, the flame was safely transferred to two lanterns and transported with a police escort through the streets of Athens before it was brought safely to Oslo.

VETERAN ON FIRE

In 1994, it was Vegard Ulvang who took the Olympic Oath on behalf of the Athletes. Now 22 years later, Ulvang was together with the young delegation that received the Olympic Flame in Athens. “It was a fantastic ceremony, a wonderful experience to be a part of. The Olympic values have no expiration date,” says Ulvang.

THE LANTERN IS GONE

Before Cremonile in 1988, Norwegians sang, “Mange setter alle kluter til, for å tønne en olympisk ild,” about lighting and protecting the Olympic Flame. We thought of this song often, as taking the Olympic Flame from Athens to Lillehammer had its problems.

When the Norwegian delegation arrived in Athens, project manager Jan Austeg Dalvegg discovered that one of the suitcases had disappeared. “You can’t just leave a suitcase behind, it contained a special lantern designed to allow us to take the Olympic Flame home on our flight home,” says Dalvegg. Upon discovering this, the Norwegian delegation feverishly began to search for the missing suitcase together with airport authorities. It wasn’t to be found anywhere. Dalvegg continues, “I didn’t sleep a wink that night – the flame had to be transferred the next day, and I had lost the lantern. A waking nightmare.”

Vidar Eilertsen saved the day. The leader for the 1994 Torch Relay had a similar lantern, but he was in Norway. When awakened around midnight, Vidar took a split-second to decide, “I am coming!” He threw himself into his car, drove to the Oslo airport, and jumped on the first Athens flight early next morning, arriving an hour before the flame was to be transferred to the special lantern.

Dalvegg concludes, “I have no doubt: For me Vidar will always be this year’s ‘Ildsjel’ (Norwegian Change Maker of the Year).”

What happened to the original lantern? It was found in security at the Danish airport Kastrup. We will save it for some future Olympic Games.
AN YOUTH OLYMPIC TORCH GOES OUT

Hundreds of torches light up Oslo’s main street. One torch is not lit. A very important torch.

After the long flight from Athens to Oslo, the Olympic Flame was taken by train to City Center. There was a fantastic reception waiting.

“Hundreds of youngsters were waiting. A river of torches all up and down Karl Johan, from the National Theatre to Parliament. A cold, clear winter night – beautiful, it was,” says CEO Tomas Holmestad.

Several athletes were to carry the torch up Karl Johan. Everything was set for a memorable night. Memorable, indeed.

What should never happen happened. Suddenly the Olympic Flame went out.

“The flame suddenly burned brightly, then became very small. Then it died. If I would have had a shovel, I would have dug a hole for myself right there,” recalls Project Manager Jens August Dalsegg, responsible for the Olympic Torch and its wellbeing.

But Vegard Ulvang had seen Olympic Flames before. He knew everything was fine. “We have two lanterns here. No worries. The original Olympic Flame is safe,” Ulvang told the crowd.

Vidar Elteret, who had saved the day in Athens (see ‘The Lantern is Gone’) exclaimed, “Do you have a match? Excellent, light the torch once more from the original Olympic Flame.” But there was still burning, bright as the Athens sun. The torch lit, the procession continued.

Outside Parliament, many guests waited, including Parliament President Olemic Thommesen and NIF/NOC president Tom Tvedt. After a formal welcome, the Olympic Torch was safely taken into Parliament.

The torch burned there until the Sports Gala in Lillehammer in January, symbolizing a united Parliament and nation, protecting the Olympic Flame.

There is no doubt about who is the big star in Athens!

“Coffee, tea, Olympic Torch, anyone?”

The SAS pilots receive a somewhat untraditional visit to the cockpit.

The youngsters take good care of the lanterns.
THE SPORTS GALA THAT FIRED UP A NATION

It is Saturday, January 9, 2016, the day Lillehammer 2016 volunteers meet an entire nation. Anne Rimmen is on direct national NRK television from Håkons Hall. “In just one month, the Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer…” The rock-solid TV host is broken off in mid-sentence, casting a glance at the 1,400 volunteers in the audience who have erupted into massive applause.

“I jumped in the Control Room. ‘What is happening now?’ I thought to myself. It was truly a ‘TV moment’, a real and spontaneous enthusiasm that could not be silenced,” says Christian Finnkog, the NRK project manager for the 2016 Sports Gala.

As a result of the Youth Olympic Games in February, the Sports Gala is being held in Lillehammer, an important test event for the organization. Over 4,000 people in the Håkons Hall audience and 1.1 million TV viewers feel the Olympic spirit. Everyone is just having a great time. Except for a few in the organization committee.

In Håkons Hall, Karl-Høy Singidalhøi is sitting and squirming in his chair. As a communication advisor, he has responsibility for PR about the Torch Relay. Crown Prince Haakon is prepared to give the award to one of the five finalists for the most important prize of the evening – the Norwegian Change-maker of the Year.

As the year of youth and sport in Norway, the award goes to someone under 26 years of age who has made a big difference in their local sports club.
Five finalists had been chosen from the winners in each of the country’s 19 counties—the ultimate winner to be celebrated as part of the Torch Relay to begin right after the Sports Gala. The Crown Prince will have the Olympic Torch with him on stage—lit and flaring. Earlier, when the Olympic Torch had come to Norway, the flame was out on Oslo’s main street of Karl Johan after just a few steps. Now Singsdal is afraid the same might happen on live TV, in front of an entire nation.

“The organizing committee played a central role in the Sports Gala, and it really was a great show. Looking back, I did not manage to enjoy it. All I could think was, ‘Will the Olympic Torch stay lit? Will it go out when Crown Prince Haakon is holding it?’” recalls Singsdal.

From his position, Singsdal can see back stage as colleagues Jens August Dalsegg and Helge Bro Matland light the torch from the lantern that had been transported from Greece—a flame that never goes out. He knows that when the torch is lit from the flame, it has a burn time of just about ten minutes. Ten minutes from now. The Crown Prince comes on stage with the torch in hand, walking over to the microphone. He tells the audience that he lit the Olympic Cauldron in 1994, and soon his daughter, Princess Ingrid Alexandra, will continue the Royal Family tradition. Singsdal knows the “ten-minute clock” is ticking as the Crown Prince calls out the winner. It is 19-year-old Sajandan Rutthira from Furuset in Oslo. The crowd cheers mightily. Sajandan comes up on stage. He has not prepared any acceptance speech. In the Control Room, Singsdal knows that this is a critical point in the show. If Sajandan makes a long acceptance speech, then the torch that is now onstage will run out of time and go out. On national TV. The Sports Enthusiast of the Year, Sajandan, approaches the microphone and begins to speak. He is proud of his award. His acceptance speech is short, and his words of conclusion find a place in all sports enthusiasts nationwide.

“Sport has given me much more than I have given sport,” says Sajandan. The whole nation watches as the crowd in Håkons Hall bursts into applause—which in itself could have put out the flame. Still, the flame survives. The clock is ticking down as Singsdal follows from the Control Room, his eyes riveted on the Olympic Torch. “All I could think of was, ‘Please, please get off the stage! Now!’ His prayers were answered as the Olympic Torch burned mightily—though just for one brief moment in the shadow of the year’s Changemaker Sajandan Rutthira.

With help from Mo & Sirius, Teater Innland rocked the Sports Gala with the first music for the soundtrack of Lillehammer 2016.

While Lillehammer 1994 had the “Olympic-flam” dance, Lillehammer 2016 created music and dance for a new generation. “We wanted to create a dance number for the Games—and to do what we needed an original song,” explains Teater Innland director Janne Langaas.

That was the backdrop for the most colorful and energetic entertainment number of the 2016 Sports Gala. Peter Baden and Sigve Bull shared composition and writing credits for the official song, “Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow.” The number was performed live for the first time by the duo Mo & Sirius.

The slogan “Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow.” had a strong effect on young local Hamar music talent Mo, who was proud of his contribution.

“Life is a test. How you handle tough times shows who you are. Keep looking towards tomorrow,” says the 23-year-old, who escaped the war in Somalia when he was 7 years old, later surviving the 2011 Utøya massacre in Norway.
The volunteers receive a Youth Olympic Games introduction.

The volunteers gather for the largest event before the Games. Accreditation and a smile both are required!

The Olympic guide to Lillehammer 2016 is popular reading.

Mo & Sirius test out our official song at the outdoor stage by Kristins Hall.
In the biting Finnmark cold of Northern Norway, northern lights dancing in the night sky, Trygve Kjærland Olsen (20) opened the festivities in Alta.

From Spiderman to Changemaker
Trygve has long been a huge fan of superheroes, especially fascinated by the acrobatic movements of Spiderman. He began with gymnastics, and although his interest in Spiderman has lessened, his interest in gymnastics has skyrocketed. At 14, he became a trainee in his local club and now he trains a number of groups. They are all popular and overbooked, and in addition, he is a competitive judge, on the Finnmark County gymnastics board, and on the Alta Sports Commission.

“I enjoy everything, from planning to staging, but most important is that the kids have fun,” says our 19-year-old enthusiast.

Northern Lights
Naturally, the Olympic Torch Relay in Alta began with dogsledding, and Trygve was on stage to light the Olympic Torch. The Northern Lights danced over Alta as if on cue.

“With all this as a backdrop, it was a fantastic feeling. It was especially nice to see so many from my club attending – and this inspires me to even more,” our young man from Alta concludes.

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TRYGVE KJÆRLAND OLSEN
FINNMARK CHANGEMAKER

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After Sebastian put his soccer shoes up on the shelf, he continued with swimming in Kvaløya Sports Club because he loved it so much. Our positive Troms Changemaker easily keeps his head above water.

Everyone should have an opportunity Sebastian knows exactly what he is devoted to sports. "The most important of all is that everyone should have the same opportunity to participate, choosing the sport they love most."

"You just get so much in return." In addition to his school responsibilities, he is the swim trainer for children and immigrants as well as having a number of other responsibilities within sports in Tromsø. In a Tromsø high school sports hall filled to capacity, Sebastian’s feelings as he lit the Olympic Torch will stay with him all his life.

Ask the Youth "It was absolutely the coolest moment I can remember," Once the ceremony was completed, Sebastian came with a message to sports clubs that are losing young members, "There may be many ways that youth can contribute as part of a club without actually competing. Ask us, and we are willing," our 18-year-old Changemaker challenges.
The Olympic torch receives a good night’s rest with our valued partner Scandic, then a great day’s start with a creative breakfast buffet and an Olympic-style watermelon.

A super satisfied Sebastian Henniensen lights the torch in front of his Tromsø High School friends and classmates.

The enchanting northern lights dance over Alta for the Olympic Torch.

The Olympic torch winds its way through the Lyngen Alps, they saw us rollin’.

Two dashing Volvo XC90s escort the Olympic torch around Norway, here on the way to Tromsø.
Combining different roles as mother of two, student and kindergarten assistant is enough to be called Changemaker, but Malin still manages to find time for another great passion - Melbø Gymnastics.

Together we are the key.

“This is my second home,” Malin says about her gymnastics club where she has been a member for as long as she can remember. She followed her mother’s footsteps, also a gymnastics trainer. For her, the most important things are working together and a positive club environment.

“A club is a gathering point beyond sport, this is the most important factor to get youth to thrive.”

Burning Experience

Though lighting of the Olympic Torch took place in Bodø, relatively far from her town of Melbø, thousands came to celebrate her as Changemaker.

“I remember vividly that immediately after I lit the Olympic Torch, I came off-stage and looked back to see the flame burning brightly. It was then that I first realized just what I experienced a moment will stay with me for the rest of my life,” smiles Malin.
Another Olympic Torch participant in Bodø was Runa Mølla Tangstand (18) who accompanied the Olympic Flame from Athens in December 2015. “I feel so lucky. It is special to help bring the Olympic Flame to Norway – and to be able to show it off in each county,” Tangstad explains.

Sjogg and his crew as the torch floats towards Bodø in a Norwegian rib boat.

The old-style 1994 Olympic jacket on a volunteer at the torch ceremony in Bodø, where he meets an enthusiastic group of torchbearers sporting the ‘new’ volunteer uniforms.

1,300 spectators at Mørkvedlia experience a ‘kiss of flames’ between torches, with Inger Johanne Warholm and ‘Malin the Changemaker’.
Inderøy’s Annual Meeting turned this 24-year olds’ life upside down. Adrian came to hear if the artificial grass on the football pitch was going to be replaced, he ended up the leader of the club’s football group.

A “foot” in all activities
There is more. Adrian renovated the clubhouse and became the playing trainer for the A-team. He has a “foot” in everything that has to do with his club’s football activities.

“It is just fun to help out, especially when I see the results from what I do,” explains Adrian, who thinks ‘talent’ is overrated.

“You can get really good at anything you want to achieve. Everyone should have a chance to impress what your level of talent might be.”

Talented torchbearer
Adrian also showed talent as a torchbearer at a ceremony held at Steinkjer High School and is satisfied with the result.

“Was an excellent ceremony! The weather forecasted rain, but overnight we received 40 centimeters of new snow, a great backdrop for the ceremony. These memories are going to stay with me a long time,” says North Trøndelag’s Changemaker.
At junior college, Magnus began to be interested in Volleyball and by time he began school at the Norwegian School of Science and Technology (NTNU), it was all about “the ball”.

Creating enjoyment
As a leader, trainer, player, and representative in NTNUI Volleyball, Magnus covers most of the roles that are possible to have in a club. “I want to help as many as possible who want to play volleyball,” explains Magnus and tells warmly of the environment at NTNUI, which is Norway’s largest sports club. “They have really found the key to how to keep youth interested in sport.”

“We look for those who have dropped out of sport and give them the opportunity, whether they want to train five times a week, or just for fun. Then people enjoy themselves!”

Olympic flashback
There was a high enjoyment factor during the Olympic Torch ceremony in Trondheim and when Magnus went up on stage, he knew he was part of something big. “The atmosphere with snow, the night, and the flame that lit up the darkness, I will never forget that.”

Facts
- Born June 13, 1990
- Club NTNUI
- Roles: Trainer, representative, responsible for elite sport, regional board vice-chairman, alternate member federation board.
It is a long road from Bodø to Trondheim, and it is good when Sjogg & Co. take a well-deserved break in Namsskogan. Sjogg takes very seriously an update about small game hunting in the municipality.

Steinkjer

GEARED-UP KIDS
Stenknær youngsters stretch out their hands to get a hold of Youth Olympic items raining down from the stage.

Strinda High School

BLOWING SNOW
Students from Strinda High School huddle together in a blizzard at dusk.

