



THE PARALYMPICS

In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttman organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord-related injury in Stoke Mandeville, England. Four years later, competitors from Holland joined the Games, and the international movement now known as the Paralympics was born.

Olympic-style games for athletes with a disability were organized for the first time in Rome in 1960. In Toronto in 1976, other disability groups were added and the idea of merging together different disability groups for international sports competitions took hold. In that same year, the first Paralympic Winter Games took place in Sweden.

The Paralympic Games have always been held in the same year as the Olympic Games and, since the 1988 Seoul Summer Games and the 1992 Albertville Winter Games, they have also taken place at the same venues. On June 19, 2001, an agreement was signed between the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee aiming to secure the organization of the Paralympic Games. The agreement reaffirmed that the Paralympic Games, from 2008 on, will always take place shortly after the Olympic Games, using the same sporting venues and facilities.

Since the Salt Lake 2002 Games, one organizing committee is responsible for hosting both the Olympic and the Paralympic Games. Athletes from both Games live in the same village and enjoy the same catering services, medical care and facilities. Ticketing, technology and transport systems for the Olympic Games are seamlessly extended to the Paralympics.

Free again! When disabled sailors shed the equipment that helps them on land, they enjoy an exhilarating freedom that allows them to compete not only in the Paralympics but also in other races, such as 2.4 World Championships, in which they successfully challenge able-bodied sailors.



(this page, clockwise from top)
 Paul Tingley on top of the podium

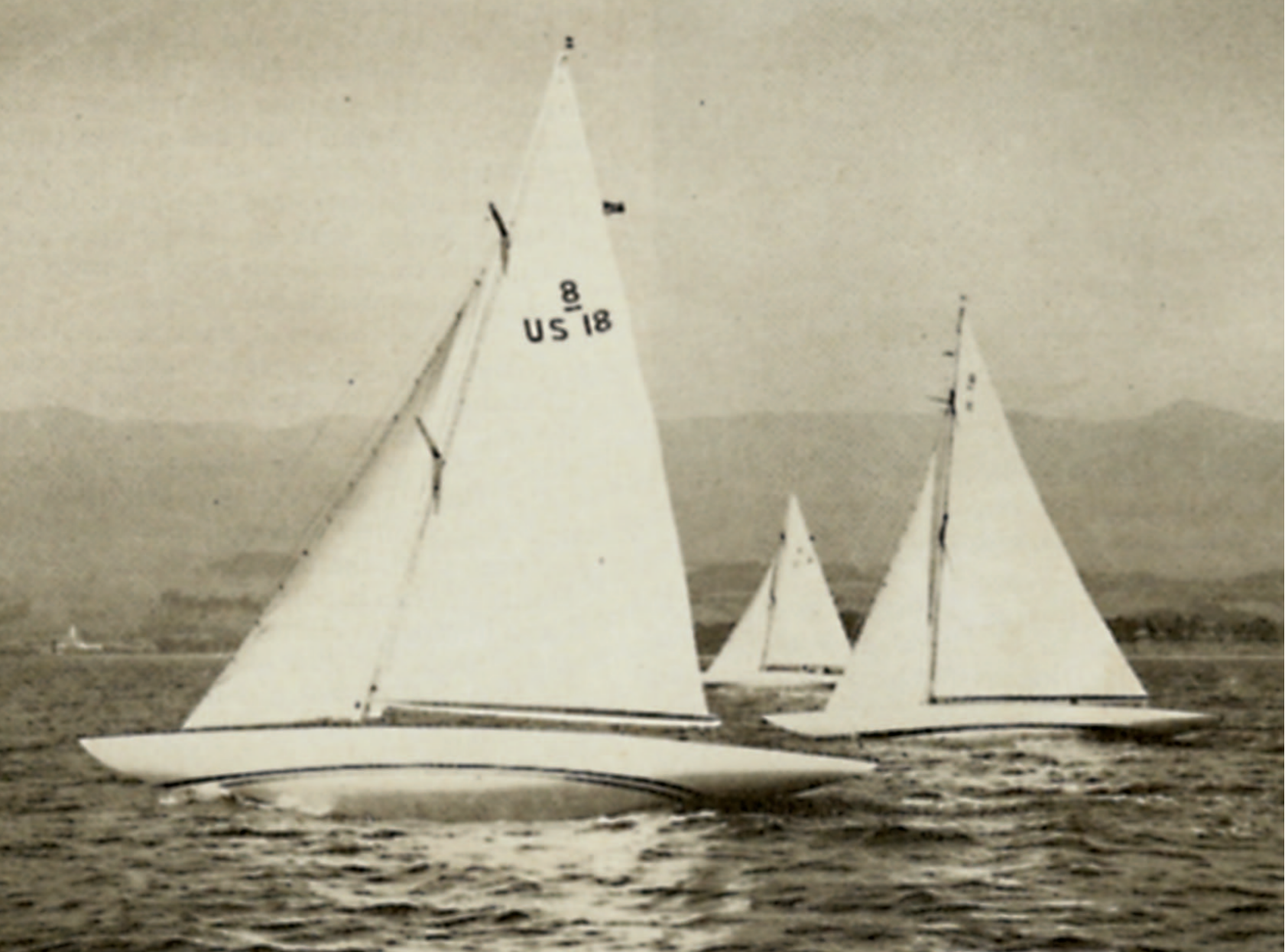
The Canadian flag raised for gold for the first time at any Olympic or Paralympic Sailing event

