



FRONT PAGES



Fall
2006

CHICAGO GAY GAMES

In July, Chicago hosted over 11,000 GLBT athletes for Gay Games VII. Did the DC Front Runners and Team DC blow away the competition in the Windy City? Check it out.

Story on page 2 ▼

MONTRÉAL OUTGAMES

Next stop: Montréal. A large contingent of DC Front Runners headed north to compete in the First World Outgames. Fun? Oui! How did we do? Read on.

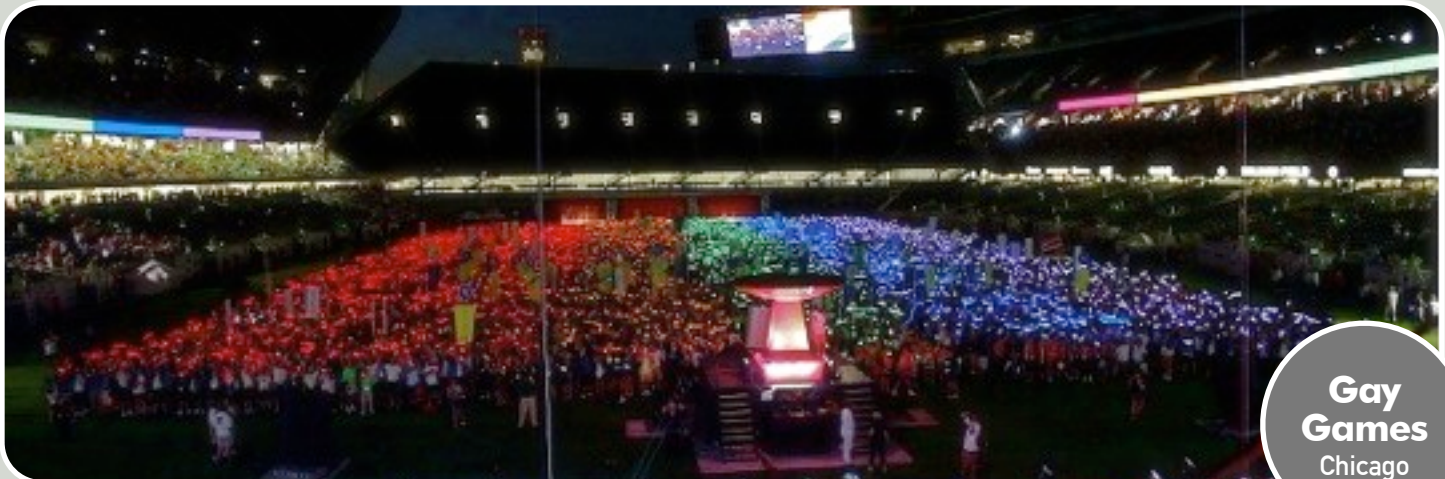
Story on page 4 ▼

NEW RACE CIRCUIT

As the leaves start to change, another DCFR Race Circuit season begins. We've added new races and kept some old favorites too. Enjoy the run.

Story on page 11 ▼

FRONTPAGES



Gay Games
Chicago

LET THE GAYMES BEGIN!

Over 40 DC Front Runners compete in the 2006 Chicago Gay Games and Outgames Montréal

by Jeff Dutton

CHICAGO | The seventh Gay Games, held in Chicago July 15-22, felt similar to the previous 2002 Games in Sydney. The Gay Games principle of participation, inclusion, and personal best was repeated during the opening and closing ceremonies and taken to heart during the events. There were over 11,000 athletes from countries around the world. Many old friendships were rekindled and new ones were made. And yet, as hard as everyone worked at making it seem as if nothing was awry, it was impossible not to feel that something was missing.

For those of us who have attended previous Gay Games, the fact that nearly everyone was from the United States stood out. We've come to expect and enjoy a bit more of a balance between Americans and our overseas counterparts. Another missing element was a large cadre of DC Front Runners, many of whom elected to participate in the Outgames

two weeks later in Montréal. In Sydney, the largest and most successful track and field teams were from New York and Seattle. In 2006, those teams were largely absent from the Gay Games because they had chosen to focus on the Outgames in Montréal. Nonetheless, new groups of large running teams sprung up to take their place: a couple of the largest and most successful track and field teams were from Indiana and San Francisco.

The opening ceremonies on July 15 at Soldier Field were lengthy but meaningful if you had a penchant for recounting some of the more sobering aspects of the long struggle for gay civil rights and the evolution of the "Gay Games movement." Much more succinct and jubilant were the closing ceremonies on July 22, which took place under a beautiful blue sky at historic Wrigley Field and featured everything from the DC Cowboys to cheerleading to Cyndi Lauper and her emotional rendition of



Laissez Les Jeux Commencer!