Malvik

FIRED-UP MAYOR
The Olympic torch sweeps through Malvik outside of Trondheim on a visit with one of Norway’s youngest mayors. A certain Bobcat also sneaks into the photo!

Trondheim Spektrum

CHILLIN’ WITH SNOW AND FIRE
The Olympic flame illuminates Magnus Rodahl and the falling snow.

Namsoskog

EVEN BOBCATS NEED COFFEE
It is a long road from Bodø to Trondheim, and it is good when Sjogg & Co. take a well-deserved break in Namsskogan. Sjogg takes very seriously an update about small game hunting in the municipality.

TRØNDELAG

namsskogan
even Bobcats need coffee
TRØNDELAG

highlights
highlights

steinkjer
gearied-up kids

malvik

fired-up mayor

Trondheim Spektrum

chillin’ with snow and fire

strinda high school

students from strinda high school huddle together in a blizzard at dusk.

trondheim spektrum

chillin’ with snow and fire

strinda high school

blowing snow

strinda high school

Torch Kjetil

The Olympic Torch and Kjetil Andre Aamodt get to know each other well. The alpine hero is responsible for a variety of activities arranged during the tour.
Magomed and his Olympic Torch had a rough time in the heavy snow that people from Molde have seldom experienced. As a result, the torch ceremony in the Tusten Alpine Center was delayed.

This didn’t bother Magomed in the least. “I love the snow. While we were waiting I met a lot of the other torch-bearers, which was great.

105% Construction Engineer

Magomed has trained with Martial Arts since fourth grade, and he’s the 22-year uses three hours a day to train with different age groups in the club. During the day, he is studying to be a Construction Engineer, which seems appropriate for this young man.

“I think it is quite exciting to build up athletes and develop them further and to see the result of the job that is done. It provides motivation,” says Magomed before adding, “The key to development and to enjoy yourself is to understand the processes the young athlete goes through when growing up. It is so important with a good dialogue between trainer and athlete.”
Lorentz Fannemel
Inspired by cousin Anders Fannemel’s world record of 251.5 meters, Lorentz does what he can to increase ski jump recruiting in Sogn & Fjordane. This is no easy matter.

Heavy winds and weather
In a county where the distances are far between house and ski jump, Lorentz faces challenges with recruiting young people, and would like to explore closer cooperation with other types of sport.

“My own experience shows me that cooperation between different types of sport is important, creating fun basis activities from a young age, so youth can choose their sport when they are ready to do so.”

Stryn scores ‘20 in style’
During the Olympic Torch Relay, the wind was with Lorentz in many ways. Over 1,300 people had turned out in the little village of Stryn, which had a profound effect on Lorentz, but it was the ski jumping that day that he remembered best.

“We had expected 4 or 5 who would want to jump, but so many showed up. They didn’t want to stop either, fantastic that so many were interested,” says Lorentz.

Facts
- Born: January 6, 1994
- Club: Hornindal Sports Club
- Roles: Trainer

The event
- Place: Stryn High School
- Attendance: 1,300
- Performers: Young local artists
STRYN

SHOWING OFF THE TOWN

The two young leaders, Miriam Flo (18) and Elisabeth Vindfjell (18) proudly show off Stryn and the fantastic nature in Sogn & Fjordane.

STRYN

UKM DRUMMER

Together with traditional Norwegian folk dance, a UKM drum show entertains during the torch ceremony in Stryn.

TOSTEN SKI CENTER

#SNOW

Up, down and sideways, it is snowing every which way in Molde on January 20. Despite weather delays, everyone is more than happy with the Olympic Torch Ceremony.

MØRE OG ROMSDAL - SGN OG FJORDANE

The two young leaders, Miriam Flo (18) and Elisabeth Vindfjell (18) proudly show off Stryn and the fantastic nature in Sogn & Fjordane.

STRYN HIGH SCHOOL

THE JOY OF SPORT

There is no doubt what Stryn sports students think about Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Andreas Arnø’s training antics.
Unlike most of the other Changemakers, Sara has had a direct connection with the LYOGOC since autumn 2014 when she became part of the YOG Youth Leader Program. This made the Olympic Torch Ceremony even more profound.

By, for, and with youth
“My best memory from the Olympic Torch Ceremony was the feeling that right then I was the only one in the world who held the Olympic Torch. A surreal, and unbelievable feeling,” Sara says, who was also part of the planning group for the ceremony.

“The ceremony was created by, for, and with youth. That made it extra special and memorable. It was youth in focus the whole time, in every part.”

Youth best inspired by other youth
Sara’s passion is sport and youth and wants to create the same love for sport, and mastering that sport, that she has experienced. She knows what it takes to keep youth involved in sport.

“Youth is best inspired by other youth. We need more young people in key roles in sports clubs. They know best what youth wants!”

Facts

Born
May 24, 1997

Club
Kalandseid Sports Club

Roles
Trainer, activity leader, and board youth representative

The event

PLACE
Prestgardslandet

ATTENDANCE
1,200

PERFORMERS
Kløver & Skarre Røvoss

257 km
After injuries caused Joakim’s elite career with BMX to end, he decided to use his time and expertise to help other riders. This decision has borne fruit, he is the reason that the wheels go around in his club.

Get youth on wheels
This happy young man from Rogaland does not regret that he had to ‘park’ his BMX cycle. He takes great pleasure when others succeed.

“To see others succeed in BMX gives me the same feeling as succeeding myself,” Joakim says.

When questioned how he manages to get youth involved, the answer is simple. “We have to adapt to how much anyone wants to get involved, and how skilled they are. Some want to be the best, while others just do it for kicks. We don’t treat anyone differently.”

Good start for the year
With 1,500 people present for the Olympic Torch Ceremony in Stavanger’s Viking Hall, Joakim had to admit that his heart was beating faster than usual.

“It isn’t easy to put words on the feeling when you stand there with the Olympic Torch in your own country, with so many people there. When I think back on the Changemaker prize, the Youth Olympics, and everything, I just have to smile.”

JOAKIM HAARR
ROGALAND CHANGEMAKER

Facts
Born August 17, 1991
Club Sandnes BMX Club
Roles Trainer, regional trainer, foreman

January 26, 2016
Rogaland

The event
Place Vikinghallen
Attendance 1,500
Performers Rock Off

Stavanger
281 km

PLACE Vikinghallen
ATTENDANCE 1,500
PERFORMERS Rock Off
Hordaland and Rogaland
Highlights

Vossevangen
Good Vibrations

Despite a little gray weather, nothing puts a damper on the atmosphere here. After games and competitions in the snow, the day concludes with dance and a show from torchbearers on stage.

Dale Factory
Wool is Gold

Naturally, the Olympic Torch stops by the well-known Dale Factory, producing Norwegian Olympic sweaters since 1956.

Stavanger
Heia Heia!

Children from several kindergartens show up at the Viking Hall to cheer on the flame where they meet their favorite Bobcat, Sjogg.

Stavanger
Dance and drama students from Vågen High School deliver an opening performance of Olympian nature.

Viking Hall
Stylish Dance

Dance and drama students from Vågen High School deliver an opening performance of Olympian nature.

Stavanger
Touch on Wheels

Alpine skier Jesper Saltvik Pedersen from Plogen Ski Club has with him a specially made torch holder, wheelchair-style.

Voss Village
Good Vibrations

Despite a little gray weather, nothing puts a damper on the atmosphere here. After games and competitions in the snow, the day concludes with dance and a show from torchbearers on stage.

The Minister Rollin’ On:
The torch rides with Minister of Transport and Communication Ketil Solvik Olsen on the award-winning National Tourist Routes at Jæren, also meeting one of Brings’ young apprentice drivers working with tour logistics.
With a great passion for sport, Endre Birkerem Fintland has created himself a name within Handball in Vest-Agder. Experience gained from Lillehammer 2016 has given him even greater ambitions.

Lillehammer 2016 as springboard
As with all the other Changemakers, Endre was in Lillehammer during the first days of the Games. "It was really inspiring to experience Lillehammer up close," the young man from Norway’s south tells us. "To be able to develop athletes to be part of something like this is amazing. My motivation is great!"

Erland has lifted his senior team from the fourth to the second division in three seasons and has great ambitions as a handball coach. He also focuses on the grassroots.

"The common denominator is to enjoy sport, not your level of play." Focus on enjoyment was easy on a sunny day in Kristiansand that Erland was honored as county Changemaker. "I remember well when I took the Olympic Torch on the final exchange before I went up on stage, an amazing feeling in my hometown," concludes the 23-year old.

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**Facts**

**Born**

May 29, 1992

**Club**

Våg Sports Club

**Roles**

Trainer, regional national team trainer, sports committee representative

**The event**

**Place**

Gimlehallen

**Attendance**

470

**Performers**

Sara & Arash

**Kristsiansand**

232 km
The town that has produced sports stars like Thor Hushovd and Dag Otto Lauritzen has now a new role model who you will not find on a bicycle seat but in the gymnastics hall.

Driven by perfection
As gymnastics trainer, Stian wants to create as many positive experiences for children and youth in Express Sports Club gymnastics.

“To see the feeling that youth get when they master something either small or large, this is what drives me,” Stian says.

“Gymnastics helps develop coordination, movement, and suppleness that helps in other parts of life, now and in the future. This is a good basis, no matter what sport.”

Inspired by other Changemakers
In light of Stian’s meeting with other Changemakers and his experiences with Lillehammer 2016, there leaves no room for doubt regarding his future as gymnastics trainer.

“To meet so many fine people gives an ‘inspiration boost’ to continue in sport and get even more involved,” Stian says, who appreciated the attention received during the ceremony in Arendal.

“It was nice to be recognized the contributions I have made to create something positive, and be a role model for others.”
VEST-AGDER AND AUST-AGDER

ARENDAL

CITY CELEBRATIONS
There are two torch ceremonies in Arendal on January 29th. The first is organized at Sam Eyde High School, followed by an evening city party in downtown Arendal.

HIGHLIGHTS

KRISTIANSAND

TOUCH STARS
Normally it is Julius and Captain Sabertooth running the show in Kristiansand, but January 28th sees the torchbearers as stars in this southern city.

KARSTIANSAND ZOO

FAMILY REUNION
Sjogg takes the time to meet his relatives and meet a variety of other two- and four-legged friends after the torch ceremony.

KRISTIANSAND

SUNSHINE CELEBRATION
Hundreds meet at Gimlebanen to enjoy a perfect sun-filled torch celebration.
When Kine left her town of Skien in heavy rain at daybreak, she was afraid that the rain would ruin the plans for the Olympic Torch Ceremony in Morgedal. She need not have worried, everything was fine.

Anxious car trip
Kine, who was also part of the planning group for the ceremony, tells of an anxious group in the car on the way to the cradle of ski sport.

“We were worried that there would not be snow enough for all the plans that we had made. Luckily, big flakes of snow began shortly before we arrived. I knew then we would have a great day!”

Love of sport for all
Between sunshine and snow, everyone had an excellent day in Morgedal, where a new group of refugees also experienced Norway’s love of sport. Despite falls here and there, smiles were everywhere.

“Sport plays an important role for those that have a difficult life. For many people, and especially with youth it is important that have a ‘safe zone’ where they feel at home,” says our Telemark Changemaker.

KINE STYRVOLD
TELEMARK CHANGEMAKER

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A SNOWY ARIF
The popular rapper from Oslo was in fine form with his rhyme and rhythms as he entertains between the falling snowflakes in Morgedal.

A large group of refugees join the celebration and enjoy sledding and all types of skiing, getting to know the Norwegian joy of winter and sport at its best.

MORGEDAL

MONEY
Changemakers receive checks for 5,000 NOK from Norsk Tipping as part of the celebration. Kine Sjøvold gives her check to Skotfoss Gymnastics.

GREAT GRILLING WEATHER
The Norwegian Trekking Association can grill in any weather as the audience enjoys hot dogs and Norwegian ‘pinnebrød’.

JOY OF SPORT
A large group of refugees join the celebration and enjoy sledding and all types of skiing, getting to know the Norwegian joy of winter and sport at its best.

TELEMARK
At a point in time when other sports began boring him, and motivation was low, Fredrik’s aunt who came to the rescue. Good advice Fredrik’s aunt tipped him off to weightlifting activities in Sandefjord, and since then he has loved every minute there. This is not just a coincidence. “My club had several groups that followed up the different youth members, and not just in regards to sport, but also socially, with different theme evenings where we invite everyone,” Fredrik says.

Nerves on edge Before the Olympic Torch Ceremony at Norway’s largest high school, Sandefjord VGS, even Fredrik was not immune to the nervousness that crept in as he was preparing to go onstage in front of 2000 fellow students. “I was really nervous up on stage,” he admits, “but it went really well,” our Vestfold Changemaker concludes with a smile.

Fredrik Sørbo
VESTFOLD CHANGEMAKER

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FEBRUARY 1, 2016
VESTFOLD

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As a four-year-old, Kristoffer had his first equestrian encounter, and since then his interest has ‘galloped’ to new heights. Now he is helping others experience the same as he has.

Animals are social creatures

“It gives a feeling of satisfaction to be able to work with such a large animal, and it is enjoyable to work with others to achieve that feeling,” says Kristoffer. He says that the atmosphere in the stall means everything for the total experience.

“Our club members spend a lot of time together when we come to train. It is not just for an hour, but often half a day,” laughs the 19 year old.

Indescribable high points

With green grass in February, bright sunshine and tons of activities, it was a memorable day in Fredrikstad for all the students who attending the ceremony. Not in the least for Kristoffer.

“I have memories that will never be forgotten,” he tells us and says that the moment he came on stage with the Olympic Torch was the best. In addition, the Opening Ceremony at Lillehammer was magnificent.

“The fellowship and friendship created between the Changemakers was unique. I have a hard time describing it.”
Fredrikstad
'Planktown' celebration
Sun, warm weather, and a thousand students celebrate the torch’s coming to this traditional lumber export town. Grace Bullen, on the team that brought the Olympic Torch from Greece is here, challenging Olympic-hero Kjetil Andre Aamodt in sumo wrestling!

Sandefjord
'Precious Medal Jumpstart'
Vebjørn Heggedal would later win several medals during the Games. Do his torchbearing duties here in Sandefjord two weeks before have anything to do with his success?

Sandefjord
'Se Ilden Lyse'
Sissel Kyrkebø’s well-loved song ‘Se Ilden Lyse’ performed in the best Olympic spirit by music students from Sandefjord High School.

Sandefjord
Still Going Strong
The theater group Stella Polaris entertained at the 1994 Olympics, and now they are stealing the show at the Olympic Torch Ceremony in Sandefjord.

Sandefjord
'Just Dance'
Coca-Cola has helped make the Youth Olympic Torch Tour enjoyable for all, engaging everyone with their ‘Just Dance’ show.

Sandefjord
'Old Town Torch'
Kristoffer Tuute shines like the sun in Fredrikstad’s Old Town as he is celebrated as the Changemaker of Østfold County.

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The last leg of the Olympic Torch Relay was over the bridge that crosses the Drammen River and with torch in hand Daniel led 1,200 people into the town.

Amazed

“It was all I could do to concentrate on what I was doing when carrying the torch and see how many were following me. When I looked over my shoulder for the first time, I was amazed,” Øivind tells his story about how hard it was to take in everything that happened to him that evening.

Afterward, one can only say that it was a small historic moment, and a big moment in my life with cool memories to look back upon.”

Many balls in the air

In addition to the volunteer activities that Øivind has in the Kongsberg Miners, he also does important work for the elite team. In other words, he has a lot going on, but not too much for him.

“Basketball is my passion. It has meant the world to me for many years. Of course, I want to give something back! I just couldn’t imagine a life without basketball,” Øivind points out.

BUSKERUD

105 km

PERFORMERS
Ida & Andrea

THE EVENT

LOCATION
Marienlyst
Town Square

ATTENDANCE
1,200

FEBRUARY 5, 2016

BUSKERUD CHANGEMAKER

ØIVIND LUNDESTAD

FACTS

Born
April 30, 1991

CLUB
Kongsberg Miners
(Basketball)

ROLES
Trainer, activity leader, member of the marketing committee

IDRASTUM

105 km

PERFORMERS
Ida & Andrea

LOCATION
Marienlyst
Town Square

ATTENDANCE
1,200
As a “go-to resource” in Bærums Verk Hauger, Martin Gøranson has a number of strong points – but saying ‘no’ is not one of them.

**Fun has positive consequences**

Martin believes people should make a fair contribution to their own sport.

“Indoor bandy is the world’s best and most enjoyable sport, and it is great to be a part of it, as it grows,” Martin says, “People just enjoy it. Growth will come as a result of that!”

**Uforgløymeleg kyss**

When Martin thinks back about the Olympic Torch Ceremony on a snowy day in Jessheim, there is a special kiss he remembers the best, between the two torches at the final exchange.

“When the flame was passed to me, my torch ‘kissed’ the other. I will always remember that moment, and when I run through a ‘tunnel’ of people on the way up to the stage,” the 22-year old tells us, before some final words about Lillehammer 2016.

“It was an unforgettable opportunity to meet the other Changemakers in Lillehammer, it is great to see that so many people are doing such good work.”

**February 5, 2016**

**AKERSHUS**

**Facts**

**Born**

July 10, 1993

**Club**

Bærums Verk Hauger Sports Club

**Roles**

Trainer for three teams, board representative, event organizer, assistant in motorized bandy
When Sajandan Rutthira from Furuset was awarded the honor of Norwegian Changemaker at the Sports Gala in Lillehammer in January 2016, he had no idea what to expect.

The 19-year old admits that it has been an amazing journey, but he knows exactly where he likes it the best.

‘Away’ is good, ‘Home’ is best

“What I like the best is when I can be ‘home’ together with the six-year-olds at an activity school or the girls team where I am trainer.” The list of Sajandan’s different volunteer activities is just too long to list in detail!

“What means the most to me is that children and youth in my part of the city have a place where they feel included and experience the feeling of mastering their sport together. It should be a social meeting place – sometimes winning doesn’t matter,” says our Norwegian Changemaker of the year.

Football girls ‘stole the show’

It is not every day that one can carry the Olympic Torch in a hometown. Sajandan remembers that he was given the torch in the fog at Sognsvann, an Oslo lake, but he also remembers another high point that occurred after the Official Program was completed.

“It was when the girls from my football team jumped up on stage and began with dancing and having fun after the show was over. It was a joy to see them having so much fun!”
oslo

Holmenkollen fog lights up

Despite the famous ‘Holmenkollen fog’ rolling up the mountain, the Olympic Torch shines in this famous venue as the relay then continues by dog sled to the Sognsvann lake where the torch ceremony takes place.

Jessheim

Bobcat snowstorm

Our favorite bobcat ‘Sjogg’, which means ‘snow’ in Norwegian dialect, meets a ‘sjogg-storm’ during the Olympic Torch ceremony in Jessheim.

Jessheim

Success with Sulele

‘Tell me what you want’ is just one of the hits played by Morgen Sulele as he creates organized chaos, especially among the female fans in the audience.

Drammen

Proud handball hero

Glenn Solberg, earlier a handball professional and now the assistant trainer on the national team, is visibly proud to bear the torch in his hometown.

Drammen

Happily stunned

Øivind Lundestad was pleasantly shocked as he sees a massive crowd following as the Torch Relay comes over Drammen Bridge.

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The Palace Square

Two princes

The ‘Prince of Volunteers’, Sajandan Rutthira together with Prince Sverre Magnus in the Palace Square during the 25th Royal Jubilee for Norway’s King and Queen.

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Buskerud, Akershus and Oslo

Highlights

Proud handball hero

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Even has always been fascinated by different types of motor vehicles. When the promising ski jumper put his competitive skis on the shelf, Søre Ål was left with one less promising talent – but a completely developed Changemaker.

Scary ski jumps
As a 14-year old Even began to see ski jumps as too big and scary. It was not much fun anymore. The real fun became to drive snow preparation vehicles, and now he is an indispensable resource who prepares ski jumps and ski areas for many children and youth in Lidkommune.

“I really like to contribute to making it fun for the kids,” the 22-year old tells us, who is also excellent at preparing sledding and recreation snow areas.

“Different snow activities are fun, and it is important that have good venues and areas where kids can play. A little variation never hurt anybody!”

So many people
Even had the opportunity to light a flame in both Gjøvik and Otta, but there is no doubt about what he remembers best.

“There was also so many people who came to see, I couldn’t have imagined that many people,” Our Oppland Changemaker concludes.

Even Røysheim
Oppland Changemaker

Facts
Born March 27, 1994
Club Søre Ål Sports Club
Roles Chairman Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Hill and slope manager

February 8-9, 2016
Gjøvik
153 km
Otta
136 km

Attendance
2,500/850

Performers
Gjøvik High School
Mari Midtlid
Ottar

Up into the valley
It is February 9th and Ottar in Gudbrandsdalen is the host for the Olympic Torch, just as it was in 1994. A fine ceremony in North Gudbrandsdal High School is followed by a wide range of entertainment, from funnyman Jan Åge Fjørstoft to Norwegian folk music from UKM.

Gjøvik

Ice sculptures
As part of the Olympic Torch Ceremony, beautiful ice sculptures have been created by Gjøvik high school students outside the Cavern Hall.

Gjøvik

A sea of people
With fog and chilly weather, who could have imagined such a sea of Olympic enthusiasts – 2,500 – at the Gjøvik Olympic Cavern Hall just five days before the Games.

Ottar

Youngsters of all ages
Kindergarten, grade school, and junior high children all meet together with high school students from Ottar, and a great day is had by all!
When Anniken set out on the last leg of the Olympic Torch Relay in Hamar, she looked into the eyes of a mother of an Argentinian figure skater that she recognized. It brought tears to her eyes.

“Eyes that sparkle
I saw the excitement and happiness in her eyes, to be a part of the Youth Olympic Games. It was then I realized that carrying the Olympic Torch is really part of something that is far bigger than myself, it brings the whole world together,” Anniken says, and goes on to tell us that she was a volunteer in the Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre where she came in contact with many athletes and their families. The number of people in Hamar was overwhelming for the 19-year old.

“That so many people came was amazing. It was far beyond what anyone expected. What fun it was!” says the Changemaker.

From talent to Changemaker
At an early age, Anniken showed a real talent for figure skating, but as she grew older spent less time training. Then they asked her if she wanted to contribute in other ways.

“The sport and the club have meant so much to me as I grew up, it was a pleasure to be able to give something back.”

Based on her own experience, Anniken thinks it is important to give youth possibilities within sport.

“We have to create more possibilities in clubs beyond only training and competing in the sport itself.”

ANNIKEN STEEN
HEDMARK CHANGEMAKER

Facts
Born
September 24, 1996
Club
Hamar Figure Skating Club
Roles
Trainer, choreographer, board representative

The Event
Location
Trysil February 10
Hamar February 11
Attendance
750/3,500
Performers
Young local artists

February 10-11, 2016
Hedmark
145
anniken steen
hedmark changeraker

Hedmark
ENDING WITH A BANG
7,000 Hamar eyes are upon Anni-Ken Steen Thursday as she runs the last leg of the Torch Relay. Hamar is the last stop before Opening Ceremony. Fireworks light up the night to celebrate, with all on hand downtown to mark a conclusion – and a beginning.

HEDMARK

HIGHLIGHSTS

Hamar

MINISTER VISIT

Minister of Culture Linda Cathrine Hofstad Helleland is on hand again in Hamar as she is impressed by the rich culture available to youngsters in this town.

TRYSIL

OLYMPIC HEROES FOLLOWING THE TORCH

Olympic heroes Gjermund Eggen and Anita Moen follow a young Olympic torchbearer in their two-horse carriage through downtown Trysil.

TRYSIL

‘DANCE TOWN’

It is quite possible that this ski town is going to have to change its name after UKM dancers showed their talents in an epic version of ‘Go beyond. Create tomorrow’.

Hamar

MORE THAN JUST SAWDUST

Buzzing chainsaws and flying wood chips and a competition carving out #Lillehammer2016 on logs impress enthusiastic spectators in Hamar.

Hamar

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PART 3
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
The word comes down from Lars Egge Johnsen. The ice and snow architect is in water up to his knees in Søndre Park – now called Sjogg Park. This winter park looks more like spring thaw, with the February temperature far above freezing point. “The house is on fire” is an expression that the organization committee uses when activity level is high. The activity level is, in fact, high, but the house is not on fire for Lars Egge Johnsen and his crew. Water, water everywhere, as if a dam had broken in Sjogg Park.

“I never thought that warm weather would be a problem for Lillehammer in February, but it was even above freezing in the middle of the night,” says Lars, looking back on the rescue of the ice that began six days before the Opening Ceremony, when the wind and rain came in torrents. “There was no use in crying; there was already way too much water!”

Sjogg Park had been well planned to include a 30-meter-long ice slide, an igloo disco, a movie stage, and spectator stands for 400 people. There are also ski and sledding runs and, of course, ice sculptures. Everything should be snow and ice – but now it is turning into mud and water.

On Wednesday morning, Lars goes into the igloo disco. He is on the telephone with his father when he takes another step into the ice construction. The usually talkative architect is speechless – 30 centimeters of water and mud are bubbling up the wall – all the water in the park is channeling into the igloo! The volunteers show up, promised a job working with snow, but they now have to bail out the place with buckets. “I worked like crazy emptying water from the igloo. Our sense of humour was the only thing that did not float away. I joked with everyone, saying that to understand snow and ice you must first understand how water works,” says Lars Egge Johnsen, laughing.

In Sjogg Park, he checks the weather on the internet every half hour and sees that the temperature will soon drop. Soon colder, the snow and ice park become a mix of golden brown after the mud flow. The rescue operation is only halfway complete. “The solution was to bring in 40 truckloads of snow and spread it through the park,” he recalls. “Soon the whole park was a beautiful white again, and when we opened the day after the Opening Ceremony, no one could see the Sjogg Park drama that we had survived.”

The park is the center of attention during the Games, with people visiting day and evening. The sleepless snow architect is pleased. “Just imagine if we had spring weather during the Games. It could have been a catastrophe,” concludes the man who has not checked the weather forecast since February.
In 2015, the IOC invited young designers from all over the world to compete in creating the A-side of the official Lillehammer 2016 Youth Olympic Games medal. In total, there were 300 entries from 65 nations vying for the historic honor of designing the medal. When the dust settled, the choice fell upon 20-year old Burzo Ciprian from Romania with his design called “To the Top”, showing the joy and energy of the Youth Olympic Games. Burzo credits his design to the Scandinavian mountains, its winter, and the ice, with the beauty of skating and skiing all being the inspiration for his entry. The Olympic medal has an A- and a B-side, with Ciprian creating the A-side while LYOGOC designer Hallgeir Bakken creating the B-side. Bakken, who is originally from Folldal, far up in the mountains north of Lillehammer, used the visual profile and logo created by students as the basis for his design, one ensuring an unforgettable and lasting youthful profile on the Lillehammer 2016 Olympic medals.

Lillehammer 2016’s victory podiums did not have to travel far. No stranger to the Olympics and Lillehammer, Moelven Limtre carved out a unique 3D mountain design, one for the ages. “Moelven Limtre and the Olympics in Lillehammer have a long history together. The laminated wood architecture in Hamar’s Viking Ship and Lillehammer’s Haakons Hall were instrumental in developing Moelven Limtre to the company it is today. This makes it even more exciting to be a part of Lillehammer 2016,” says CEO Åge Holmestad. This was no normal assignment for the regional company, but the Olympics never are. Lillehammer 2016 architect Lars Eigge Johnson wanted the podium to represent LYOGOC’s official design, the triangular mountain chain symbolizing solidarity and energy created as the world’s youth comes together for the Games. Moelven’s creative forces sprang into action. Mission accomplished in memorable style, the podiums were sent to the Olympic venues – receiving a new generation of Olympic heroes during Lillehammer 2016.
“I lost 10 kilos in just three weeks,” says Dag Erling Talaasen, laughing. The 23-year-old was responsible for bus transportation during Lillehammer 2016, with thousands of bus trips and a few Americans who had sticky meetings with a Norwegian west-country soft flatbread called a *lefse*.

“They didn’t know that lefse was supposed to be eaten; they thought they were small towels to be used to dry themselves,” says Dag Erling Talaasen with a sigh. “The bus cushions ended up covered in sugar, butter, and cinnamon. That bus looked terrible, the worst thing the bus driver had ever seen.”

Dag Erling joined the organizing committee right after his last exam at Lillehammer University College. Eight months later, the young man from Trysil was in top gear organizing bus arrivals and departures, a larger and more demanding operation than he could have believed.

“It was a day-and-night operation. I tried to get five hours a night, but it ended up being much less – 4 hours total during the last two days. My job was to get all guests, media, athletes, trainers, and leaders on the right bus at the right time. Since my name was on all contact lists, both I and my telephone were really in demand,” he recalls, chuckling.

