

CHINA GOLD

China's Quest for Global Power and Olympic Glory

Edited by Fan Hong, University College Cork,
with Duncan Mackay and Karen Christensen

Want to know more about China? Wondering what China's growing stature means for the global community and our planet? This is where CHINA GOLD comes in . . .

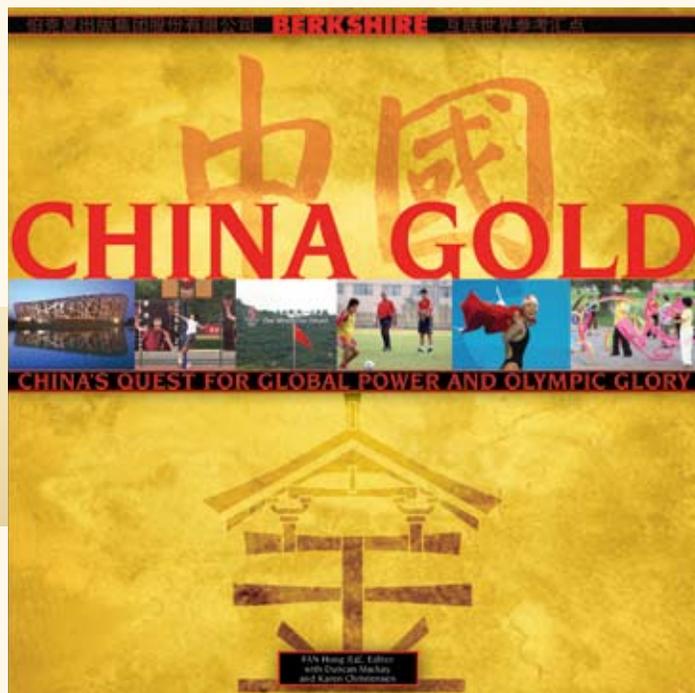
On ba yue ba hao ba dian ling ba fen, the auspicious 8th day of the 8th month of 2008 at 8.08 pm, the Games will begin!

China is stepping onto the world stage as the nation most likely to shape the 21st century. What an opportunity for millions of people around the world—sports fans as well as those who simply love the pageantry and global camaraderie of the Olympic Games—to learn about China and its history, culture, and customs. *China Gold: China's Quest for Global Power and Olympic Glory* is not only about the Beijing Olympics and Chinese sports but also about China itself—past, present, and future.

The Olympics are being described as a “coming out party” for China as a major power of the 21st century. The Olympics are also an ideal opportunity for Americans and other Westerners to learn more about China, to gain some of the essential background knowledge of Chinese history and culture that will help us—professionals in different industries, leaders in government and business, students, teachers, and voters—in the years ahead.

China Gold introduces Western readers to China's history, culture, and role in the global community. It takes the Beijing Olympics and Chinese sports as a platform, an easy way for people around the world to get to know the nation and its people at this crucial moment, when China is cast into the world's spotlight—not only in sports but in business, science, and technology.

The Olympic Games are about global relationships and global change, about power and politics, and the



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2008 Games (only the third to be held in Asia) give us a new perspective on a fascinating story, that of a 5,000-year-old civilization resuming its international influence after centuries of turmoil.

People around the world are looking for ways to get a handle on what China is like and what its rising stature in the global community means for our way of life, our jobs, our children, and our planet. *China Gold* is not just a guide for the sports-obsessed. Full of background history and facts you won't find anywhere else, it's for anyone and everyone intrigued by China.