Outgames Montréal coverage begins on page 4.

“True Colors” while wrapped in rainbow-colored Lady Liberty-ish cloth.

As expected, both the weather and the athletes were HOT in Chicago during the seventh Gay Games. But none of us were quite prepared to compete in temperatures that were fully 12 degrees above average—95 degrees—on July 17, which also happened to be the day of the 10K road race and several key track events. The low at Midway Airport that morning was 75 degrees, so it mattered little that the 10K began at 6:30 a.m. It seemed that the only two DC Front Runners who took the excessive warmth that day in stride were Jonathan Horsford, who ran very close to a 39-minute 10K for the bronze medal in a competitive 30-34 age category, and Barry Kropf, who pointed out that two “runners” in his age category were actually slower than him.

After that hot day, cooler air arrived, and it turned out to be a more typical gorgeous week in a world-class city that proved to be a capable, very gay-friendly host for the Gay Games. I was impressed that Mayor Daley spoke at both the opening and closing ceremonies.

About a dozen DC Front Runners were scattered around the various events of Gay Games VII, from the road races and marathons to track and field events that some of us only do once every four years to swimming and the ever-popular Pink Flamingo water-drag extravaganza. Most stayed in the historic Palmer House Hilton, just off Michigan Avenue. The Palmer House served as a staging ground not only for the few DC Front Runners who attended the Games but also for a much larger contingent of Team DC athletes. The Palmer House was next to the Monroe “L” train station, an important convenience since several of the venues, including track and field, were in far-flung areas of the city that were nonetheless accessible via public transportation.

Seven athletes from Team DC participated in track and field events in Chicago and they all came back as medalists! Two men won gold medals, and two others won individual silver medals. Andy Nolen won decathlon in the 18-29 age category. Tom Ramsey also won Gold for the 110 meter hurdles. Ryan Bos won an individual silver medal for the 1500 meter run in the 30-34 age category. Tyler McMillan won an individual silver medal

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DCFR @ 2006 Gay Games



CHICAGO



Your Mileage May Vary

(TOP) Chicago Gay Games 5K and 10K medalists Blake Rushin, Miles Harter and Jonathan Horsford.

(MIDDLE) Jeff Dutton before winning a Bronze Team Medal at the 4x800 Relay Event.

(BOTTOM) Richard Strange (right) wins a silver medal in the Gay Games Sprint Triathlon.



Outgames
Montréal

United at the Outgames

by Chase Maggiano

MONTRÉAL | There is one image of the Outgames that remains central in my mind: After suffering a severe race injury the previous day, DC Front Runner Richard Strange crossed the finish line of the Men's 1500 meter last, hand in hand, with a fellow Front Runner from Seattle. The two received thunderous ovations from strangers in the stands as well as concerned (and relieved) friends.

The feelings of unity and support evoked by this image did not end at the finish line of the 1500. I met several local straight men and women who were competing and volunteering in the Outgames as a sign of support for the city and the gay community. As our own Federal Triangles Soccer Club won the gold medal, Washingtonians from all different sports were at the field cheering them on. As Richard Isaacs and I raced through the streets of Montréal, we received praise and encouragement from police officers, restaurants patrons, and little old ladies in bathrobes waving to us from their balconies. Strangers from Montréal would approach us in the metro and ask about our events to congratulate us. It is appropriate that the Outgames occurred in such a very "out" city.

For those who have never been to the Gay Games or Outgames, the celebration can be described as Gay Pride on steroids. The city of Montréal



How Many Games?

This year, the Gay Games VII in Chicago and the First World Outgames in Montréal were held only a week apart. What happened?

The 2006 Gay Games were originally awarded to Montréal. Following financial difficulties with the previous Games in Amsterdam and Sydney, the Federation of Gay Games—the parent organization—attempted to ensure that the Montréal games would not lose money by exercising more fiduciary control.

Montréal's organizers felt they could not have a nongovernmental, foreign authority overseeing the expenditure of what were heavily government funds. The two sides had reached an impasse. The Federation had a new competition for the 2006 Gay Games and the Chicago bid won. Meanwhile, Montréal's organizers continued ahead with a separate worldwide event, called "Outgames."

A new international entity called the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association [GLISA] was formed. Both GLISA and the Federation intend to put on worldwide events every 4 years. GLISA will also work with continental associations to put on additional events, starting with a multi-sport event in Calgary that will take place in April 2007.