Dag Erling used his waking hours well. Bus traffic ran like a Swiss clock throughout the entire 10 days, with extra buses ready to roll if needed. These buses stood unused, more than can be said for Dag, who during the two hectic weeks of coordinating 2,700 bus trips lost 10 kilos.

“I lived on bread and coffee, just no time for an appetite! If I had to do it all over again, I would be better at delegating,” reflects our man from Trysil, who now has gained his kilos back and is at “match weight” again.

“The last team that left the Athletes Village gave Dag Erling something to think about. “They did not want to go home,” he remembers. “Here were sport and fun, the perfect combination. Going back to normal life would be hard. It was then that I really saw how much the Games meant for so many. That moment I realized this is something I will never forget.”
Learn & Share filled 2,500 square meters with 33 educational activities during the Games. The 16,002 individual visits clearly showed the great enthusiasm for the initiative. The responsible person? A 27-year-old with a will strong enough to change the world.

To create a learning venue for youths, who knows better how to capture their attention than fellow young people? Naturally, it was a young team given responsibility to create the Learn & Share program, including Mari Owren (24), Tormod Tvare (28), Kaja Osnes Græsholt (31), and the leader for the entire program, Linda Jacobsen (27).

"Educational activities for the participants played an important part in Lillehammer 2016. Right from the very start, we made this a priority, with a crystal-clear goal - the participants would return home with something more important than a diploma or medal in their baggage," says Linda Jacobsen.

"It was a huge responsibility. Educational activities make the Youth Olympics different than normal Olympics, but we knew we needed to work hard to succeed," continues Jacobsen. "The IOC followed us up closely and had great expectations. At the same time, as the program was new, we had the possibility to influence the direction we would take. To make it work, we needed to create..."
great cooperation with our national and international partners – which we did. I never thought about the fact that we were young or that we had not done it before – this was a job where we would succeed! The result was impressive, with the 3,100 square meters in Håkon Hall and a large room in the Autumn Village in Hamar all filled by a total of 4,155 athletes from 71 different nations. The young athletes and their trainers thoroughly enjoyed Learn & Share. The 15,000 unique participants registered by Jacobsen and her team during the Games represented an average of 19 activities per athlete.

A new concept developed by Lillehammer 2016 was Education Day, where all competition and training ended at 2:00 p.m. on February 17. All athletes took part in educational activities the rest of the day, with more International Federations creating activities especially for their athletes. The result was impressive, with the 2,500 square meters in Håkon Hall and a large room in the Autumn Village in Hamar all filled by a total of 33 different activities, training sessions, and presentations.

The exhibition «Hello World» was a part of the educational program and was situated in the Stampesletta. It was a cooperation between the host municipalities and the majority of the participating nations. The exhibition gathered information about the different nations and was a part of an interactive exhibition where also the visitors could contribute with material during the games. «Hello World» highlighted the cross-cultural focus within the Youth Olympic Games concept.
The plan is to photograph local girl Trine (18) just as IOC President Bach is arriving in the background. The Meråker newspaper is ready, but it does not quite work out as planned.

Norwegian sports stars and media are falling all over themselves to get a chance to welcome the president as he arrives in Lillehammer. Volunteer Trine stands in the background, one of the many volunteers present, dressed in full uniform.

The local Meråker newspaper had wanted a simple article about the hometown girl who had volunteered for the most important Norwegian event in decades. What could be better than to have the IOC president in the photo, but not just a background photo? The setting is perfect. As the crowd flock, the photographer from the newspaper gently moves Trine in place right in front of the president’s nose.

The president looks at the volunteer who had appeared right in front of him. “Hi, my name is Thomas Bach; what is your name?”

Trine suddenly becomes of great importance to the media, as the short hello ends up being a long and pleasant conversation as Bach interviews Trine about being a volunteer. He truly wants to learn more about Trine and the volunteers.

“Young sports leaders such as Trine are going to make these Games a success,” says the IOC president as the cameras flash and the television films.

The welcome session begins winding down, as Bach makes his way towards the entrance of the Lillehammer Hotel. Then he turns back to Trine and asks, “Why don’t you join us for dinner this evening?” He sees that she is surprised, so he adds, “We will be finished early; you probably want to join your friends later in Lillehammer.”

Trine thinks for a short moment and answers the president politely, “Thank you but no thanks. I have got to go work with the rehearsal for the Opening Ceremony tonight, and I really would rather do that.”

Bach smiles and goes into the hotel. Now, Trine finds that she might be a bit late to work as suddenly the media is all around her, wondering why she had said no to a dinner with the IOC president.
Lillehammer is ready for a new Olympics. Even the cold weather is back.

**CALL CENTER OPENS**

Lillehammer 2016 has its own call center manned by volunteers, where accredited personnel receive help with translation. By calling different numbers, the athletes, trainers, and leaders can get interpretation in English, Russian, German, French, Korean, Mandarin, and Japanese.

**THE ART OF WAXING**

Educational activities for the athletes started, already before the Opening Ceremony. Extremely popular are excursions to Swix in Lillehammer, where the art of ski waxing is taught. Swix produces ski products such as wax and ski poles.

**OPENING OF THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM**

It is the day before the Opening Ceremony. This evening, Queen Sonja officially opens the new Olympic Museum at Maihaugen. Cheering Norwegians with cowbells and flags line Maihaugen’s entrance to wish prominent guests welcome, including IOC president Thomas Bach and Olympic champion Bjørn Dæhli. The Opening Show’s MC is Dan Børge Akerø.
13:10 • Lillehammer Hotell

**Met the King and Queen**

King Harald and Queen Sonja invites IOC members and other leaders to a reception at the Lillehammer Hotel.

Andrea Asland (27) and Gustav Eloir (17) are chosen to meet the Royal Couple. “They are so friendly, and so supportive of sports,” say Andrea and Gustav after their meeting.

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12:56 • Stampesletta

**Youth Hall Chaos**

The first sign that the public would truly embrace Lillehammer 2016 comes just a few hours before the Opening Ceremony. Outside the Youth Hall, a long queue formed for the first Ice Hockey match, and some spectators did not get into the hall to see the Norwegian loss to the Finnish ice warriors (11-0).

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13:24 • Kristins Hall

**Royal First Stone**

His Majesty Crown Prince Haakon officially opens the Curling competition. Backed by Olympic gold medalists Pål Trulsen and Thomas Ulsrud, with Minister of Culture Linda Hofstad Helleland as sweep-er and captain, the prince delivers a perfect stone.

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13:30 • Lillehammer Hotell

**The IOC President Meets Eager Youth**

IOC president Thomas Bach gathers youngsters from several nations to a Round Table discussion, with participants chosen because of their active enthusiasm and contribution back home – in line with the Lillehammer 2016 slogan. Among those participating are this year’s Norwegian Changemaker Sajandan Rutthira and Lillehammer 2016 project controller Jørn Valgermo who says, “This has been a memorable meeting I will remember for a long time.”

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19:00 • Lygyårdstrakkene

**Game On!**

15,000 spectators begin to fill up the public stands at the sold-out Opening Ceremony.
V-boards are the plastic markers that line the trails in cross-country and biathlon competitions. An Olympic organizer needs many of these; in the case of Lillehammer 2016, we needed 1,600 of these V-boards.

The organizing committee searched the world over for inexpensive and practical V-boards and ended up buying from a Canadian supplier. The shipping took a long time—but everyone was happy when the V-boards finally arrived just days before Lillehammer 2016 began.

That happiness turned to anguish when the boxes were unpacked and it was found that the logo of the supplier was on each of the 1,600 V-boards. We learned that the supplier had sent the Lillehammer 2016 V-boards to Canmore, Alberta, Canada, while Lillehammer 2016 had received the Canadian shipment of blank V-boards. Naturally, this is not in line with IOC regulations, so we had to fix the situation.

One thing was perfectly clear: To stage Olympic events at Birkebeineren Cross-Country Stadium, the logos would have to go away. Disappear they did as volunteers worked through the night to scrub away the logos, just in time for the events to begin at 9:30 a.m. the next day.
Tyrili Climbing Center opens as a Sjoggfest venue with the Oslo band Tuba Tuba performing.

Saturday February 13

**THOUSANDS OF HOCKEY FANS**

4,300 spectators come to Kristins Hall and the Youth Hall to watch the Saturday matches. The Ice Hockey competition gets down to business and the play is excellent with several important boys' matches, including Canada – Russia (3-4) and Finland – USA (1-4).

**KIM INSPIRES THE ATHLETES**

Yuma Kim won the Olympic Figure Skating gold in 2010, silver in 2014 and was a YOG Ambassador for the YOG in both 2012 and 2014. Today, she visits with athletes at Learn & Share. “In a Youth Olympics, you either fail or do better than you expected. It is not so important. What is important is the experience,” Kim says.

**SWEDISH SUCCES**

The events at Birkebeineren Cross Country Stadium begin with the innovative Cross-Country Cross event, with 3,000 enthusiastic spectators cheering. The Swedish girls are well prepared and Moa Lundgren wins gold ahead of her good friend Johanna Hagström. “A great event, different than we are used to,” Lundgren comments. Hagström is ecstatic, “To win silver here and to stand on the podium with my best friend is fantastic,” she says happily. On the boys’ side, Magnus Kim from South Korea dominates.
DAY BY DAY

12:00 - VIKINGSHIP

SPEED SKATING COMPETITION BEGINS

At the Hamar Olympic Hall Viking Ship, the competition begins with the 500-meter speed skating event. South Korea’s Kim Min Sun wins the girls’ event, and Li Yanzhe from China takes the event for the boys, his first gold. “My biggest goal is to compete in 2022 in Beijing. What I learn here helps me towards that goal.” Yanzhe comments.

14:30 - HAMAR TOWN SQUARE

PARTY IN HAMAR

The opening weekend is celebrated in great form in Hamar, including a popular Julie Bergan concert. Mo & Sirius performs the official Olympic song “Go beyond. Create Tomorrow.” Later this afternoon, there is a rousing snowball competition in Strandgatenparken, using Japanese “Yukigassen” rules.

12:15 - BIRKEBEINEREN STADIUM

GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AS VOLUNTEERS

Many governmental officials volunteered for Lillehammer 2016. Minister of Health Bent Høie and Minister of Local Government and Modernization Jan Tore Sanner were on hand today. Sanner was a venue host at Hafjell, with Høie working in health services, where he gained an insight in anti-doping activities. “I am impressed over this new generation of volunteers,” Høie says after a long-day.

12:27 - HAFJELL ALPINE CENTER

KENYA IMPRESSES IN HAFJELL

At the Hafjell Olympic Slope, the Super-G competition marks the opening there. For the girls, gold goes to Austria’s Nadine Fest, and the boys’ gold went to USA’s River Radamus.

15:00 - SJOGGFEST

HERE COMES THE SJOGGFEST

The concert program begins with three acts in Stampesletta’s Sjogg Tent: Morgan Suleie, Innertier, and the Main Level. “Is anyone here going to win a gold medal?” Innertier’s Adrian Emile calls out from the stage. He does not get the expected response, as it is mostly young female fans here to see their music idols.

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During Lillehammer 2016, representatives of many non-Olympic sports present themselves as part of the Culture Program. One of these is Parkour, with athletes staging an exhibition at the concert venue Bruket, later seen and experienced around Lillehammer. “To be a part of this means a lot for Parkour. We get attention and can show that it is serious training, not just daredevils hopping off of roofs,” Norwegian Parkour athlete Gerd Kaisa Worren explains.

In a spectacular lecture at the Lillehammer Art Museum, Eskil Rønningsbakken opens the “Sjoggfest Talks” series, which will take place all through the Games, designed to inspire youths to ‘Go Beyond and Create Tomorrow’. “These days, youth are influenced by all types of impulses, but everyone is born to realize and define just what they want. This is the path I have followed. You always have to do what you think is right for you,” Rønningsbakken challenges the young audience who eagerly follow the lecture.

Chef de Mission Philip Boit believes that alpine skier Sabrina Simander can be Kenya’s first Olympic gold medal candidate.
USA’s River Radamus is looking like he may become one of Lillehammer 2016 shining young stars. Sunday February 14

12:00  hafjell Alpine Center
GOLDEN BOY
USA’s River Radamus is looking like he may become one of Lillehammer 2016 shining young stars.

10:00  oslo vinterpark
SUPERSTAR HALPIPE ROCKET
The Snowboard Halfpipe competition in Oslo’s Vinterpark featured high-level performances, with the girls seeing Chloe Kim from the USA taking a clear victory. “This is huge. I am looking forward to competing in the next Olympics. The Olympics and the X-Games are the most important competitions I can win,” says the megastar.

11:24  lomvik sliding center
FLAGBEARER AT NUMBER 8
In Friday’s Opening Ceremony, Alexander Melaas had the honor of bearing the host nation flag. Alexander was in action in the single luge today, setting a new personal record, ending with an 8th place performance. “I hope to qualify for the Olympics and win a medal someday,” Melaas says. Kristers Aparjods (Latvia) took the gold.

12:20  Gjøvik Olympic Cavern Hall
2,300 SPECTATORS IN GJØVIK
Short track is gaining popularity in Norway, and 2,300 people came to the Gjøvik Olympic Cavern Hall today, including Crown Prince Haakon, his family, and IOC president Thomas Bach. Special activities for the public include the popular ‘Stolpejakt’, a hunt where the public searches for clues from the center of town out to the Cavern Hall. In the 1000-meter short track competition, Jiyoo Kim and Daeheon Hwang, both from South Korea, win the first two gold medals in Gjøvik.

12:10  hafjell Alpine Center
DREAM WEEKEND
USA’s River Radamus jumpstarted his Lillehammer 2016, turning 18 on Friday. Then on Saturday taking the super-G and his first gold. Not finished yet, he took yet another gold today in the Alpine Combined. “River could ski before he could walk, a phenomenal athlete” USA trainer Chad Wolk says.

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-11°

14 FEB
NILSI DREAMED OF A SPORTS CAREER, BUT HAD TO DROP IT DUE TO ILLNESS.

HOW TO SUCCEED?

We are on the first day of biathlon competition, little brother won his first Olympic gold in the Biathlon 7.5-kilometer sprint. “When I reached the finish line and saw my name on top, I thought, ‘WOW,’” Emilien exclaims. 15:00

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SUCCEED? 17:00

How radio host Kristinovem invited Mo, Paul, and Nils Nygård Aadne, and Sofie Eri to a discussion at Bruket with the theme, “What does it take to succeed?” Comedian Aadne and Mo, Pål Trulsen, Nils “Nilsi” Ingar Aadne, and Selda Eriz to discuss. 12:14

OUTPERFORMED BROTHER

At Innsbruck 2012, Fabien Claude outperformed brother Fabien and won a Biathlon bronze. Today, the first day of biathlon competition, little brother won his first Olympic gold in the Biathlon 7.5-kilometer sprint. “When I reached the finish line and saw my name on top, I thought, ‘WOW,’” Emilien exclaims. 15:00

WILDERNESS GIRL

Norwegian wilderness girl Maria Granmet (20) has had an unusual young life. Discovering an intense love of nature at age 13, the young adventurer became a regular sight on Bruket in short order. The first day of biathlon competition, little brother won his first Olympic gold in the Biathlon 7.5-kilometer sprint. “When I reached the finish line and saw my name on top, I thought, ‘WOW,’” Emilien exclaims. 15:00

WOLLY ATTRACTION

The Norwegian Folk Art and Crafts Association may not be the typical IOC partner, but it is a successful one. The association, made up of all types of wool-enthusiasts, shares boutique space with lillehammer 2016 on Storgata. Exhibitors and hands-on activities are staged every day, with one goal in mind: to show off that ‘wool is gold.’ Note: During the course of the Games, hundreds of young people had their first taste of spinning, weaving, and knitting here. 17:00

BRIT WINS WITH “STYLE” 19:30

With Taylor Swift’s single “Style” thundering through the loudspeakers, the UK’s Madison Rowlands wins gold in the ski halfpipe with an impressive run. “I am delighted. I called home to my family, and we all cried happily,” says the golden girl. 17:30

BAND KID ASTRAY AT TYRILI

Tyrili Climbing Center is ‘the’ venue for a number of concerts and events as part of the Sjoggfest, with a stage that creates a very special atmosphere with its high ceilings and fantastic lighting. Tonight, the band Kid Astray played what is being called ‘the most spectacular venue stage in town.’ 19:30

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SIMON CLARK, 2006 LILLHAMMER LIBRARY

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IOC PRESIDENT AT THE SJÖGG FEST

IOC President Bach visited different Sjogg Fest events this evening. He stopped in at Tyrili Climbing Center and watching ice-climbing activities, also learning how Tyrili works with detoxification and rehabilitation. The president was also at Sjogg Park and was interviewed by Sjogg TV, a TV-magazine produced by students from Lillehammer University College.

20:00 • BRUKET

THE CROWN PRINCE AND MATOMA

Crowd sang in the streets of Lillehammer when free tickets to Matoma were made available in the early afternoon. Interest was immense, and with the long queues, people understood that they would have to come earlier for the free tickets to the most popular concerts at Bruket. The lucky ones were in fine company as Crown Price Haakon came to the concert, taking the time to chat backstage with the artist from the small town Flisa before the concert.
Monday February 15

Day by Day

09:00 • Hafjell Freepark

DEDICATES TO PARIS VICTIMS
Manon Petit from France wins the girls’ Snowboard Cross at Hafjell – but her thoughts are not only on the Olympic slopes. “I compete for Paris, the city in my heart,” she says. Petit, of course, refers to the terror in the French capital on the night of November 13.

10:30 • Lillehammer Sliding Centre

CROWDED AT THE LUGE TRACK
“Will the spectators please move closer together? More want to join you!” The loudspeaker message at the Lillehammer Olympic Sliding Centre was unusual in Norway, where Luge is not one of the more well-known sports. Even so, there are over 1,600 people in place to watch the singles and doubles events today.

12:07 • Vikingskipet

KOREAN DOMINANCE
South Korea impresses today in Speed Skating, victors in both boys’ and girls’ 1,500 meters. Ji Wo Park wins for the girls, while Min Seok Kim takes the boys’ gold.

12:30 • Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre

SPECTATOR FEST IN THE AMPHITHEATRE
Spectators stream to the Hamar Amphitheatre today to see some of the best figure skaters in the world, with 2,300 spectators on hand. In pairs, Ekaterina Borisova and Dmitry Sopot (Russia) takes the first gold. “Our next goal? Hopefully, Beijing – but first we have go home and take our school exams. First things first,” the Russian pair tells us. In the boys’ competition, it is Japan’s Sota Yamamoto who climbs to the top of the podium.

19:45 • Sjogg Park

FIERY SHOW
The Sjoggfest program has many unannounced surprises, including tonight’s show of fire.
13:15 • Lillehammer ski stadium

THANKS, MOM!

When British athlete Kristyna Dymkova was first to cross the finish in the 2-kilometer pursuit, she thought of her mother, who introduced her to the sport. “I knew, mom is watching,” she says. With the victory, she becomes the Ukraine’s first YOG gold medalist.

12:45 • Hafjell Freepark

MINISTERS EVERYWHERE

Today there were four ministerial volunteers. Minister of Transport and Communication Ketil Solvik-Olsen found his role as a driver quite natural, and the transportation and communication volunteers. Minister of Transport and Communication Ketil Solvik-Olsen found his role as a driver quite natural, and the transportation and communication volunteers. Minister of Transport and Communication Ketil Solvik-Olsen found his role as a driver quite natural, and the transportation and communication volunteers.

15:00 • Hågns Hall

LINDSEY AND HER PUPPY

Youth Olympic Games ambassador and superstar Lindsey Vonn (USA) was in Lillehammer with her 5-month-old puppy, Lucy. Her eager puppy charmed everyone as well, and if Lucy ended up making a little puddle in Hågns Hall, we certainly forgive her for that!
**Monday February 15**

**20:30 • Banken Culture House**

**Comet Kid in the Bank**

It was not only Bruket with full-house concerts. At the different stages at the Kulturhuset Banken, there were concerts all through the day, but it was the talented Comet Kid who filled the large auditorium this evening.

**21:15 • Kristins hall**

**The Norwegian Hockey Boys Score!**

The Norwegian boys’ ice hockey team have assured their status as popular underdogs in these Games. Though the Norwegians have had their problems on the ice, when they play there is hardly an empty seat. This evening Norway scored its only goal in the tournament so far in a 13 – 1 loss against Russia. Super talent Mathias Emilio Pettersen scored, but the busiest young fellow on the ice was goalie Kristian Høvik. “They shot from all directions; they were everywhere!” the goalie sighs.

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**First Norwegian Gold Since 1994**

Over 3,000 spectators were at Birkebeineren Biathlon Stadium today and saw Norway’s first gold in the Lillehammer Youth Olympic Games.

Local Lillehammer biathlon talent Svein Guttorm Bakken brought on thunderous cheers with his victory, winning easily. Bakken grew up in minutes throw away from the stadium and told us, “It is here that everything happened, all the training, so to be able to win gold here in my hometown is just fantastic.” Bakken comes from a real Biathlon family, and all were on hand at the stadium. Mom is a volunteer coordinator, while Dad is a boss at the shooting area. He also is a flag-raiser during the victory ceremony, and he happily filled his duties with his son on the podium. “This is really something. Everyone knows that Sivert is a strong skier, and today he was just as good at shooting,” Bakken’s father says.
The team Ski-snowboard cross is a brand-new competition in the Youth Olympic program – a relay consisting of both ski and snowboard in the cross track. Germany took the gold medal in an event enthusiastically received by both athletes and the public.

The atmosphere was electric as spectators descended upon the Short Track competition. With many students in the crowd, an informal competition began in the stands – which school could cheer the loudest? The winner was Snertingdal School, student fans dressed in orange and cheering for the Netherlands.

In the boys' Sprint Classic at the Birkerøen Cross Country Stadium, Thomas Helland Larsen secured Norway's first cross-country gold in Lillehammer 2016. Johanna Hagström was Sweden's golden girl.

Today the Luge competitions concluded with the new team relay, a day when Lillehammer 2016 experienced true Olympic fellowship. Neither the United Kingdom nor Kazakhstan had enough athletes to field their own relay team – so they combined forces and created their own joint team. “Our new friends do not speak much English, but we gave each other a ‘high-five’ at the top of the track and wished our new team the best of luck,” says UK Luge athlete Lucas Gebauer-Barrett with a smile.

Tuesday February 16

12:00 • hafjell freepark

WINS NEW EVENT

The team Ski-snowboard cross is a brand-new competition in the Youth Olympic program – a relay consisting of both ski and snowboard in the cross track. Germany took the gold medal in an event enthusiastically received by both athletes and the public.

11:51 • LILLEHAMMER OLYMPIC SLIDING CENTER

OLYMPIC FELLOWSHIP

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10:30 • GJØVIK OLYMPIC CAVERN HALL

SNETRINGDAL CHAMPIONS

The atmosphere was electric as spectators descended upon the Short Track competition. With many students in the crowd, an informal competition began in the stands – which school could cheer the loudest? The winner was Snertingdal School, student fans dressed in orange and cheering for the Netherlands.

13:29 • BIRKENBEINEREN SKI STADIUM

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NOT ACCORDING TO PLAN

Tuesday's Giant Slalom had an unfortunate end for Francesca Baruzzi Farriol from Argentina.
**Day by Day**

### Slovenia Dominates

After venue configuration from Opening Ceremony to ski jump modulus, everything was right on track for the today’s competitions. Slovenia took both events with a gold medal in each – Ema Klinec for the girls and Bor Pavlovcic for the boys.

### The Most Hectic Day

Today was Lillehammer 2016’s busiest day, with 15 gold medals at stake. The girls’ Guest Saloon was on the program at the Hafjell Olympic Slope, with Switzerland’s Melanie Malliard claiming victory. The individual Nordic combined athletes also competed, with Germany’s Tim Kopp taking gold: “I am thankful to everyone - my trainer, my friends, and of course my family,” Kopp tells us.

### Popular Activities

Holmenkollen took business as usual and night. In a log cabin mid-way in the education area, both hockey and air hockey were available. In addition, table tennis, video games, and board games were available – all to make sure that athletes find new friends.

### Takes Care of Guests

Three of Norway’s minister volunteers today, including Minister of Trade and Industry Monica Mæland, responsible for guests in the accredited stands in KRISTIN HALL. Minister of Justice Anders Anundsen and Minister of Defense Øystein Jane tell about his career and about how he improved as a Nordic combined skier when he focused less on career – and more on his joy for sport.

### Day by Day

#### 14.26 - Lyseåsenbakken

**SLOVENIA DOMINATES**

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Tuesday February 16

20:00 • Bruket

Valuar Rocks Bruket

Lars Valuar stormed the Bruket this evening, rapping in fine form to a nearly full house. Valuar is no stranger to the Olympics, having been a part of the torch tour before the Games, holding an intimate concert from the Olympic torch vehicle – sent live via Social Media.

23:00 • Kristins Hall

Japan Takes Ice Hockey Skills Challenge

The Ice Hockey Skills Challenge is skill competition focuses on the individual’s skills, and it is one of the newer competitions on the program. The start list had many athletes from nations that did not qualify for the team competition, and the women’s event was won by Japan’s Sena Takenaka, a small sensation for the sport. Australia’s Madison Poole, who came in at number five, told us with great certainty, “This was probably my only chance ever to compete for a gold medal in ice hockey. It was fantastic!”

Dream Days are on

During Lillehammer 2016 there were approximately 20,000 school pupils who took part in the Dream Day project. Dream Day was a day for young students that included attending an Olympic event, then trying their hand at different types of sports, and finally attending a concert on Stampesletta. Today’s Dream Day concluded with a Ravi and Samsaya performance, where the Crown Prince attended and greeted the young participants. The Dream Day project is huge, with up to 200 buses rolling on the busiest days.
Wednesday was a major culture day, with artists including Daniel Kvam-men and Highasakite.

A bandy tournament for school kids was held today at Gjøvik Stadium, part of the Lillehammer 2016 Culture Program. Hundreds tried their hands at the sport, instructed by some of the best junior players from Norway and Sweden.

Canada’s 10 – 4 victory over the USA in the final won the Canadians their gold medal in the Games’ mixed team competition - two boys and two girls on each team. “We met each other for the first time almost a year ago, and since then we have trained together. So amazing to bring home the gold!” Karlee Burgess of the Canadians says.

The mixed NOC team sprint was held in Hamar, with four skaters from four different countries on the same team. The gold team was made up of Italy’s Noemi Bonazzi, Shen Hanyang from China, and South Korean Chung Jae-Won, and Mongolia’s Sumiya Buyantogtokh – Mongolia’s first gold!

A biathlon single mixed relay is a new event in the Youth Olympics. It was a bit of a surprise when China took gold, with Meng Yanyu and Zhu Zhenyu as the dynamic duo. “We ARE surprised - we didn’t expect to win,” the Chinese pair tells us.

A curling tournament for school kids was held today at Gjøvik Stadium, part of the Lillehammer 2016 Culture Program. Hundreds tried their hands at the sport, instructed by some of the best junior players from Norway and Sweden.

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Wednesday February 17

14:52 • Hafjell Alpine Center

Third Gold for River Radamus

With his third gold medal of three possible, alpine skier River Radamus of the USA was becoming one of the Games’ biggest names. “It is special and emotional each time for me,” the 3x gold medalist says.

13:57 • Hafjell Alpine Center

The Minister of Finance Volunteers

Norway’s Minister of Finance Siv Jensen became a volunteer today, and one of her assignments was to serve soup to other volunteers during the boys’ giant slalom event at Hafjell. “It is fun with so many volunteers; I think it is healthy to do something completely different than what one usually does. Everyone is working for worthy goal – the Olympic Games and for the athletes. I give volunteerism a thumbs-up!” Jensen says.

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Medalists

Alpine Skiing

Men’s Giant Slalom

1. River Radamus

2. Yohei Koyama

3. Anton Grammel

Biathlon

Single Mixed Relay

1. China

2. Norway

3. Russia

Curling

Mixed Team

1. Canada

2. USA

3. Switzerland

Speed Skating

Mixed NOC Team Sprint

1. Team 6: ITA/MGL/KOR/CHN

2. Team 9: NED/POL/USA/KAZ

3. Team 10: ITA/ROU/GER/NOR

Today was a special day. All competitions were finished by 2:00 p.m., so athletes would have the time to experience the Learn & Share activities.

Never before done in an Olympic setting, it put focus on the fact that Lillehammer 2016 was more than sport.

One person who worked hard today was Norwegian Olympic hero Tora Berger. She was part of Lillehammer 2016 as a Athlete Role Model, telling participants of her own experiences. She shared the secret behind becoming the first biathlon athlete from Norway to win an individual gold – something that she had been planning for 12 years. “The gold medal I won in Vancouver is my favorite, a goal that I set when I was just 17 years old. Back then, I wrote in my diary that I would win the gold in the 2010 Winter Olympics. As it was unbelievable that I actually did that!” Berger tells the young athletes.