CHINA GOLD: China's Quest for Global Power and Olympic Glory

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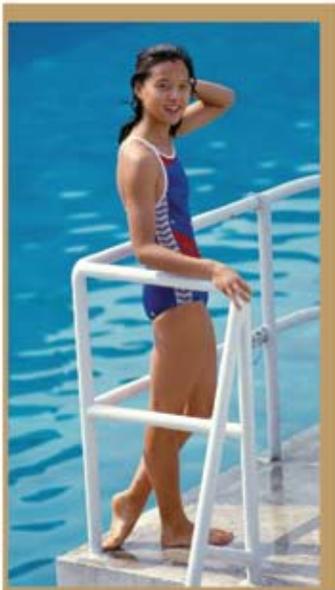
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Diving Champion Shi Mingxin helped establish China as a diving powerhouse.

captured the hearts of Canadians when he won a gold medal in the 10-meter platform diving event at the 1988 Commonwealth Games and became an overnight celebrity. He won the gold medal in 3-meter springboard events in the 2002 Commonwealth Games in

Manchester, England, and gold at the 2003 World Championships in Barcelona in the 10-meter platform diving event. That year he also won his first world championship in the 10-meter platform diving event and then traveled to Santo Domingo for the Pan Am

Games and won three gold medals and one bronze. That success carried on to the 2004 Olympics in Athens, where he won the silver medal in the 3-meter springboard event. At the 2005 FINA World Championships, cheered by the hometown Montreal crowd, Despatie became the first diver to be world champion on all three boards.

China, however, has a new generation of diving stars, notably HE Chong 何冲 and LUO Yutao 罗玉涛. As a world champion rookie, He Chong won the gold in the men's synchronized 3-meter springboard at Montreal in 2005 and won the gold medal in the 3-meter springboard at the Champions Diving Tour in 2006.

In the women's 3-meter springboard, the greatest chance of winning gold has been with either GUO Jingling 郭晶晶 and WU Minxia 吴敏霞. Guo Jingling was the gold medalist at the 1999, 2000, 2002, and 2004 FINA World Diving Cup, and the 2001, 2005, and 2007 World Diving Championships. In 2004 Guo Jingling won the Olympic

gold medal in the springboard in Athens and a gold medal in the synchronized springboard at the 2004 Athens Olympics. In 1998, she teamed with Guo Jingling in the 3-meter synchronized springboard at the 2003 FINA Diving World Cup, 2003 FINA Diving World Cup, and 2003 World Diving Championships. In 2004, she teamed with Guo Jingling in the 3-meter synchronized springboard at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Divng Duos at the Olympics



Olympic synchronized diving (diving in pairs) began at the Sydney 2000 Games. Here's how the International Olympic Committee's website (www.olympic.org) explains the competition and judging.

Competitors perform a series of dives and are awarded points up to 10, depending upon their elegance and skill. The points are then adjusted for the degree of difficulty, based on the number and types of maneuvers attempted, such as somersaults, pikes, tucks and twists. A reverse

1.5 somersault with 3.5 twists, for example, is among the most difficult.

A panel of seven judges traditionally scores a dive, judging such elements as approach, take-off, execution and entry into the water. Nine judges assess synchronized diving. Four judge the execution of individual dives, and five assess synchronization—how the pairs mirror height, distance from the springboard or platform, speed of rotation and entry into the water.

On the other hand, Russian veteran Julia Pakhalina, one of the world's best springboard divers, undoubtedly challenges the dominance of China in the women's 3-meter springboard. She was the silver medalist at the 2006 World Championships with a score of 610.62, just 2.62 points behind Wu Minxia. In the women's 10-meter platform, Laura Wilkinson of the United States is the most capable opponent of the

2003 World Championships in Barcelona in the 10-meter platform.

However, the Chinese athletes, LAO Lishi 劳丽斯 and JIA Tong 贾童, will fight for the gold medal in the women's 10-meter platform against Laura Wilkinson and Émilie Heymans (see table 3). Lao represented China at the 2004 Summer Olympics, earning a silver medal in the 10-meter women's

platform and a gold medal in the 10-meter synchronized platform. In 2005, she won the women's 10-meter platform gold medal at the World Swimming Championships in Shanghai. She also won the gold medal in the women's 10-meter platform at the World Cup in 2006.