What's next? The 2009 Outgames have already been awarded to Copenhagen and the 2010 Gay Games are slated for Cologne. ▼

graciously closed down a portion of the most prominent east/west thoroughfare in the city for the duration of the Outgames so that restaurants and bars could spill out into the streets day and night. It was no coincidence that the Gay Pride parade took place during the games, and there was a parade-like atmosphere nearly every day with men and women in all types of clothing (or lack thereof), strolling by. Most businesses sported gay flags regardless of location or clientele, and the city's mayor was present and visible at many sporting and cultural events.

Our very own Eddie Valentine won second overall in the Marathon, followed by Jacques Lecuyer in fifth. Front Runners competed in a range of track & field as well as long distance events. Coming from an individual sport such as running, it is nice to feel like you belong to a team.

Though we didn't all compete together, cheering on our fellow Team DC athletes was among the most rewarding aspects of the Outgames, and is a compelling reason to ensure my participation in the 2009 Outgames in Copenhagen. ▼

Chase Maggiano. [r] running with Richard Issacs, completed his first marathon at the Montréal Outgames. Congratulations!

MONTREAL



A Day at the Races

(TOP) Tony Anderson and John Bean before the Outgames 10K.

(MIDDLE) 10K participants Chris Jameson and Adam Falk at the start line.

(BOTTOM) Silver medalist Eddie Valentine heading towards a second place overall finish (2:55:01) at the 2006 Outgames Marathon.

crossing the line

by Mark McElreath
President, Baltimore Front Runners

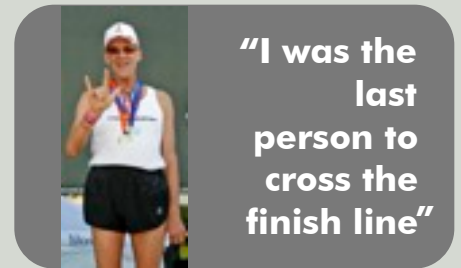


Fortunately for me, there were only two old dogs my age in the full marathon at the Outgames in Montréal; so I won a silver medal in my age group. I have run about 10 marathons over the past 20 years. I respect the distance: 26.2 miles means about 42,000 footfalls.

I trained properly. I knew what I was doing. I ran an old man's race: slow at the start, slow in the middle and slow at the end. But I had never finished a race quite like this: I was the last person to cross the finish line.

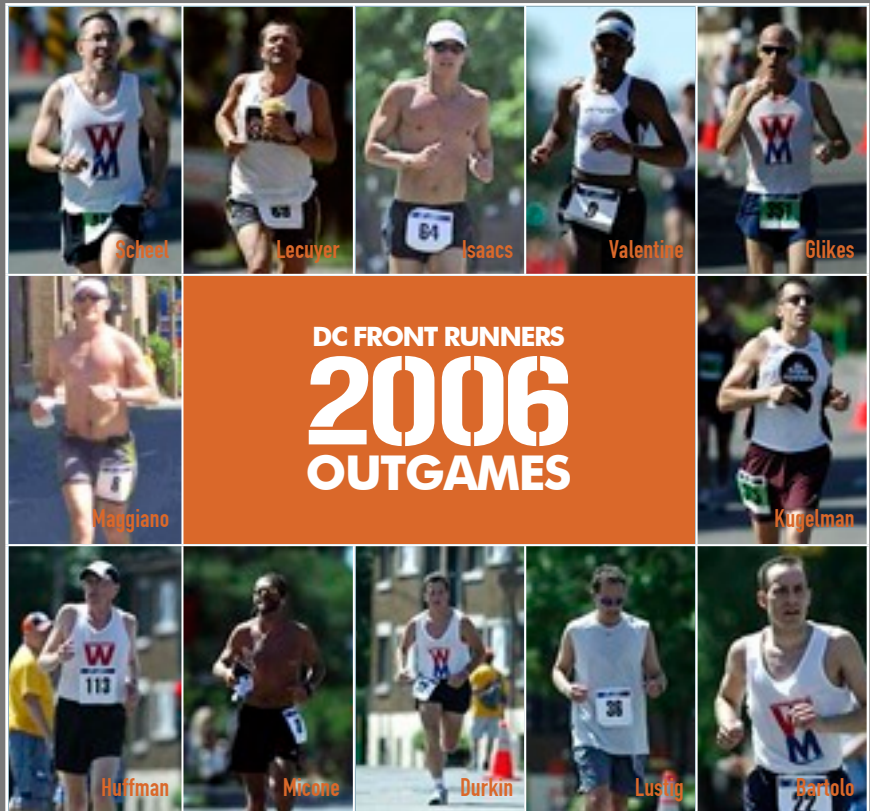
I had two cops on motorcycles slowly trolling behind me the last few miles—and behind them was an ambulance! I was happy to finish. And then to learn that I had won a silver

medal—what a hoot! To be gay and sane is to love irony. It was a wonderful moment to stand on the winner's platform to receive my medal.