John McRoberts and Stacie Louttit sailing at Qingdao

Paul Tingley being thrown into the water after winning gold

(right page)
 The Olympic Sailing Centre at Qingdao



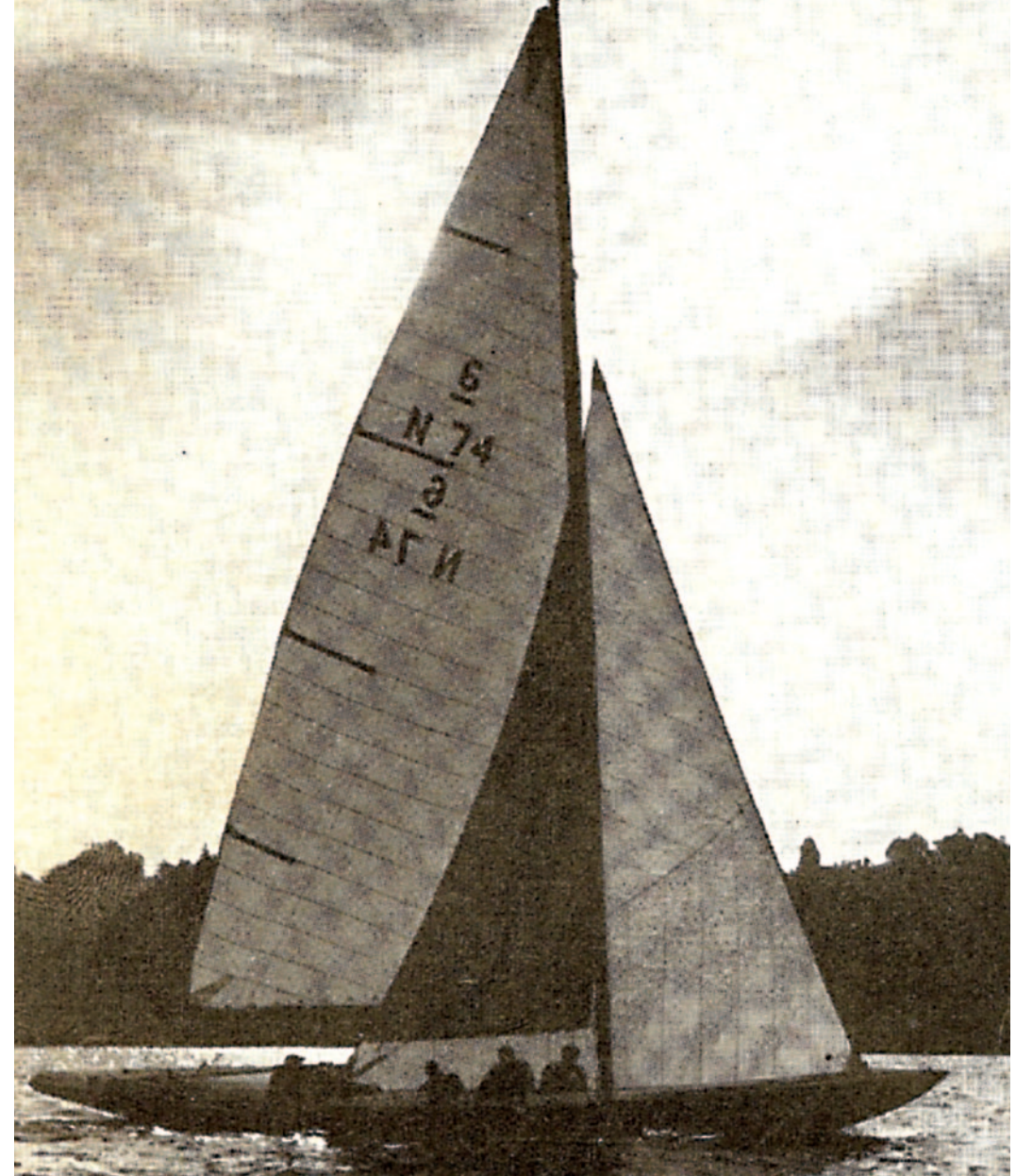


8 METRE

1932

Crew: 6
Length and beam: will vary
Sail area: 850 square feet
Design: Open to International Class Rules

Marconi-rigged, keel, wooden construction



6 METRE

1932, 1952

Crew: 5
Length and beam: will vary
Sail area: 465 square feet
Design: Open to International Class Rules

Marconi rigged, keel sloop, wooden construction



49ER

2000 TO 2008

Crew: 2
 Length: 16 feet
 Beam: 5 feet 9 inches
 Sail area: 215 square feet
 Designer: Julian Bethwaite (Australia)

Double-handed, centreboard dinghy

The 49er appeared for the first time at the 2000 Olympic Games. Many of the principal features are relatively new to the sailing world. It uses a double trapeze, and the drag of the 49er shape is lower by far than the drag of any previous skiffs. The hull is lower and the wings are small, tiny by skiff standards. The wings are low, and being close to the water the wind speed is slower, reducing drag. The true surprise of the 49er is that its miniaturized and simplified design has achieved the superb performance level of the larger "18 footers". This is in a boat that is affordable and easy to sail and is so efficient that it needs only 85 percent of the "18's" relative power to achieve the same speed.



YINGLING

2004 TO 2008

Crew: 3
 Length: 21 feet
 Sail area: 150 square feet
 Designer: Jan Herman Linge (Norway)

Sloop-rigged, keelboat

Martha Henderson, Jen Provan and Katie Abbott sailing their Yngling