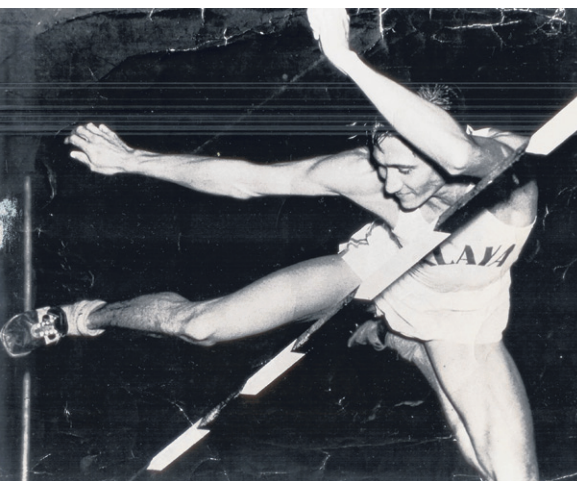# Through the ages: Singapore's journey at the Olympics

## 1948
**Where it all began; Singapore's Olympic debut**
(1 athlete in 1 sport)
• At the age of 26, high jumper Lloyd Valberg was the Republic's sole representative in London. He cleared 1.87m in the qualifying round and managed 1.8m to finish joint-14th of 20 competitors in the final.

## 1964
**Flying under a different flag**
(22 athletes in 8 sports)
• Merger with Malaysia in 1963 meant that the 22 Singaporean athletes competed as part of the Malaysian contingent in Tokyo.

## 1988
**Sportsmanship takes centre-stage in Busan**
(8 athletes in 3 sports)
• Sailors Siew Shaw Her and Joseph Chan had capsized during the 470 event which saw 35-knot winds and waves as high as 5m. Both were injured and Chan was being dragged away by the rough currents when Canadian Lawrence Lemieux, competing in another class, broke away and came to their rescue.

## 2004
**The badminton world is shocked**
(16 athletes in 6 sports)
• Local shutter Ronald Susilo delivered one of the upsets in Athens when he eliminated world No. 1 Lin Dan 15-12, 15-10 in the first round. Susilo eventually fell in the last eight to Thailand's Boonsak Ponsana but his quarter-final run was Singapore's highest finish in the Olympics.

## 2012
**Two more medals for the trophy cabinet**
(23 athletes in 9 sports)
• London was Singapore's most successful outing as table tennis delivered two bronze medals. Feng finished third in the women's singles before leading compatriots Li and Wang to another victory over South Korea in the third-place play-off.
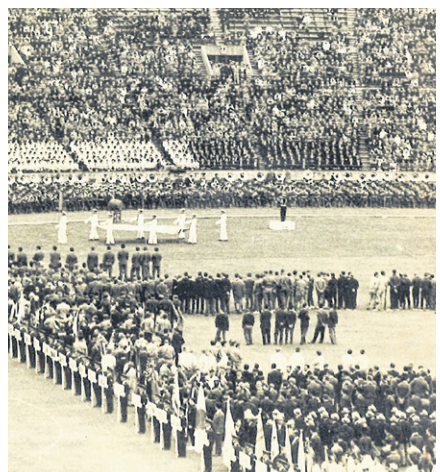
## 1956
**A record contingent is sent to Melbourne**
(52 athletes in 6 sports)
• The addition of the water polo, basketball and hockey teams meant this was Singapore's biggest Olympic squad.

## 1972
**P. C. Suppiah makes his mark in Munich**
(7 athletes in 3 sports)
• The long-distance runner became the first Singaporean to break the sub-32min barrier in the 10,000m. He clocked 31min 59.2sec and finished 45th/47 and timed 15:36.6 to place 59th/61 in the 5,000m.

## 1980
**Singapore joins US boycott of Moscow Games**
• Led by the United States, 65 countries, including Singapore, snubbed the first Games held in Eastern Europe because of the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

## 1996
**Lee Wung Yew takes aim for Singapore**
(14 athletes in 6 sports)
• Having established himself as one of the region's top trap shooters, Lee performed creditably at the Atlanta Games. He posted a score of 119 and was tied-20th in the 57-man field, the highest finish by a Singaporean.

## 1952
**Singapore's first female Olympian**
(5 athletes in 3 sports)
• Five local athletes competed in Helsinki, Finland and Tang Pui Wah, then 19, became the country's first female Olympian. She finished fifth (12.8sec) in the 80m hurdles and fourth in the 100m sprint (13.8), both heats, and did not advance to the next round.

## 1960
**Silver lining as Singapore wins its first Olympic medal**
(5 athletes in 3 sports)
• Weightlifter Tan Howe Liang created history on Sept 8, 1960, at the Palazzetto Dello Sports Hall in Rome. With his muscles straining, teeth gritted in concentration, he lifted a combined total of 380kg and won silver in the 67.5kg category.

## 1968
**A new sprint king is crowned**
(4 athletes in 3 sports)
• Track and field star Canagasabai Kunalan powered home in 10.38sec in the 100m. He finished 25th/32 overall in Mexico but his time was a national record that stood for 33 years.

## 1976
**Courage from Singapore's Golden Girl**
(4 athletes in 4 sports)
• Much was expected of 400m Asian Games champion Chee Swee Lee, who was making her Olympic debut in Montreal. Plagued by an Achilles injury, she still decided to race in the 800m heats. She displayed great determination and ran 150m before she was forced to quit.
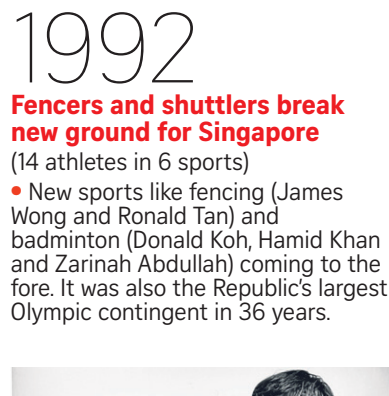
## 1984
**Ang Peng Siong makes a splash in LA**
(5 athletes in 2 sports)
• In the 100m freestyle heats, Ang clocked 51.66sec which was the 15th fastest time and put him into the B final. He put that disappointment behind him to swim 51.09 and win the consolation race in Los Angeles.

## 1992
**Fencers and shutters break new ground for Singapore**
(14 athletes in 6 sports)
• New sports like fencing (James Wong and Ronald Tan) and badminton (Donald Koh, Hamid Khan and Zarinah Abdullah) coming to the fore. It was also the Republic's largest Olympic contingent in 36 years.

## 2000
**So close, yet so far**
(14 athletes in 6 sports)
• Table tennis player Jing Junhong's fairy-tale run in Sydney saw her reach the semi-finals of the women's singles. She won the first game before losing 1-3 to second seed Li Ju of China. Jing still had a chance for bronze but again she could not take advantage of a strong start and succumbed 1-3 to Chinese Taipei's Chen Jing.

## 2008
**The 48-year wait ends as the women's table tennis team deliver a silver medal**
(25 athletes in 6 sports)
• Singapore captured its first Olympic medal as an independent nation thanks to the trio of (from left) Wang Yuegu, Feng Tianwei and Li Jiawei. They clinched a dramatic 3-2 win over South Korea in the semi-finals, as Feng won the deciding fifth game in Beijing. The Republic lost 0-3 to hosts China in the final but a breakthrough was finally made.

Photos: ST FILE PHOTOS, FAMILY OF JOSEPH SCHOOLING, SSC  STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS