

# **JIM C – QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

## **MONDAY - 08/11/08**

**The Olympic Games in Beijing proved once again that it is the world's largest pageant of athletic skill and competitive spirit.**

### **HOW DID THE TERM “*OLYMPIC GAMES*” ORIGINATE?**

**The origins of the “*Olympic Games*” pre-date written records and it is difficult to separate legend and mythology from historical fact. We do know that the first organized Olympic Festival occurred in 776 BC when Iphitus, the King of Elis, agreed to a “sacred” truce with Lycurgus, the Spartan lawgiver.**

**The sacred truce was first established at Olympia, the temple of Zeus – thus the “*Olympic Games.*” The truce encompassed the entire Greek world and in time became a fundamental principle of all the pan-hellenic games – athletics transcend politics.**

**The Olympic Festival was held once every four years in accordance with the Greek eight-year calendar. The games were held at the first full moon after the summer solstice, which now would coincide with today's mid-July – the hottest period of the year.**

**In 1894, the International Olympic Committee in Paris unanimously chose Athens to host the revival of the first modern “*Olympic Games*” on March 25, 1896.**

**M of Z: Olympic Games = A place and time to set aside warfare**