

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

BASKETBALL

- * The Uruguayan team, second last year, have vowed that they are going to win this year's South American championships, which will be taking place on their home ground in Montevideo from March 15th to 29th, 1969. Will the Brazilians, the present holders of the title, allow them to keep their vow ?

CYCLING

- * The World Amateur Cycling Championships will be held this coming summer in Czechoslovakia for the first time. The dates and venues are fixed: for the track events, from August 15th to 19th, at the Brno cycle-racing track (400-metre track); for the road races, on August 22nd (100 km time trial team event on the Brno-Mikulov road, there and back) and on August 24th (individual pursuit race on a 13 km 900m circuit).
- * In 1970, the British Cycling Federation will be holding these championships in the region of Leicester. All competitors, sports managers and coaches will be housed in the University of that town. The 333.33m track, completed in 1967, is bound to give satisfaction since several British records have already been beaten there.
- * The F.I.A.C. Managing Committee has decided to organize courses for technical managers, designed more particularly for the needs of members of the newly constituted African federations. Mr. René CHESAL, secretary General of the I.C.U. and Mr. TAHIV will visit the cycling federations of the African countries to give them the aid and experience needed to promote the growth of cycling on the African continent.

FENCING

- * Havana (Cuba) will be the venue for the World Fencing Championships in 1969, from September 30th to October 12th.
- * On April 2nd and 3rd next, the Executive Committee and various other committees of the F.I.E. will be meeting in

Genoa (Italy) on the occasion of the under-twenty world, championships, which will be held during Easter week as usual, i.e. on Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th and Monday 7th April.

- * Like the unforgettable Christian d'ORIOLO (France) who won in Helsinki then in Melbourne, and many other gifted fencers, the 1968 Olympic foil champion, Ion DRIMBA (Rumania) is left-handed. One of these left-handed fencers, the Frenchman Jean-Claude MAGNAN, Olympic silver medal winner for the team event in 1968, has voiced his surprise: "Sculptors symbolising fencing tend to portray only right-handed fencers."

FOOTBALL

- * The Executive Committee and Permanent Committees of F.I.F.A. will meet in Amsterdam (Netherlands) from May 16th to 19th.
- * Alarmed by the increase in the number of incidents unworthy of such a popular game, F.I.F.A. has set up a disciplinary Committee. The Vice-President of F.I.F.A., Mr. CHIARISOLI (France) is Chairman.
- * At Sinj, on the shores of the Adriatic, a tombstone dating back two thousand years, has just been discovered. The sculpture represents a child holding what can only be described as a football. Yugoslavia's countless football fans are very proud of this remarkable find.
- * An idea: each of the national football federations should set up a referees committee.

HANDBALL

- * On March 16th, in Basle (Switzerland) an impartial hand will draw lots for the eliminating matches of the World Handball Championships in September 1970. These matches have to be completed by the end of the present year.
- * The Executive Committee of the European Handball Games is organizing the 7th European Handball Games for School-children at Eisenstadt (Austria) from June 5th to 7th, 1969. At these Games, for the second time, a European Cup will be awarded for the best boys and girls school teams.

- * A first meeting: Italy-Great Britain at Liverpool on March 1st, 1969. The transalpine team will be playing their first official international handball match.

HOCKEY

- * In Mexico, the Pakistan national team won the Olympic title for the second time. In honour of this victory, the Pakistan Hockey Federation is organizing a hockey tournament in March of this year, which could almost be described as a revenge tournament since India (3rd), Germany (4th), Spain (6th) will all be taking part. East Germany, Belgium, Kenya and Malaya are also sending teams to Karachi from March 8th to 16th.

ICE HOCKEY

- * World Championships in Stockholm (Sweden) from March 16th to 30th. The Soviet, Canadian, Swedish, Czechoslovak, Finnish and American teams will be meeting for the return matches.

MODERN PENTATHLON AND BIATHLON

- * A "B" must now be added to the former initials I.M.P.U. of the International Modern Pentathlon Union, which has now become the International Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon Union - I.M.P.B.U.
- * The World Biathlon Championships will take place at Zakopane (Poland) from February 27th to March 2nd.

SHOOTING

- * No less than 12 countries (USSR, USA, Germany, Poland, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Italy, Hungary, East Germany, Switzerland and New Zealand) shared the medals for the Olympic shooting events. In Tokyo there were only nine (USA, USSR, Japan, Italy, Finland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Hungary).
- * For medical reasons, the traditional order of the movements of the three position contest at 50 and 300 metres has been modified as follows: lying, standing, and kneeling.

SOFTBALL

- * The delegates of 21 countries took part in the 3rd Congress of the International Softball Federation in Oklahoma City (USA). Among the new countries admitted as members, let us mention Italy, Indonesia, France, Czechoslovakia, the Dutch West Indies, the Virgin Islands . . . Manilla (Philippines) will organize the 3rd World Championships in 1972. The second World Championships, held in Oklahoma City last September, were won by the United States of America ahead of Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and New Zealand.
- * According to Mike FREER, Vice-President of the British Softball Federation, this game could very easily soon supplant cricket in the hearts of his countrymen.

TOBOGGANING

- * The tragic death of the Polish champion Stanislaw PACZKA deeply affected all those taking part in the world championships.

The Austrian Josef FEISTMANTL, fifth in the one-man toboggan event at the Winter Olympics in Grenoble, gave him posthumously his own medal as world champion for 1969. The former world champion, the Polish Jerzy WOJNAR, second in the provisional classification, retired from the event on hearing of the death of his friend. For this gesture on his part, the President of the International Tobogganing Federation, Mr. Bert ISATITSCH awarded him the Federations's medal of merit.

- * In order to avoid regrettable incidents at the recent world championships at Königssee, the temperature of the runners on the toboggans was measured by a special thermometer. Various instruments had been tried out during training.

WEIGHTLIFTING

* What age can a child begin weightlifting ?

How much, if any, and at what ages might weightlifting cause a displaced epiphysis ?

The problem of making weight - what ranges and what harm ?

These three questions are among the subjects on the agenda for discussion at the congress to be held by the F.H.I. Medical Committee in Warsaw, during the next world championships in mid-September.

Jean-Louis MEURET

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