Champions of the Platform

GAO Ming 高敏 (b. 1970), "Queen," began her diving career at the age of nine. She joined the national team when she was 15 and the national team when she was 15. When she was six, she won the women's springboard gold medal in the Fifth World Swimming Championships. One year later, she won the women's springboard gold medal at the FINA Diving World Cup. She then won gold in the 10-meter platform at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, becoming the first Chinese

Chinese women have won more gold medals than Chinese men have in international competitions—thus, the "stronger women and feebler men" phenomenon was characteristic of Chinese sports in the 1980s and 1990s. By the year 2000, however, performance in both programs had slipped. The men's team won only one gold medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, and the women none. After training with great determination, the Chinese gymnastics teams enjoyed a revival and won eight of the fourteen gold medals in the Gymnastics World Championship in Aarhus, Denmark, in October 2006. YANG Wei 杨威 won three gold medals in the men's team, all-round, and parallel bars events. In addition, CHENG Fei 程菲 was the most successful woman, winning three titles in the women's team, vault, and floor exercise events.

Twenty-first-Century Chinese Gymnasts

As the world prepared for the 2008 Olympics, the Chinese gymnastics teams received considerable attention, but knowledgeable observers were alert to the fact that it was in some ways a new, young, and untried group of athletes, and suggested that the instability of their performances



A member of the Chinese gymnastics team at the 2004 Olympics.

might be the biggest obstacle to their winning gold. The U.S. team has been dominant in the sport, and although the prowess of the Russian and Romanian teams has declined in recent years with the retirement of a number of star gymnasts, these teams and the fast-rising Italian, Ukrainian, and Australian teams were also significant threats to the Chinese women. The Chinese gymnast Cheng Fei, with her signature "Cheng Fei Vault," has been thought to have a good chance to win gold medals in the vault and floor exercise events. Winning the balance beam gold medal is another goal of the Chinese women's team.

As for men's gymnastics, the U.S., Japanese, and Russian teams remain China's strongest opponents in the team events. YANG Wei and CHEN Yibing 陈一冰 are two particularly promising

Chinese athletes. Chinese gymnasts such as FENG Ling 冯琳 and Chinese team captain LI Bing's hand-rings. Yang Wei's and Li Bing's hand-rings. Yang Wei's and Li Bing's hand-rings. Yang Wei's and Li Bing's hand-rings.

Soccer began to gain popularity in other countries. The first official soccer match took place in 1904. Since then soccer has become one of the most popular Olympic sports. In 1904 the first official soccer match took place in St. Louis, Missouri. Since then soccer has become one of the most popular Olympic sports.

Football/Soccer

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Besides the Olympic Games, the FIFA World Cup is the most important soccer tournament. The first World Cup was held in Uruguay in 1930. The next was in Italy in 1934. The 1950 World Cup was held in Brazil. The 1954 World Cup was held in Switzerland. The 1958 World Cup was held in Sweden. The 1962 World Cup was held in Chile. The 1966 World Cup was held in England. The 1970 World Cup was held in Mexico. The 1974 World Cup was held in Germany. The 1978 World Cup was held in Argentina. The 1982 World Cup was held in Italy. The 1986 World Cup was held in Mexico. The 1990 World Cup was held in Italy. The 1994 World Cup was held in the United States. The 1998 World Cup was held in France. The 2002 World Cup was held in Korea and Japan. The 2006 World Cup was held in Germany.

Source: FIFA/International Football Federation

CHINA GOLD tells the stories behind the Games — from the Qing dynasty, the first Chinese Republic, the early Communist era, all the way to the dramatic present. CHINA GOLD will become a treasured volume in any reader's lifelong library.

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Martial Arts
中国金
武术

THE CHINESE REGARD MARTIAL ARTS (wushu 武术) as the essence of traditional Chinese sport. Wushu originated in the fighting skills that were part of military training in ancient China. These fighting skills were divided into two categories during the late Song dynasty (960–1279). The first category was entertainment. Books in the Song dynasty recorded martial arts performances such as wrestling, fighting among two or more opponents, fight-

series. These series were applied in physical training, attacking, and defending.