Tora Berger met the athletes in the Learn & Share area, and figured in a lot of selfies afterwards.

Learn & Share Focus Day

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YOUTH SPORT SEMINARS

Wednesday’s seminar at HiL focused on youth health and sport, one of several seminars during the Games. In cooperation with the Innlandet Hospital Trust, specific themes covered early specialization, asthma in cold temperatures, and head injuries.

HIGHASAKITE FILLS BRUKET TWICE

The queue wound its way all through the center of Lillehammer when free tickets were offered to the Highasakite concert at Bruket – two concerts “sold out” in minutes. Those who were lucky enough to get tickets heard a band at the height of its musical talents. “Bruket is a perfect venue,” says Øystein Sar in Highasakite.

FIT AUDIENCE

In the Banken Culture House, Daniel Krantzen was onstage. “I get a little nervous, especially when an audience is so fit – embarrassing if they are in better shape for the concert than I am!” he says.
Thursday February 18

day by day

12:00 • kanthaugen
TELEMARK SCHOOL
These weekdays in the middle of the Games saw the staging of Norwegian Ski Federation’s Telemark School at Kanthaugen. Here, children tried their skill at telemarking under the guidance of the world’s best athletes and instructors.

11:47 • lystågbakkenene
SILVER FROM LARVIK
Volparr Megjali gave all he had in the men’s 10-kilometer freestyle, settling for silver behind Magnus Kim (KOR).

12:45 • hafjell Alpine Center
SECOND GOLD FOR DANIOTH
The girls’ Slalom at Hafjell was won by Swiss Aline Danioth. Her 2nd victory and 4th medal in total at the Games. Danioth already won the combined and took bronze in both the Giant slalom and the Super-G. “What a great competition – to take home four medals is fantastic,” Danioth says.

11:01 • birkebeineren Ski Stadium
LEADING ALL DAY, BUT...
Chinese cross-country athlete Chi Chunxus had an amazing 5-kilometer race for the girls today, with the leading time until the next to the last of the 40 athletes reached the finish line. Russian Maya Yakunina crossed the finish line and Chi was pushed back to second place.

11:47 • lystågbakkenene
SILVER FROM LARVIK
Slovenia completed its sweep in the special jump competitions after they won today’s team competition with two special jumpers – one boy and one girl – and one Nordic combined jumper. Ema Klinec really impressed; the 17-year-old already had three medals from senior World Cup events before coming to Lillehammer.

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THE SCHOOL OLYMPICS

Before the Games, twelve junior high schools in Hedmark and Oppland counties had their own School Olympics, with 1,700 competing to show their awesomeness in physical activity and knowledge about Olympism. The finals were held in Lillehammer today, with over 100 taking part in a friendly rivalry.

13:30 • BIRKEBEINEREN SKI STADIUM

KIM WITH SECOND GOLD

South Korea’s Magnus Kim clearly had been the biggest name among the boys’ Cross-country skiers during Lillehammer 2016. The Norwegian/Korean took gold in his first event, the Cross-country cross, which was followed by silver in Tuesday’s Sprint. Today he rounded out his Lillehammer performance with a gold in the 10-kilometer freestyle. Kim sums up his Lillehammer performance by saying, “My training and preparation timed perfectly.”

14:00 • MAIHAUGEN

MEDALISTS

ALPINE SKIING - THE SCHOOL OLYMPICS

LADIES SLALOM

1. Aline Danioth (SUI)

2. Alix Nullmeyer (CAN)

3. Meta Hrovat (SLO)

MEN'S SLALOM

1. Manuel Traninger (AUT)

2. Filip Vennerström (SWE)

3. Odin Vassbotn Breivik (NOR)

CROSS-COUNTRY - BIRKEBEINEREN SKI STADIUM

MEN'S SKI-SPS

1. Magnus Rønningen (NOR)

2. Valtemir Hafjell (NOR)

3. Filip Hagen (NOR)

CROSS-COUNTRY - BIRKEBEINEREN SKI STADIUM

LADIES' SKI-SPS

1. Mia Smoljančič (SLO)

2. Charlotte Kjos (NOR)

3. Rebecca Lambert (CAN)

HUMAN BOWLING

During the Games, there were all types of activities creating interaction between participants and the public. “Human bowling” was one of these. Simply put, a person on a sled was the bowling ball, with big inflatable pins down the hill. Fun and popular, as you can imagine.

DAY BY DAY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18

14:00 • MAIHAUGEN

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17:00 • JØLKEPARK

THE IGLOO DISCO

Another popular activity in town was the igloo. Built of ice and snow, there was room for about 100 people. Here was activity day and night, with a kindergarten disco during the day and a dance for bigger kids during the evening. Many of Norway’s best-known DJs played.

17:30 • LILLEHAMMER LIBRARY

ELSAFADI SHARES EXPERIENCES

Marco Elsafadi was a guest at the Library today and shared his experiences within sport, as well as in life in general. It was a strong performance with a strong message about mental health, youth, and self-confidence. Artists from Birger Oterutleie documented Elsafadi’s story using their playful and poignant drawings.

18:00 • HAFJELL ALPINE CENTER

YOUNG BANDS

The “Culture on Tour” project brought music out to the sports venues. The program included established artists and young unknown talents from the Norwegian Youth Festivals of Art (UKM) playing at the venues during competition pauses. Today, Cezinando and UKM artists Daniela Reyes, Faen To, and Syraa Holen took the trip to Hafjell. “This is the first time I have played at a ski venue. It was a little cold, but the atmosphere was great,” Cezinando says.

17:00 • LILLEHAMMER CITY CENTER

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**Thursday February 18**

**21:55 • Kristins Hall**

**His biggest moment**

We do not often find Romania high on the Ice Hockey results list, but in today’s Skills Challenge competition, Romania’s Eduard Casaneanu took his gold. “This is the biggest moment in my career – and the first medal for my country. I am so proud, a fantastic feeling,” he says.

**20:00 • Bruket**

**Hard Rock at the YOG**

The rock band Kvelertak stormed the stage today at Bruket, playing to a packed house. It was a concert brimming with energy, with the world premiere of three songs sung live for the first time. Do not mistake the band’s vocalist for a big sports fan. “My family forced me on cross-country ski trips, but it didn’t quite work for me. Still, it is part of the Norwegian upbringing we all have to experience,” Erling Hjelvik says, laughing.

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**Sjøggfest Today**

**Artists and Lecturers:**

- Cezinando
- Pedaniela Reyes
- Synne Holen
- Clmd
- Kvelertak
- Miss Tati
- 3000 Textures
- Marco Elsafadi
- Samuel Massie
- Lhmr Culture School

**35 Events**

**8,232 Spectators**

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**Last Preparations**

The USA Hockey team with final dressing room preparations before the important match with Russia.
21:09 • TYRILI CLIMBING CENTER
RELEASE CONCERT

The band “Bendik” from Bodø released their new record in the climbing hall at Tyrili during Njuggfest.

21:09 • TYRILI CLIMBING CENTER

DAY BY DAY
12:27 • LILHAMMER SLEDGE CENTER

BRITISH JUBILATION
The United Kingdom is not often associated with winter sports, but when it comes to women’s Olympic skeleton, we know the Brits are good. Ashleigh Pittaway knew that as well. "The German-born girl with an English father fulfilled expectations and was the golden girl today.

11:06 • VIKINGSKIPET

THOUSANDS ATTENDED NEW EVENT
Thousands made their way to the Viking Ship to watch an action-filled mass start event today. This speed skating competition was an innovative addition that we will also see in Pyeongchang. The good feeling got even better when Norwegian Allan Dahl Johansson won a bronze. The 17-year-old was full of praise for the new event. "I love the mass start, it creates action and movement – better to defeat your competitor side-by-side, but a lot tougher to lose as well!" says Johansson with a laugh.

12:38 • HASSELI FREDARK

CHLOE KIM EXPLODES AGAIN
The superstar from the USA won her second gold medal with her confident style of snowboarding, this time during the slopestyle final. Since her favorite event is the halfpipe, she was somewhat surprised. "I didn’t even expect to be on the podium!" says a happy young lady.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19
12:30 • STAMPELSLETTA

FELLOWSHIP ON ICE
This morning, athletes from more than 20 countries took part in an informal ice hockey match on the outdoor Stampe-
sletta rink. The idea originated with New Zealand’s Justin Darg-
ie, inspired by the NHL Winter Classic concept.

10:00 • LILLEHAMMER SLEDGE CENTER

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12:57 • STAMPELETT

TICKET LINES

During the ice hockey preliminary round, there was such a demand from the public that people were asked to pick up tickets for the semifinals and finals to make certain they had a seat.

13:00 • BIRKEBEINEREN STADIUM

UNUSUAL RELAY SILVER

The final event in Nordic combined was the ski jumping/Nordic combined mixed team event. After the first stage at Lysgårdsbakkene, Norway was in sixth place, still a number of steps away from the podium. This just was not good enough for Vebjørn Heggdal, and after an impressive final spurt, he led his team to the silver medal for host nation Norway.

16:05 • HAFJELL FREEPARK

AS BIG AS FOOTBALL WORLD CUP?

Norwegian Birk Ruud showed tricks that were as good as world’s best during the snowboard slopestyle finals, and the gold was his. The 15-year-old beamed with satisfaction and looks forward to the future of this growing sport. “The Olympics have accepted the sport in a good way. Freestyle will continue to be more popular” predicts the young champion.

12:53 • HAFJELL ALPINE CENTER

REPEATING ITSELF

In 1994, Austrian Thomas Stangassinger rejoiced over his slalom gold, and in 2016 fellow countryman Manuel Traninger followed in his footsteps. “This is a great hill for the Austrians. The girls have also won a gold medal here,” Traninger says.

13:07 • SJOGG PARK

CREATING THE 2016 “STANDING STREET”

Over 2,000 Lillehammer youngsters took over the pedestrian zone this Friday afternoon. They danced and created a human wave as a tribute to each other, to fellowship, and to the work they have done in school leading up to the Games. They re-created the 1994 Olympics “walking street” that became known as the ‘standing street’ packed with thousands of visitors. “So many people came today. It must have been fun in 1994, but our ‘standing street’ today was really awesome!” says Endre Grimsmo Jørgensen (11).

20:07 • VIKINGSKIPET

SKELETON MEN’S INDIVIDUAL

1. Min Seok Kim KOR
2. Allar Jakobsvičs LAT
3. Robin Schneider GER

SKELETON WOMEN’S INDIVIDUAL

1. Ashleigh Fay Pittaway GBR
2. Agathe Bessard FRA
3. Hannah Neise GER

16:00 • 5 JOG PARK

SKI JUMP BIATHLON

Ski jump…what? Yes, you read correctly. This nontraditional event naturally took place at Sjogg Park. The rules were simple: Competitors threw a snowball at a target the moment they took off on a ski jump. The ski jump hills were different sizes, so everyone could join in.

12:55 • STORGET

DAY BY DAY

12:55 • STAMPELETT

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2. Allar Jakobsvičs LAT
3. Robin Schneider GER

SKELETON WOMEN’S INDIVIDUAL

1. Ashleigh Fay Pittaway GBR
2. Agathe Bessard FRA
3. Hannah Neise GER

16:00 • 5 JOG PARK

SKI JUMP BIATHLON

Ski jump…what? Yes, you read correctly. This nontraditional event naturally took place at Sjogg Park. The rules were simple: Competitors threw a snowball at a target the moment they took off on a ski jump. The ski jump hills were different sizes, so everyone could join in.

12:55 • STORGET

DAY BY DAY

12:55 • STAMPELETT

TICKET LINES

During the ice hockey preliminary round, there was such a demand from the public that people were asked to pick up tickets for the semifinals and finals to make certain they had a seat.

13:00 • BIRKEBEINEREN STADIUM

UNUSUAL RELAY SILVER

The final event in Nordic combined was the ski jumping/Nordic combined mixed team event. After the first stage at Lysgårdsbakkene, Norway was in sixth place, still a number of steps away from the podium. This just was not good enough for Vebjørn Heggdal, and after an impressive final spurt, he led his team to the silver medal for host nation Norway.

16:05 • HAFJELL FREEPARK

AS BIG AS FOOTBALL WORLD CUP?

Norwegian Birk Ruud showed tricks that were as good as world’s best during the snowboard slopestyle finals, and the gold was his. The 15-year-old beamed with satisfaction and looks forward to the future of this growing sport. “The Olympics have accepted the sport in a good way. Freestyle will continue to be more popular” predicts the young champion.

12:53 • HAFJELL ALPINE CENTER

REPEATING ITSELF

In 1994, Austrian Thomas Stangassinger rejoiced over his slalom gold, and in 2016 fellow countryman Manuel Traninger followed in his footsteps. “This is a great hill for the Austrians. The girls have also won a gold medal here,” Traninger says.

13:07 • SJOGG PARK

CREATING THE 2016 “STANDING STREET”

Over 2,000 Lillehammer youngsters took over the pedestrian zone this Friday afternoon. They danced and created a human wave as a tribute to each other, to fellowship, and to the work they have done in school leading up to the Games. They re-created the 1994 Olympics “walking street” that became known as the ‘standing street’ packed with thousands of visitors. “So many people came today. It must have been fun in 1994, but our ‘standing street’ today was really awesome!” says Endre Grimsmo Jørgensen (11).

20:07 • VIKINGSKIPET

SKELETON MEN’S INDIVIDUAL

1. Min Seok Kim KOR
2. Allar Jakobsvičs LAT
3. Robin Schneider GER

SKELETON WOMEN’S INDIVIDUAL

1. Ashleigh Fay Pittaway GBR
2. Agathe Bessard FRA
3. Hannah Neise GER

16:00 • 5 JOG PARK

SKI JUMP BIATHLON

Ski jump…what? Yes, you read correctly. This nontraditional event naturally took place at Sjogg Park. The rules were simple: Competitors threw a snowball at a target the moment they took off on a ski jump. The ski jump hills were different sizes, so everyone could join in.
Samo weekend

Today gives people the first opportunity during Lillehammer 2016 to try Sami sport. Representatives from the indigenous people demonstrated three sports on sled: reindeer herding, reindeer racing, and lasso throwing. With lectures on Sami culture, everyone learned more about the Sami culture in modern society.

Byvind the showman

Through the entire week, Bodø’s Øyvind Ingebrigtsen managed TV and giant screen productions for the Dream Day concerts from a minibus outside of Sjøgg Tent. Ingebrigtsen has worked with multi-camera productions earlier, but Lillehammer 2016 has given his work new dimensions. “Regional events are cool, but in Lillehammer the whole world has been gathered,” Ingebrigtsen says, smiling.

