



## 奥林匹克 Olympics

This year's summer Olympics ended with China coming away successful. With 32 gold medals China placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. In total number of medals, the Middle Kingdom finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 63 (17 silver, 14 bronze). Some of their highest placements were in Diving, Weightlifting, Table Tennis, TaekWondoe, Shooting, and Badminton. Perhaps, most notable was runner Xiang Liu, who took the Olympic men's 110-meter hurdles gold medal at the world record time of 12.91 seconds, becoming the first Chinese man to win an Olympic track and field title.



Xiang Liu making a double "victory" sign (above)



Above left: Luo Xuejuan, twice a world champion, said she had still not reached her limits after winning the 100-meter breaststroke on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Above right: Xiang Liu clearing a hurdle

Photos courtesy of Muzi.com. To see more, you can visit:  
<http://gallery.muzi.com/cc/english/19417.shtml>

[www.fsu.edu/~globaltalk](http://www.fsu.edu/~globaltalk)

VISIT OUR WEB-SITE FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PAST ISSUES OF GLOBAL TALK, RECIPES, AND  
LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES!

## 词汇 Vocabulary (cí huì)

- |                   |       |                          |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1) Olympics:      | 奥林匹克  | ào lín pǐ kè             |
| 2) Sport:         | 体育    | tǐ yù                    |
| 3) popular cheer: | “加油！” | jiā yóu (lit. “Add oil”) |
| 4) Diving:        | 跳水    | tiào shuǐ                |
| 5) Table Tennis:  | 乒乓球   | pīng pāng qiú            |
| 6) Winner:        | 胜者    | shèng zhě                |
| 7) Loser:         | 失败者   | shī bài zhě              |

## 新闻 News (xīnwén)

**Natural Disaster:** A week of torrential rain claimed 102 lives in Sichuan province and 75 in Chongqing. Fifty people are missing in the two areas, about 870 miles southwest of Beijing. The disasters have affected about 11 million people, with hundreds of thousands evacuated and about 10,000 sick or injured in Sichuan alone. More than 300,000 homes were damaged, and losses to crops and the local economy were estimated at £276m (September 10, 2004).

**Olympics:** Beijing is about to scale down its construction plans for the Olympics, concerned that extravagance - the projected cost could be three times that of the Athens games - may horrify rather than impress the world in 2008. [...] Beijing embarked on the most ambitious building spree in Olympic history with the intention of using the games as a "coming out" party for a country with a fast-growing economy which wants to be recognized as one of the world's leading civilizations. [...] Since the mayor of Beijing, Wang Qishin, called for a more frugal Olympics last month, building work has stopped and designers have been sent back to the drawing board. [...] Originally due for completion by 2006, the stadiums will not open until 2007, to save running costs (Sept-ember 9, 2004).

## 英雄 Hero (yīngxióng)

China's most expensive film ever made, *Hero*, was released in 2002 and has finally made it overseas into American cinemas. Well known director Zhang Yimou has applied his distinctive artistic style to create perhaps one of the most fantastic martial



arts films ever made, a film of beautiful aesthetic qualities that still retains a certain depth. In spite of negative predictions, the film is so far doing well with American audiences, comparable to the success of Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Zhang Yimou's newest film *House of Flying Daggers* is now playing in China—but for now go out and see *Hero*!