

## Oldest-Ever Olympian to Compete in the 2008 Games

**Japanese equestrian Hiroshi Hoketsu will make history books this summer.**

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In 1964, Japan's Hiroshi Hoketsu competed in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, placing 40th in the showjumping competition. In 1984 he was a reserve member of the Japanese equestrian team that competed in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Now Hoketsu is about to turn 67 years old, and he's set to compete at the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong as a member of his country's dressage team.

As a sexagenarian, Hoketsu will be the oldest competitor to ever compete in an Olympics. Prior to Hoketsu's performance during the upcoming summer Games, the oldest Olympian was Swedish shooter Oscar Swahn, who at 64 won a gold medal in shooting during the 1912 Stockholm Games.

Hoketsu is looking to make an impression during this year's Games, and his age has little to do with it. He told Masanori Ariyoshi, a reporter for the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun, "I will not be satisfied with merely participating in the Olympics. I want to finish in the highest ranking possible."