Sjøgg tent

This Oslo crew has been raising the energy level in clubs all across Norway for years, touring the USA’s East Coast as well. This crew knows how to create action on the dance floor, and they love to share, staging a DJ workshop for eager youngsters at Plan-B.

Last night, Andrea Flesland from Otto and Marita Lynne from Mëhilä are students at Nord Gudbrandsdal High School, two of hundreds of students who had a unique chance to meet the world and make a difference as part of Lillehammer 2016. As part of their education, they worked with hosting and the security control at the Hafjell Olympic Slope as part of the Travel and Language course of instruction during the Games. “We worked with practical assignments that fit with the educational plan for our area of study. We grew professionally, made friends, and have taken with us wonderful memories,” say the girls, who in their job had responsibility for prominent guests including Crown Prince Haakon, Prime Minister Erna Solberg, and Finance Minister Siv Jensen.

Sjøgg fest today

11,228 spectators

16:25 • Lyggaæþjóðet: Lyggaæþjóðet

20:00 • Bruket

20:25 • Sjøgg tent

17:00 • Sjøgg tent

17:25 • Sjøgg park

20:00 • Sjøgg tent

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19

DAY BY DAY

Sjøgg fest today

11,228 spectators

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19

WORLD’S COOLEST “VENUE OF EDUCATION”

“Lillehammer 2016 changed our life. It has been so much different than sitting at a school desk and learning about cultural differences.”

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Ane By Farstad won gold in the short track mixed team NOC relay, the first Norwegian-born woman to ever do this. Ane, a South Korean girl and two boys from Belgium and France, made up the winning team.

Japanese ski jumper Shihori Oi could not believe her eyes. In a kiosk at Hafjell, there stood the Norwegian Prime Minister, serving refreshments! Erna Solberg indeed was working as a volunteer. “This is the fellowship that makes Norwegian sports events special,” the prime minister says, enjoying herself in her volunteer outfit.

Hunter Lindeberg’s family had travelled from Oslo to see the Lillehammer 2016’s final alpine event, the parallel mixed team event. “It is really entertaining, something happening all the time. We can see the whole run, so easy to follow!” says mother Kelly Hunter as she and the family watched Germany outduel Russia in the final.

Daniel Mayhew from Jamaica competed in the first ever Olympic mono-bob competition.

People in Norway associate Olympic pins with the Games in 1994, but trading pins also became a hobby in 2016. Many fastened their pins to their accreditation, but gold medalist Birk Ruud, thought differently. “I discovered that pins were much better to have on my hat.”
**GOALS ACHIEVED BEFORE THE GAMES**

South Africa is more known for rugby and safaris than for winter sports, but that did not stop the country from sending alpine skier Rachel Elizabeth Olivier (16) to Lillehammer. Though many athletes dream of a medal, Olivier achieved her goal before she ever set foot on Norwegian soil. “My goal was to qualify, so the results here are not so important to me. I want to take part and show South Africa that it is possible to follow your dreams – something I know I have achieved by coming here.”

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**Medalist**

**alpine skiing • hafjell Alpine Center**

Parallel Mixed team event

1. Germany GER
2. Russia RUS
3. Finland FIN

**bobsleigh • lillehammer sliding center**

Men’s Monobob

1. Jonas Jannusch GER
2. Maksim Ivanov RUS
3. Kristian Olsen NOR

Women’s Monobob

1. Laura Nolte GER
2. Mercedes Schulte AUT
3. Kelsea Purchall GBR

**figure skating • hamar ol. Amphitheatre**

Mixed NOC Team

1. Team Desire: RUS/CHN/USA
2. Team Future: UKR/LAT/CZE/FRA
3. Team Discovery: LAT/HUN/CHN/CAN

**short track • gjøvik Olympic Cavern Hall**

Mixed NOC Team Relay

1. Team 2: NOR/KOR/BEL/FRA
2. Team 3: HUN/AUS/NED/JPN
3. Team 6: BUL/KAZ/LAT/JPN

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**Saturday February 20**

**Day by Day**

15:00 • stampesletta

**Madcon’s hit parade**

Armed with big international hits such as “Begin,” “Gise,” “Glow,” and “Don’t Worry,” the Madcon duo took control over Stampesletta on Saturday. More than 3,400 spectators showed up for the family concert, and the popular duo gave it all on the Youth Olympic sole. Their effort was almost worth an Olympic medal, as they literally played their shirts off.

17:30 • tyri Climbing center

**“Have fun!”**

With his eight Olympic medals and many other victories on the alpine slopes, Kjetil André Aamodt knows the routine. Tonight he inspired the crowd at Tyri Café, talking about success and the importance of having fun.

20:30 • kirkegata

**Youth Olympic queue record**

After having been in the USA for the most part of last year, the music duo Nico & Vinz are finally back on Norwegian soil, in a full-house at Bruket to be exact. With their dynamic stage act and two concerts, these two Oslo friends delivered performances worth Olympic gold. The ticket queue stretched over three blocks earlier in the afternoon.

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**Saturday February 20**

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**SJOOGFEST TODAY**

**ARTISTS AND LECTURERS:**
- hjarta
- andreas øvretveit
- sondre justad
- beax
- marja mortensson
- frode fjellheim
- madcon
- random assault
- chinook
- fåberg gospelkor
- coucheron
- sinsenfinst
- terje isungset
- nico & vinz

**Events**
- **17:00 - JERNBANEAGATA**
  - Urban Telemark Exhibition
  - It was a fantastic atmosphere as a crowd gathered today on the snow-covered Jernbaneagata down by the train station. World-class telemark athletes put on a show, hopping over Storgata before continuing with turns and swings down the street. A simple format, one-on-one duel, the first to the finish line winning in a tournament knockout format.

**20:00 - HAMAR CULTURE HOUSE**
- 10 Hours in Line
  - The boy band The Main Level created chaos during their shows in Norway last summer, and tonight it was Hamar’s turn to be charmed by the boys from Bergen. In the new concert hall at the Hamar Culture House, Sylvia Wakerus Hønås (16) and Emma Zahl Lindquist (15) came with high expectations. “We travelled here yesterday and waited hours in line before we got in. It was cold, but worth it!” the girls tell us.

**DAY BY DAY**

**17/02 - JERNBANEAGATA**

**URBAN TELEMARK EXHIBITION**

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**POPULAR TELEMARK SHOW**

Thousands gathered to watch the action-packed Telemark show in downtown Lillehammer this afternoon.
Thousands gathered in Sjogg Park to get a last glimpse of the Olympic flame – for now.

A very satisfied IOC president Thomas Bach declared that the Games were a success. “These Games have clearly shown the ideals behind the Youth Olympic vision, the sports and culture events were excellent, the athletes and volunteers historic. I’m lost for words; there is simply nothing left to say.”

Norwegian Marthe Kristiina Johansen was excellent all through the Games. In her first three events, she took silver medals, but she finally secured her elusive gold in the mixed relay in front of an enthusiastic public. “Fantastic. An indescribable feeling,” the teenager says, smiling broadly.

The normally dark path along the Mesna River was turned into a light show tonight. Behind the show was 15-year-old Eirik Grønvold from Oslo Region’s city of Drammen. He had won the Lillehammer 2016 light design contest.
Lillehammer

LAST DAY AT WORK
Many of the volunteers had their last day at work. Two of them were Christine Hallås (26) and Marit Asheim (31), who took leave from their jobs to be volunteers for the entire games. “We worked with social media, so we did not see too many of the events. But we have seen all the photos that people have shared. There are so many good memories.”

SATISFIED DESPITE INJURY
Alex Goncalves Goutt (17) was East Timor’s only athlete in Lillehammer 2016. The young alpine skier was injured in training and never got to participate – but praised the fellowship. “The Learn & Share area had many good educational activities with lots of good people there,” Goutt says.

Hafjell Alpine Center

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21

DAY BY DAY

17:30 • Kristins Hall
THE FINAL GOLD
USA and Canada clashed in the hockey final in front of 2,428 spectators in Kristins Hall. The crowd saw the USA defeat its northern neighbors 5 – 2 in the final medal event of the Games. USA’s team captain, Mattias Samuelsson, was delighted with the results both on and off the ice. “These two weeks have probably been the best of my life. I have learned how great it is to put on the USA team jersey and represent my country,” Samuelsson says.

20:00 • Sjogg Park
GOODBYE OLYMPIC FLAME
Lillehammer’s townspeople came to Sjogg Park to follow the Closing Ceremony via direct transmission. Sjogg Park had housed the Olympic Flame since the Opening Ceremony and now it was put out in front of over 2000 spectators.

HAPPY CEO
Lillehammer 2016’s CEO, Tomas Holmestad, was beaming as he summed up the ten days of the Games.

“Everything went smoothly. We have staged 70 medal events combined with an exciting Education Program and a free Culture Festival – in a way that Norway has never experienced. The only thing that we had not planned was such an overwhelming public interest,” Holmestad says, especially thankful for the green pants – the volunteers. “We had 3,278 working hard, many of them being youth that have had their first volunteer experience. It is fine that so many have seen what our volunteers have done. This has been their Games, and they deserve so much credit,” Holmestad concludes.
HELLO LAUSANNE

At the Closing Ceremony in Innsbruck in 2012, Lillehammer’s mayor, Espen Granberg Johnsen, and young sports talent Mathias Tølle brought the historic Olympic flag to Norway to be safely placed in Lillehammer City Hall. Tonight the flag was formally passed on to Mayor Daniel Brélaz and young representative Aline Danioth of Lausanne, to bring the flag home to the Swiss city, the host for the third Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2020.

RUNA MOTIVATES

In the Sjøgg Tent at Stampesletta, the Closing Ceremony was held this evening for athletes, trainers, and volunteers. Attending was the young leader Runa Møller Tangstad, who used the opportunity to tell other volunteers, “This is only the beginning. I hope that our local society here can benefit from our new Olympic experience in the months and years to come. Personally speaking, I have never been as motivated as I am now to continue participating in sports as a leader or volunteer,” Tangstad says.
PART 4

RETROSPECT
With a creative mindset and drawing pencils in hand, three young men explored Lillehammer 2016, creating a unique artwork story of these 10 fantastic days.

The name “Birgers Otterutleie” is as misleading as it is creative. The name literally translated is “Birger’s Fishing Equipment Rental” — but it has nothing to do with fish or rental. These are three young illustrators creating what they call “quality through quantity.” In February 2016, Martin Lothe, Ole Fredrik Hvidsten, and Daniel Bansal Dahn received an assignment that they are not going to forget anytime soon.

“During the 10 days of Lillehammer 2016, we..."
explored different sports, education, and cultural venues and documented our experiences through our unique style and art form. We wanted to create art where it happened, interacting with the public, creating the feeling of being right there and then,” says Lothe.

The result was a diversity of art. “Each drawing stands on its own, telling a story. Drawings grouped together give a deeper perspective of the venues activities, allowing the discovering of new stories, tales from all over inland Norway during the Games,” explains Hvidsten.

The main project was exhibited at the concert venue Bruket, where many people appreciated new drawings from the different venues. During Lillehammer 2016, there were six such shows presented, together providing a unique visual summary of these memorable 10 days.

There were other creations as well, including a decorated curling stone exhibited in Håkons Hall, one of the most shared images on Instagram. A drawing with the Olympic rings created during the Opening Ceremony was also popular and is now to be found at the Olympic Museum.

“Lillehammer 2016 was an amazing, exciting opportunity for us. With new things happening constantly, it was a pleasure to experience how the 10-day evening brought together culture, education, and sport in a seamless mix,” concludes Lothe.
Festive feelings at the Hafjell Freepark during the Snowboard Cross competition on Monday February 15.

Will the people come? An unproved event, Lillehammer 2016 had to tackle many skeptical questions. But then people began to care.

During the course of the 10-day event, there were 244,000 visitors. Beforehand, the organization committee was uncertain about how many people would actually come, but a voice from the heart of the IOC had different ideas.

“The concept is so good! You have to plan that many more will come than you believe. You don’t have enough buses,” was the prediction from IOC Olympic Games executive director Christophe Dubi in late autumn 2015.

He was right. The first signal was the number of media representatives who applied for accreditation: A total of 653 media personnel were approved to cover Lillehammer 2016.

“We had to expand the interview zone at a number of venues; there just wasn’t enough room for all media who wanted to be there,” recalls Isabel-la Rosenlund, leader for the team responsible for media working conditions. The conditions were excellent. During Lillehammer 2016, there was an average of 515 pieces daily about the Games by media personnel from all over the world.

Spectator Test
The Olympic atmosphere was back! The Opening Ceremony had a 13,000 capacity, but it was sold out well before February 12.

During the first day of competition, a surprised head of sports and venue Jostein Buraas happily called one of his colleagues with the message...
that 3,000 spectators attended the new cross-country cross event at Birkebeineren Stadium. National broadcaster NRK was pleased, with 370,000 viewers tuning into the new event – 75% of all TV viewers. All told, there were a total of over 3 million viewers who enjoyed Lillehammer 2016.

queues
In downtown Lillehammer, a daily pattern began to emerge – waiting lines several hundred meters in length to gain admittance for free concerts at the concert venue Bruket.

“We set up extra personnel to manage the queues, and we helped with the atmosphere by passing out snacks to those who were waiting,” says Eirik Høyme Rogn, head of culture and education.

There were also queues outside of Kristin Hall, the ice hockey venue. In total, over 30,000 spectators attended the hockey matches. Though Norway’s matches were not the most exciting, stands were packed when the Norwegians played against hockey powers Finland, USA, and Russia. The host team lost, lost, and lost – scoring only one goal compared to the 32 allowed. Still, humor and excitement remained high.

“It was fun that there were so many watching us,” goalie Kristian Høvik said to the national newspaper VG, with the following explanation about the overwhelming losses against the hockey superpowers: “It was crazy! They were so good, and they shot from everywhere,” said the goalie, who was the busiest player on the ice.

The interest around hockey was so strong that by the end of the Games, a queue ticketing system had to be implemented. On the last day of the Games, the ticket booths opened at 9 a.m., with several hundred already in place for tickets for the finals to take place in the afternoon.

The somewhat shocked but completely satisfied organizers – who had avoided using terms like “FolkFest” before the Games – could now let out a huge sigh of relief.

“The so-called experts who said that these Games would only be interesting for relatives and friends of the competitors were wrong. It was fantastic to see how many actually attended! Even though the competitors are not famous, we now see that this is an event that really brings out the enthusiasm in everyone,” director of communication and marketing Magne Vikøren concludes.

