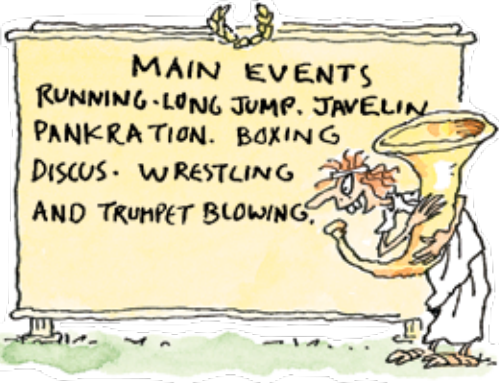


# The First



The first Olympics took place in Greece around 2,500 years ago to honor Zeus, king of the gods. They were a bit different from today's games. All the contestants were male, and they had to compete completely naked.



**JAVELIN**  
This test of spear-throwing skill was judged as much on accuracy as distance.

RULES AND REGULATIONS. YOU CAN TWIST EARS OFF, PULL HAIR, BATTER TO DEATH, BREAK FINGERS, STRANGLE, BREAK LIMBS. BUT NO BITING OR EYE GOUGING SINCE THAT'S NOT NICE - OR I'LL GIVE YOU A WHACK WITH THIS STICK.



**LEAFY PRIZE**  
Winners did not get medals. Instead, they got a crown of olive leaves from Zeus's temple. But their home towns often gave winners money, jars of olive oil, or even free meals for life.



**DISCUS**  
Can ultimate Frisbee be far behind?

**PANKRATION**  
In this no-holds-barred gruesome fight, the winner was the one left standing. Rules were enforced by referees wielding sticks.

**RACING IN ARMOR**  
This had the crowd roaring with laughter. Swimming with armor never really caught on.





# Olympics

There were no women's games, and any woman caught watching could be put to death. Athletes risked being killed or maimed in some of the more brutal events, such as boxing and the pankration. There were also poetry readings and a trumpet competition.



I'm here for the joke-telling contest..



text and art by Arthur Robins

## THE FIRST SOCCER MOM

Kallipatria was so proud of her son that she disguised herself as a man to watch him box. In the excitement she blew her cover. Luckily he was the champion, and her life was spared.



## BREAKING RECORDS

Competitors did not try to set records for farthest or fastest (stop-watches hadn't been invented yet). They competed against each other, and all that mattered was winning.



## WRESTLE MANIAC

The object of wrestling was to throw your opponent to the ground three times. Milo the Giant was the greatest. Milo didn't need any fancy wrestling moves. He was simply so big that no one had much chance of throwing him anywhere.

Today, male and female athletes from all over the world compete in the modern Olympic games every 4 years. Many of the sports have changed and everyone wears clothes, but we like to imagine Zeus would be pleased.

## HORSE RACING

As many as 30 to 60 horses would run in each race. Pegasus, the winged horse, would have been a safe bet.