"I was the last person to cross the finish line"

When a professional photographer in the crowd pointed his long lens at me, I signed "I love you"—to the world. At that moment, I did. ▼





DCFR on Team DC

MONTRÉAL

Eddie Valentine • Michael Lustig
 Jacques Lecuyer • Mark McElreath
 Ralph Bayrer • John Bean
 Rob Bartolo • Cletus Durkin
 Grant Cleveland • Vince Micone
 Chase Maggiano • Thom Metzger
 Paul Kugelman • Murray Scheel
 Tony Anderson • Mac Mecciarollo
 Adam Falk • Kevin Lorei
 Robert Falk • Bucky Green
 Mike Glikes • David Vecera
 Richard Isaacs • Warren Snaider
 Barry Kropf • Brian Ray
 J Ford Huffman • Phil Schwab
 Chris Jameson • Kenneth Eye
 Ken Buja • Richard Strange

CHICAGO

Ivan Cheung • Duane Fleming
 Bucky Green • Jeff Dutton
 Rick Nunno • Lillian Wolf
 Blake Rushin • Miles Harter
 Kei Koizumi • Marcel Acosta
 Chris Tepler • Guy Munsch
 Methee Thavornvongkajorn
 Richard Strange • Brent Minor
 Barry Kropf • Jonathan Horsford

AMAZING FRONT RUNNER FEATS!

Outgames Montréal

Eddie Valentine - Silver, 2nd Overall, Marathon
 Jacques Lecuyer - 5th Overall, Marathon
 Mark McElreath, Silver, Marathon
 Richard Strange - Bronze (100 Meter), Silver
 (400 Meter) and Gold (1500 Meter)
 Chase Maggiano - 1st Marathon

Chicago Gay Games VII

Miles Harter - Silver, 5K & 10K
 Richard Strange - Silver, Sprint Triathlon
 Lillian Wolf - Silver, 5K
 Jonathan Horsford - Bronze, 5K & 10K
 Blake Rushin - Bronze, 5K & 10K
 Jeff Dutton - Bronze, 4x800 Relay
 Kei Koizumi - Bronze, Triple Jump

Lawyers Have Heart 10K

Rich Robinson - 1st in Division
 Blake Rushin - 2nd in Division/PR

San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon

Jacques Lecuyer, 1st in Division
 Rich Robinson, Boston Qualifier
 Danny Rutherford, 1st Marathon

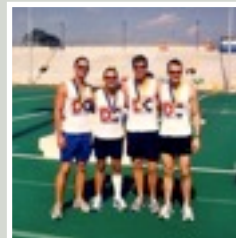


DC Front Runner Eddie Valentine (left) celebrates a second place overall finish and silver medal at the 2006 Outgames Marathon.

Chicago Gay Games [Con't from Page 3]

for the 400 meter hurdles in the 18-29 age category. Scott Garvey won an individual bronze medal for the 200 meter run in the 18-29 age category. Front Runner Kei Koizumi won an individual bronze medal for the triple jump in the 35-39 age category, his first medal in three Gay Games.

Team DC members earned multiple medals for track relays. An all-DC team consisting of Ryan Bos, Chord Bezerra, Scott Garvey, and Andy Nolen won third place for bronze medals in the 4 x 200 meter relay with a time of 1:36.5. Ryan Bos, Jeff Dutton, Scott Garvey, and Tyler McMillan won bronze medals in the open age category for the 4 x 800 meter relay. On the final day, a team consisting of Team DC members Scott Garvey, Ryan Bos, and Tyler McMillan, along with a Nashville runner, polished the Team DC image even further by winning the silver medal in the open age category in the 4 x 400 meter relay.



Other DC Front Runners received medals at the Gay Games. Miles Harter and Lillian Wolf won silver medals, while Jonathan Horsford and Blake Rushin won bronze medals in the 5K. Miles Harter won a silver medal and Jonathan Horsford and Blake Rushin won bronze medals in the 10K. Also, Richard Strange entered the Sprint Triathlon and won silver in his age group!

Several experienced Gay Gamers mentioned during the week how impressed they were with the caliber and performance of Team DC's track runners. (It helped that our Team DC tank tops were the easiest to spot of all the teams, so it was easy to know when we were doing well!)

DC Front Runners and the track athletes are indebted to coach Robb Keffer for helping us train—for free—on tracks around the DC metro area throughout the spring and early summer. We are looking forward to Cologne in 2010! ▼