During the Qing dynasty (1644–1912) martial arts were sometimes discouraged by the Manchu rulers. Wushu nonetheless remained popular and continued to develop: more than sixty kinds of fist positions were developed. Each fist position feature was a series and each series consisted of several movements. That's not all. During the centuries under Qing rule there were more than twenty kinds of Chinese boxing and over ten kinds of broadswordplay, such as long-handle broadsword, short-hilted broadsword, and Shaolin double swords. Wushu had a revival, too, in the middle of the nineteenth century as nationalistic feelings

were roused by the Chinese defeat in the Opium War of 1842.

Modern Western sport had a tremendous impact on martial arts. At the end of the nineteenth century, some gymnastics specialists introduced European gymnastics to the martial arts. The establishment of the Jinguwu Association (1910) and the Chinese Martial Arts Academy (1927) grew out of this transformation of Chinese martial arts. The "new martial arts" were a combination of traditional martial arts and modern gymnastics.

During the early 1950s, martial arts became a formal event in China's National Games. In addition martial arts tournaments were held periodically in both urban and suburban areas in China.



to spread from England in the late 1800s. Olympic men's soccer place at the 1900 Paris Britain defeated France for soccer gold medal.

Women's soccer became an Olympic sport in 1996 in Atlanta. The U.S. team defeated the host team and won the gold medal.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) was founded in Paris. It became professional soccer by European countries. It won its own world proper championship—the World Cup—by defeating the first one at the Stadium in Montevideo, Uruguay, on July 1930.

Television coverage of soccer grew in popularity in the 1950s. The champion of the world is considered the "real" soccer world. For the Golden Boot Award, which leading goal scorer(s) wins, is the highest honor.

Olympic Games and the World Cup, another leading world soccer event is the European Cup for men as the "Champions



Bora Milutinovic led China's National Team to the 2002 FIFA world cup, and remains a popular figure in China today.

League." In 1993 the European Cup was established as a competition for league champions of European countries. The competition has been a driving force in the development of soccer in Europe and a festival for soccer fans all over the world.

Modern Soccer in China

It has been recorded that the British brought modern soccer to China, first to Shanghai, then to big cities such

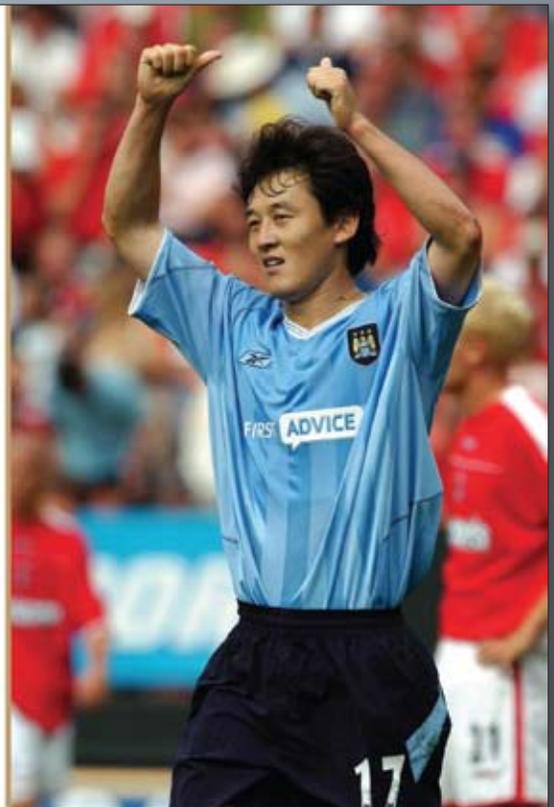
as Beijing, Tianjin, and Guangzhou, in 1856. In 1879 the first documented match took place in Shanghai. In 1887 the Shanghai Football Club was formed. Twenty years later, in 1907, the first soccer league was established in Shanghai, with Thomas Dewar—a whiskey distiller—providing a trophy to the winners. Although the sport was initially dominated by British expatriates, other nationalities soon joined in, notably the Portuguese.

