

The Pan-American Sports Organisation (ODEPA-PASO)

by *Guillermo Montoya*,

Executive Secretary

1978 begins as a very important year for sports activities on this continent. The programme of events is so vast and important that it will naturally call for the joint efforts we intend to coordinate and carry out in order to cover this new period of development.

- The first seminar for diving judges, sponsored by the Organisation of American States, the FINA and the ODEPA, was held in January.
- Eight sports featured on the international courses of the Organisation of American States which were held during February and March.
- During April, the delegates of the Commission for Olympic Solidarity will meet in Mexico. Under the chairmanship of Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, this Commission is one of the most important IOC Commissions. Mr. Giulio Onesti, Coordinator, and the delegates from Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and America will be attending the meeting. The resolutions passed by the delegates will no doubt greatly assist us in our tasks and will constitute solid bases for the programmes to be applied during the present and future years. We shall endeavour in the Western Hemisphere to organise an increasing number of courses and constantly to improve their standard.
- The Executive Committee of the ODEPA will meet next May in Santo Domingo (DOM). Held twice a year, this meeting will give the members an opportunity to visit San Juan (PUR), site of the forthcoming Pan-American Games.
- For the whole of the month of June, five students will participate in the first intensive course on sports medicine which will take place in San Juan (PUR), the programme of which will be very carefully compiled. This course will constitute the cornerstone of sports medicine in this area of the world and will be organised jointly by the ODEPA and the Pan-American Confederation of Sports Medicine.
- The 13th Central American and Caribbean Games will take place at Medellin (COL) in July, with the participation of 23 countries on the continent.
- The programme of the Olympic Solidarity courses being held in Mexico during August will cover ten sports.
- The 1st Games of the South-American Zone will be hosted by La Paz (BOL) in October.
- The Ordinary General Congress of the ODEPA will be held in Argentina in November.
- In addition to the above, a number of other courses will be organised on the continent with the approval of Olympic Solidarity. Pan-American and world competitions will also be held in different disciplines, as well as courses organised by the International Federations for judges, referees and coaches. The most important task however will be the realisation by each NOC of its own programmes within its territory.

I take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all ODEPA members to carry out firmly and zealously the vast programme planned for 1978, which will bring health to the minds and bodies of our peoples.

G. M.



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