



TOKYO 1964

LORDS OF THE RINGS

Blue Impulse & the Tokyo Olympics

In 1964, with the Japanese capital hosting the first Olympic Games to be held in Asia, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force was keen to capture the world's attention with an eye-catching spectacle. **PAUL THOMPSON** relates how its F-86F Sabre-equipped Blue Impulse formation aerobatic team caused a sensation high above the National Stadium

MAIN PICTURE Spectators at the Japan National Stadium in Tokyo on October 10, 1964, turn their heads skywards during the opening ceremony of the XVIII Olympiad to see the five North American F-86F Sabres of the JASDF's Blue Impulse team recreate the Olympic rings with coloured smoke. The spectacle involved a great deal of planning and an extremely high degree of airmanship. The 1964 Games were also the first to be telecast internationally without the need for tapes to be flown overseas, as they had been for the 1960 Olympics. MAINICHI SHIMBUN