Sjogg Park
During the Games 35,000 visitors enjoy Sjogg Park’s outdoor theater, igloo disco and many other activities.
WE CREATED TOMORROW

The Lillehammer Youth Olympic Games Organization Committee (LYOGOC) had an average employee age of 34. For many of them, it was their first job in a leadership position. But not the last.

Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow. This was our vision, the one setting the tone for our organization and everything we attempted and achieved. Lillehammer 2016 truly showed what youths can do when given the freedom to create an event that is by, with, and for young people.

Of the 30 top leaders in the organization, there were many under the age of 30. They were often recruited directly from school, and once they proved themselves responsible, they were given more.

One of these was Jens August Dalsegg, who at the age of 26 had the responsibility for the entire national Torch Relay project. Dalsegg tells us about his experiences, “It was challenging with such an important responsibility, and as a result I have become more secure and a better communicator. If you want to make things happen, you must believe in what you do – then others will believe as well.”

Åse Line Eide (27) joined the organization with a fresh master’s degree from the Norwegian School of Sports Sciences. She was given...
the job of managing several sponsors, ticketing strategy, and the license program, as well as running two Olympic stores.

“This has been quite a journey, and I have become wiser during my time here. I am still the same person, just as curious, but with more confidence in what I can achieve,” Eide says.

Budget control was a priority from Day 1. With a budget of 360 MNOK, there was no room for waste. The organization turned to the Sunnmøre region, famed for its business acumen, and the choice fell upon master economist Jørn Valgermo (26) to manage the money. Says Valgermo, “When you are trusted, you find a way to succeed. In two years here, I have learned more than in five years as a student. This is an experience that changed my life.”

Johanne Storjord (25) came to the LYO-GOC directly from the Norwegian School of Economics and ended up being responsible for HR with 133 employees and 3,278 volunteers – Norway’s largest inland corporation in February 2016.

“I have learned so much about how to make things work and that with strong will and hard work one goes far,” she says, adding with a smile, “And never, never underestimate youth. We get it done!”

Åse Line Eide (27) came from the Norwegian School of Sports Science to a major leadership position.
The 3,278 volunteers in green pants proved that the most important thing in sport is not crossing the finish line first but to contribute in fellowship so that others can compete.

At 19 years old, Ali Al-Saad from Grue in Hedmark County was a typical volunteer. He is young and motivated and always had a smile on his face when greeting visitors to Lillehammer 2016.

“Two years ago I participated in a young sports leader course run by NIF and the organization committee. I learned a lot and wanted more. During the Games, I worked in Håkons Hall, part of a team that worked with Learn & Share. Here I met athletes from all over the world, including a number of stars. It was an unreal experience,” Al-Saad tells us.

As the Youth Olympics are by, with, and for young people, it is natural that this was reflected in the volunteer corps – 57% of which were under the age of 30. There were 755 under 20 years of age, with Lillehammer 2016 being for many their very first volunteer experience. At the same time, mentoring with older, more experienced volunteers was important, with experiences from 1994 forward to the present.
day. This volunteer corps was truly multi-generational, with the oldest volunteer being 84 years old!

“During the Games, we were part of a unique fellowship with other volunteers in their green pants. I have made many new friends and have tons more self-confidence and experience. How thankful I am for those past 10 days, I cannot begin to tell you. I can just say that it has changed my life,” Al-Saad convinces us.

Smiling, result-oriented, and helpful were the three words most often used when foreign guests described the volunteers, a corps that had a majority of women (51%). Their assignments were very different and varied. Some worked with transportation and related logistics, while over 350 worked in Håkons Hall, where activities included administration of the Athletes Village.

Without a doubt, the warmest assignment was for those who put on the Sjogg suit every day.

“We needed a break every 15 minutes and had to use a small fan in Sjogg’s head so we didn’t get overheated and dehydrated,” Liam Saunders Soljerg (15) told NRK. Liam was Sjogg in the Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre.

Part of his job was to go out on the ice in the cute bullet costume. Luckily, he is a very good figure skater.

“Sjogg’s head had a very small hole where I could just barely see what was going-on. The only thing I was really afraid of was falling on the ice. I didn’t want to lose my head...well, Sjogg’s head,” says Liam, grinning broadly.

Of 3,000 foreign applicants, 517 from 81 different countries were chosen as volunteers. A colorful and visible part of the volunteer corps, they tackled a wide range of activities. The most came from Germany (80), followed by Russia (41), Sweden (27), UK (24), and China (23). Countries not known for winter sports were also represented, including India, Gabon, Nigeria, and Oman.
GERHARD’S EXTRA YEARS

“I cried. It was a very strong experience. I had to sit myself down to compose myself before I could face the world again.” Words from the heart. The 1994 Olympic General and IOC member Gerhard Heiberg was short on words and long on emotion after he had experienced yet another Opening Ceremony in Lillehammer.

Despite the cancer running through his body, Gerhard Heiberg found renewed belief in the future. “Lillehammer 2016 was the perfect medicine for me. It gave me something to look forward to and work for, it made me want to achieve more,” Gerhard Heiberg admits.

As a Lillehammer 2016 board member, the 1994 Lillehammer president followed the planning and staging closely, but in 2013, he was struck by cancer. Lillehammer 2016’s leadership feared that they would have to manage without this man with deep insight from both organizing as well as being a long time IOC member.

But Gerhard Heiberg would not be counted out. Lillehammer 2016 would be aided by a fighter who would discover a new lease on life. “I have to admit that Lillehammer put extra years in my life,” he says. “I have had so much to look forward to and now have experienced so much positive energy created by this event. This has given me so much.”

With an open heart, he recognizes how important and warming IOC support has been for him. “President Thomas Bach was bursting with enthusiasm, praising the unique atmosphere and the pure love of sport that he witnessed. It was fantastic to witness the pride of former president Jacques Rogge. After all, his vision created this event and he was pleased that Lillehammer 2016 provided a well-needed boost,” explains Heiberg.

Continuing with his insider’s perspective, he says, “Some IOC members came to Lillehammer with a skeptical attitude towards the Youth Olympics but traveled home with renewed belief in the concept. Discussions changed direction quickly from debating if the Youth Olympics should continue to planning about just how future Games should be staged. Lillehammer 2016 set new standards, showing sport and culture thriving side by side. This took the Olympic experience to a unique new level.”

Heiberg is certain that the Youth Olympic Games will continue to be important and to attract youth and that the IOC should continue to develop the concept in the future.

“The Summer and Winter Olympics is a money machine; it is here where income is created. On the other hand, the Youth Olympics is a pure investment in the young generation. This can never be wrong. The youth are our future, and it is them that we must listen to – not the ramblings of an old fellow like myself,” concludes Heiberg with a chuckle.
This is a success story of how Lillehammer 2016 still has many millions of kroner in the bank after the Games. The simple explanation for this highly unusual phenomenon is due to two reasons. One is the 25-year-old budget controller from a region called Sunnmøre on the west coast of Norway, who lived up to the area’s reputation of being tight with money. The second reason is “Romancing the Budget.”

“Budget control is a square and cold operation, but we were lucky to have an organization full of warm and friendly colleagues,” explains CFO Vegar Strand. “Everyone knew we were all in the same boat. We decided that if one department had money that they did not need, it should go into a central fund where it could be shared with those who did not have enough. We shared the shortages as we shared the extras. ‘Romancing the Budget’ bound us together.”

Olympic budget control is a complicated process, and Norway’s Finance Minister, Siv Jensen, was interested in learning more. She showed great interest and curiosity when learning about our system of “Romancing the Budget” and took a photo of the foil where the term was explained. Strand commented that this might help the national Norwegian budget.

Under the guidance and tight reins of 25-year-old Jørn Valgermo from Sunnmøre, the budget was well controlled. The fresh-baked college graduate was an economic watchdog who left no room for mistakes, ever.

This made even the simple task of completing a travel voucher an intricate, daunting task with codes and account information that had to be 110% correct.

Chairman of the board Siri Hatlen finally asked me just who this Jørn was because he would never approve her travel vouchers,” Strand says, laughing. The total budget of the Games was slightly more than 350 million Norwegian Kroners. There are still nearly 25 million NOK unused. “Of course, we had to have contingency plans; should something have happened during the Games we would have had to fix it, regardless of cost. ‘Romancing the Budget’ gave us a buffer. Of course, we were lucky the worst thing that happened was a bus being 15 minutes late,” Strand concludes. “And it all cost less than planned.”

Not even 30 years old, responsible for managing nearly 350 million NOK, Vegar Strand realized quickly that such a project needed to be a matter of love. A love that even was interesting for the Norwegian Finance Minister.

Create tomorrow
Ten amazing days. Dreams that came true, dreams denied (for now), friendships created in the quest for a common goal, and memories for rest of our lives. Beyond these memories, what is really left after Lillehammer 2016?

“Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow” is the vision really says it all. We did not just plan and stage just the ten days. We staged Lillehammer 2016 to create tomorrow — a lasting legacy for the region and for Norwegian sport,” says Tore Holmestad, the CEO of Lillehammer 2016.

This legacy was created through five different promises — promises that from the very first day were success criteria for the event. These were the guiding factors — more than anything else — of how time and resources were prioritized to create the Lillehammer ‘94. As time goes by and memory fades, these will remain:

- A lasting legacy of infrastructure and equipment
- Students in Lillehammer will now live in the 360 new student-housing units in this city of sport. Twenty-two years after the Winter Olympics in 1994, Lillehammer 2016 became the vehicle for renewal of all licenses from the International Federations. Now, competitions on the highest international level have a secure future here. Permanent investment in venues that include Lysgaardbakene and Haflidakken — both with increased snow production capacity, have now

The Youth Olympic Village lives on as 360 brand new student apartments in Lillehammer.
renewed status as National Venues. On Stampesletta, there now is a new curling and hockey hall – filled with a variety of grassroots sports activities on a daily basis.

Changing lives of the participants

With 2,500 square meters and 33 different activities in Håkons Hall, all Lillehammer 2016 participants received education in themes that included social responsibility, injury prevention, and life after competitive sport. Nearly 16,000 participated in the program, and after the Games, they returned to their countries with experience in their backpacks that meant much more than a diploma or medal. They will take this experience and these values further into their careers, within sport and beyond.

Over 300 cultural events brought youths from all backgrounds and cultures together, creating friendship and understanding of cultural diversity.

With these new experiences, new friends, and changes in perspective and attitude – we believe that Lillehammer 2016 meant much to many young people.

Contributing to a ten-year plan for development of Norwegian sport

With over 3,200 volunteers, of which 57% were under 30 years old, Lillehammer 2016 gave many young people a fine opportunity as new leaders, trainers, volunteers, and athletes. With the motto “Youth is best inspired by other youth,” stories spread throughout the country about young people who contributed through volunteer work. The highlight was when Sajandan Rutthira received the prize for Changemaker of the Year in front of over 1 million television viewers. This was followed up by the national Olympic torch relay, where tens of thousands of spectators throughout the country heard stories of youths who chose volunteer work. This gave a national focus on volunteerism.

Locally in Lillehammer, the project Active Mind Active Body provided 15 MNOK invested in local schools, equipment, and facilities, all designed to increase activity – especially among those who had not been active in a sport before. Over 20,000 children tried different kinds of sports during Lillehammer 2016. Who knows? Maybe future Olympians made their debut here!

Renewed regional expertise and enthusiasm

Whenever the international world of sport comes to Norway’s inland, athletes and all others will enjoy benefits of a renewed health and transportation infrastructure stimulated by the planning and staging of Lillehammer 2016. Young event organizers will be ready at the venues, perhaps still in their official Lillehammer 2016 uniforms, at events perhaps planned by one of our 130 Lillehammer 2016 employees, who with an average age of 34, created these Games. Many young students who volunteered and experienced a unique training ground will likely go on and pursue careers with brand-new professional growth and optimism.

Contributing to creation of a Legacy Center

The Olympic adventure here in Norway’s inland did not end with Lillehammer 2016. As a benefit from careful budget control, there remains a surplus that will be used to carry the region’s Olympic legacy further – to the joy and benefit of future generations. This legacy centre will be an unique opportunity to share the passion and expertise in winter sports found in the region of Lillehammer with young elite athletes, coaches and managers from other nations – a great way for double-Olympic city Lillehammer and the whole region to give back to sport and to the Olympic Movement.

Changemakers

Changemakers like Sajandan Rutthira contributed to a national focus on young volunteers.
BEHIND THE SCENES

An event such as the Youth Olympic Games are dependent on an army of volunteers, staff, sports organizers and solid supporters.
PLAYFUL CEO ON TORCH TOUR

SPORTS MANAGERS TAKE A WELL-DESERVED BREAK

Two snow and ice architects were part of the staff.
The Lillehammer 2016 Youth Olympic Games would not have been possible without the great support from the host municipalities and counties:

**SPORT CLUBS**

These organizations were technical organizers of the sport competitions:

- **Bobsledding**: Lillehammer Akeklubb
- **Sliding**: Norge Ake-, Bobsledding- og Skeletonforbund
- **Sliding/Boobsledding/Skeleton**: Norges Ake-, Bobsledding- og Skeletonforbund
- **Alpine**: Hafjell/Kvitfjell Alpin AS, Lillehammer Skiklub, Øyer Tretten IL
- **Biathlon**: Vingrom IL
- **Cross-Country, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined**: Lillehammer skifestival, Vingrom IL, Vingar IL, Øyer Tretten IL, Lillehammer Skiklub, Samdal IL, Notodden IL
- **Curling**: Lillehammer Curlingklubb
- **Ice Hockey**: Lillehammer Ice Hockeyklubb
- **Ice Swimming**: Hamar IL
- **Mega-Cubing, Douglas, Nordic Combined**: Lillehammer skifestival, Vingrom IL, Vingar IL, Øyer Tretten IL, Lillehammer Skiklub, Samdal IL, Notodden IL
- **Short Track**: Norge Skøjteklubb
- **Shooting**: Norge Skøjteklubb
- **Speed Skating**: Hedmark Skøytekrets

**THE HOSTS**

The Lillehammer 2016 Youth Olympic Games would not have been possible without the great support from the host municipalities and counties:
From left: Aurora Claes Digerud, Anna Strand Andersen, line Plathe, Jens August Dalsegg, Per Evjen, Cathrine Dokken, Martin Evjen, Trygve Ingvaldsen, Fredrik Ahlsen, Karina Andersen Aas, Sjogg, Sverre Colgen, Kjell Bjarne Helland, Helge Bro Matland, Eirik Andreas Øwre, Vidar Eilertsen, Stian Anthonseen, Marius Tangeland and Mats Skjønhaug.
Go beyond. Create tomorrow.