In 1923 the South China Club in Hong Kong represented China on a tour of Australia. In 1936 China participated in the Olympic soccer events in Berlin. Between the 1920s and 1940s, under the supervision of the Chinese Athletic Association, soccer matches took place in Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou between a variety of clubs, including Union, Korean SC, Tung Hwa, Tsong

Peh, plus European teams Sokol, Italiano, and Jewish Recreation.

In 1951, just two years after the People's Republic of China was founded, the National Football Federation was formed and the initial League Championship was held. In many cases teams represented regions rather than cities. Within a few years, sports institutes were developed, attended by the most promising players from factory and school teams. These institutes, along with the formation of a National Class A Tournament, enhanced the level of play. During the 1950s, Chinese teams built their skill levels through matches with foreign teams—primarily from other Communist countries.

In the mid-1960s, the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976) brought a halt to the game's progress, since all competitive sports were banned until 1972. Two years later, through the efforts of Henry Fok, FIFA executive and long-time supporter of soccer in China, FIFA member teams were permitted to play the Chinese. Then, in 1976, China was allowed to join the Asian Football Conference. That ushered in a wave of international activities. Pele and the New York Cosmos visited China to play, followed by teams from twenty-nine countries. In turn, some forty-seven national teams welcomed the Chinese team. By 1980, China was accepted as a full member of FIFA, which allowed its national team to play in qualifying matches for the World Cup, the Asian Cup, and the Olympics.



Sun Jihai is one of the most famous Chinese football players playing outside of China.

World Cup and Golden Boot Award Winners since 1930

CUP	GOLDEN BOOT AWARD
Uruguay	Gary Lineker (England) 6 goals
Germany	Toto Schillaci (Italy) 6 goals
	Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria) 6 goals, Oleg Salenko (Russia) 6 goals
	Davor Suker (Croatia) 6 goals
	Ronaldinho (Brazil) 5 goals
	Miroslav Klose (Germany) 5 goals

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Any sports fan or person doing business in China needs CHINA GOLD. This is the only book that tells the stories, introduces the athletes, the businesses, and global leaders who have cooperated — through many challenges — to bring about this historic event . . .

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FAN Hong is a professor and director of the Irish Institute of Chinese Studies at University College Cork in Ireland. She was born in Sichuan and trained as a swimmer in Beijing before pursuing an academic career in the U.K. Fan's recent publications include *Sport, Nationalism and Orientalism: The Asian Games* (2006).

Duncan Mackay



Duncan Mackay is an award-winning British sports journalist. He studied Chinese history and politics at university and has covered every Olympics since Barcelona 1992. He now writes for the *Observer* and is publisher and editor of www.insidethegames.com, a website devoted to the Olympic Games. He carried the Olympic torch in London in April 2008.

Karen Christensen



Karen Christensen was coeditor of the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport* and senior editor of *The International Encyclopedia of Women and Sports*. She is CEO of Berkshire Publishing Group and publisher of *Guanxi: The China Letter*.

A Note about the Editors: All three editors are available for press interviews: Fan Hong in Ireland and China, Duncan Mackay in the U.K., and Karen Christensen in the U.S. and U.K.

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Placement

- Current Affairs
- Sports
- Asian Studies

Coverage

- Beijing Olympics events, venues, preparations, etc.
- Chinese sports—Olympics sports and traditional, new, extreme sports
- Chinese history and culture
- Olympic history in general

Special features

- Photos from Chinese archives
- Chinese characters throughout text

Readers

- Professional people, business leaders, and policy makers interested in (and perhaps worried about) China's role in the world today.
- Regular followers of the Olympics who will want to be prepared to watch and talk about what's coming in 2008.
- Sports fans with an interest in the particular sports that will be hotly contested in Beijing.
- People planning to attend the Games, or visiting Beijing before or after the event.
- Teachers and students studying China in both high school and college classes, who will use the book and the Games to enrich students' understanding of Chinese history and culture, and also as background for discussion of the significance of the 2008 Games.

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