

SPORTS

# Let the Games Begin

An epic tale of two cities competing for athletes and the future of LGBT sports

BY MAX HARROLD

MONTREAL - As La Belle Province gears up to host the largest athletic gathering here since the 1976 Summer Olympic Games, many are wondering if the real competition isn't just between the athletes but also with the entire city of Chicago.

In the race for athletes and GLBT tourist revenues, Montreal's first-ever World Outgames, from July 30 through August 5, is ahead with just over 12,000 participants signed up so far. Right behind



Alverta Perkins

is Gay Games VII in Chicago, from July 15 through July 22, with 10,620 participants.

Although one could attend both events, it's not likely many will. Aside from getting time off work, there's the money required for travel, a hotel and, not insignificantly, to register

as a participant (see box). Adding to the allure of both destinations is a dazzling array of stars (Martina Navratilova in Montreal; Greg Louganis in Chicago) and a swirl of parties, fairs, festivals and conferences associated with both events.

The Gay Games VII was

originally awarded to Montreal but was moved to Chicago after Montreal and Gay Games Federation officials disagreed over the control of financing. From that came the founding of a separate

Marathon runner Ted Hobart PHOTO PROVIDE BY TED HOBART



## TED HOBART: Marathon Man Gives to Outright Vermont

Ted Hobart is still on the fence about participating in either the Outgames or the Gay Games. The 39-year-old chef lives in Arlington, Virginia but has had a connection with Vermont since he was a student at Sterling College in Craftsbury Common. He's currently between jobs so participating is a costly proposition. "I wish they weren't at the same time," he said. "It makes it even tougher to decide."


But Hobart is staying active. He plans to run the Vermont City Marathon in Burlington on May 28. For the second year in a row, he's doing it in memory of two women, Laura "Lollie" Winans and her partner, Julianne Marie Williams, who were killed while hiking in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park in 1996. Winans was Hobart's friend since college. The women were found bound and gagged with their throats slit. The case made headlines in 2002 when then U.S. Attorney-General John Ashcroft prosecuted the killings as the first hate crime in U.S. history. But to this day the crimes remain unsolved.

Winans' death shocked Hobart. "I was really afraid for my life," he said. "I was going to come out to my parents but after she died, it took me eight years to do it." Hobart, who came out to friends and family in 2004, said he hopes to raise \$2000 from sponsors for his run in the Vermont City Marathon. The money will go to Outright Vermont, whose mission is to foster sensitivity and understanding of the issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth through education and outreach. For donations of \$100 or more, sponsors can receive an honorary jersey exactly like the one worn by Ted Hobart. They will also be listed as "Friends of Lollie and Julie" in publicity materials that will be available in planned events at venues throughout the day. "I hope people come out and show support, either by giving money or just by being there," Hobart said. "When I'm running mile 21 or 22 I need a whole lot more inspiration than just my legs. Thinking about Lollie is huge."

— MAX HARROLD


To sponsor Ted Hobart's run, go to the web site: [www.outrightvt.org](http://www.outrightvt.org) and follow links for "Lollie and Julie Memorial."

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