The bustling city of Barcelona, located in the northeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, will be the host of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games, which are scheduled for July 25 through August 9, 1992.

The International Olympic Committee, founded in 1894 by the French Baron Pierre de Coubertin, which brought together three hundred and eleven enthusiasts representing 13 nations in Athens in 1896 for the first modern Olympic Games, will gather in 1992, 10,000 athletes, an equal number of the media, judges, and official guests along with spectators for the Games of the XXVth Olympiad. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies will follow the same basic pattern from one game to another, with the words of de Coubertin displayed on the scoreboard: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning, but taking part. The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well."

Categories of the Games are as follows: athletics, badminton, basketball, handball, baseball, boxing, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, weightlifting, equestrian, hockey, judo, wrestling, swimming, diving, synchron, water polo, pentathlon, canoeing, rowing, tennis, table tennis, shooting, archery, yachting, volleyball, sports, roller hockey, pelota, and taekwondo.

Barcelona's Olympic preparations are ambitious and imaginative. Much of this beautiful, Mediterranean city is being renovated and new facilities are being installed, geared specifically for these anticipated grand events. Revitalization efforts are obvious from the old sections and city center to the seaport. Renowned architects have been called upon to contribute their talents. The city's infrastructure is receiving special attention; the airport is being upgraded and expanded, as are the city's highways and subways.

The site specifically designated for the Olympic Ring is the Montjuic Mountain, which rises in the southern part of Barcelona and overlooks the
harbor. The Ring consists of an esplanade linking a number of major sports facilities. One of these, the Olympic Stadium, is a redesign of the one built for the Universal Exhibition held in Barcelona in 1929. Also forming part of the Olympic Ring is the Palau Sant Jordi, a new arena for gymnastic events, designed by Japanese architect, Arata Isozaki.

Along the sea in the eastern section of Barcelona — an area that was run-down and neglected — an Olympic Village is now being built. It will contain parks, residential areas, and welcome housing for Barcelona residents when the Olympians move out after the summer of 1992.

In the northeastern part of the city in the Valle de Hebron, sports facilities will be centered, such as the Horta cycle track, tennis courts and archery ranges, along with parks and more residential buildings.

In the Raval district, Richard Meier has skillfully designed a beautiful building for the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art. The structure will be one part of an extensive cultural complex which will eventually contain art and design schools, exhibition spaces and offices for cultural institutions.

Hotels and shopping areas are also springing up and a refurbishing frenzy is evident in this city of 3.5 million residents. The deluxe 5-star Princesa Sofia has been selected as the official hotel of the Olympic Games. Others in the 5-star category are the new Barcelona Hilton, located on the prestigious Avinguda...
Diagonal, not far from the Olympic Stadium, and the Hotel Ritz, which was recently awarded “grand luxe” or “gran lujo” status. The latter was built in 1919 in lavish Belle Epoque style, and remains faithful to its original decor and design. It has the ultimate in modern facilities and amenities and is the traditional meeting place for the international elite. Many of the baths are Roman-style, decorated with tiles from Seville.

Barcelona is the capital of one of Spain's most traditional provinces, Catalonia. It is sophisticated and international in orientation. Besides the broad avenues, "las ramblas," and striking architecture — including buildings by art nouveau architect Gaudi — it boasts of innumerable galleries and art museums, as well as a fascinating old quarter. Fine restaurants which serve regional cuisine with impeccable style abound, and the long stretches of coastline provide ample seafood and shellfish. From the fertile farmlands come excellent fruit, vegetables and other edibles; and a selection of fine wines from the vintners is readily available at most food establishments. Add to this the local flair and imagination and one is certain to find a tasty, memorable meal on any budget. Some of the higher-priced restaurants are: Reno (international and Catalan cuisine), Neichel (elegant and classic cuisine), Via Veneto (French/Catalan cuisine), Florian (blend of Catalan, French and Italian cuisine), La Dorada (Andalusian seafood), Guria (Basque cuisine), and Eldorado Petit (Catalan cuisine). Less expensive, but equally satisfying restaurants include: Raco D'En Jaume (Catalan cuisine), Casa Culleretes (family-style Catalan restaurant), and Cafe De L' Academia (Catalan cuisine).

This is an art lover's city because of its abundant museums and galleries. The unusual architectural creations of Antonio Gaudi, such as La Sagrada Familia, the Cathedral begun in 1883 and never completed, still astonishes visitors. The Mares Museum in the Gothic quarter, located in the Royal Palace, houses an excellent collection of polychrome wood statues. The Cambo Collection exhibits works of Raphael, Botticelli, Tintoretto, Titian, Tiepolo, Fragonard, Rubens, Van Dyck, Goya and Zurbaran; and the artist Joan Miro has an entire room devoted to his works produced from 1914 to 1975. And, of course, there is the Picasso Museum which displays early and late works of the artist.

The province of Catalonia is autonomous and has its own language, which is Catalan. It is related to the Provencal language of southern France.

Symbols of the Barcelona '92 Olympic Games are the mascot, Cobi, a friendly dog, and the logotype, an avant-garde design created by Javier Mariscal, born in Valencia in 1950.

The COOB '92 (Barcelona '92 Olympic Organizing Committee) is the supreme governing body of the Olympic consortium, presided by the mayor of Barcelona, Pasqual Marazall. The Committee is self-financing with most of its income derived from the sale of world television rights and commercialization of the corporate symbols, which includes an athlete in dynamic pose.

The Spanish government has recently allotted over $114 million toward financing the Olympic Games. This funding, combined with $212 million from the private sector, sponsors, plus revenue from the sales of worldwide television rights, assures COOB '92 of 90% of its
planned budget. In addition to these funds, up to $86 million is expected from the sale of 6.7 million tickets to the Games.

There will be 526 Olympic events which will take place at 44 competition venues in and near Barcelona, and a total of 6,700,000 seats will be available for all the events.

Prior to the commencement of the Games, a vital point to mention is the design and performance of the Olympic Torch route, which will begin in Olympia, Greece, and enter Spain through Empuries aboard the Spanish naval training ship, Juan Sebastian Elcano. From there, with the participation of the Olympic volunteers, it will travel through the 17 autonomous communities in recognition of the tremendous help given by them, and will finally reach Barcelona for the opening of the Games of the XXVth Olympiad.

1992 will be a banner year to visit Spain, which, in addition to hosting the Olympics, will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America and host the '92 World Expo in Seville.

The ticket sales agency for the United States is Olson Travel-World, 100 North Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245.

Adding impetus to the growing energy evident in Barcelona are the other events that are set to occur in Spain in 1992: the European Economic Community, of which Spain became a member as recently as 1986, will abolish trade restrictions; the World's Fair, EXPO '92, will be held in Seville, capital of the southern Spanish region of Andalucia; Madrid will be the Cultural Capital of Europe '92; and the Sephard '92, cultural and artistic activities commemorating the Jewish people in Spain, will also take place.