

Messages from the Presidents of the six participating International Federations



Klaus Kotter,
**President of the International Bobsleigh and
Tobogganing Federation**

The Olympic competitions in Lake Placid provide much food for thought concerning the future of the FIBT's activities. The reason that we do not have more competing nations than in 1976 at Innsbruck is not difficult to ascertain : many European NOCs feel it is



too expensive to send athletes who do not have a "final chance" of finishing among the top six or eight competitors.

Thus, we find ourselves in a remarkable situation-more nations will take part in the European championships later in St. Moritz

than in the Olympic competitions. Looking forward to 1984 at Sarajevo, however, I am sure that the programme we started two years ago will be successful. It provides for assistance to new members (such as the Netherlands and Yugoslavia), while not neglecting the old members. I think it is realistic to expect fifteen nations in Sarajevo. In the same way, we have to guarantee every competitor the same chance. In my view, it is necessary to do more for the athletic aspect of bobsleigh. I am opposed to winning greater numbers of medals on the strength of heavier financial assistance and superior technical equipment. Provision must be made in the rules for the construction of reasonably priced and safe bobsleighs. To my mind, success is achieved by an International Federation, when medals are won by athletes from as great a variety of nations as possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Klaus Kotter', written in a cursive style.



Gunther Sabetzki,
President of the International Ice Hockey Federation

In the year of the Olympic Winter Games, following a decision made by our summer congress in Sirmione, there will be no ice hockey world championships. By making this decision, we have not only relieved the national federations of a great burden as regards the timing of competitions, but have also raised the significance of the Olympic tournament, despite the restrictions which

leading sports events. This competition will not only be a case of taking part, but a real battle, with a motivation which would be difficult to surpass. The preparations have been taken up with enthusiasm and will be brought to their conclusion with equal fervour by our American hosts.

The Olympic Games are the greatest stimulus—they have an effect which can only be explained as having its basis in the uniqueness of the experience. The Games are not just a lot of medals, but a high point in the collection of awards, whose gold has a special gleam of attraction—a gleam which outlasts our times and lends a special aura to the wearer, who to achieve it is even prepared to accept temporary financial losses. The IIHF is therefore expecting greater things from this Olympic tournament in Lake Placid, since all the impulses, which stem from this fundamental idea, have a unique, all-encompassing effect reaching even those placed last in a prestigious competition of this nature.



will be imposed on it because no professionals may take part.

Although the ice hockey world championships have benefited from the fact that they were opened to professionals, the Olympic ice hockey tournament will once more be able to take its rightful place among our

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Bert Isatitsch,
President of the International Luge Federation

The real enthusiasts of the fast, daring sport of luge will soon be taking part for the fifth time in the anxiously awaited Olympic competitions at the XIIIth Winter Games in Lake Placid, for which both the organisers and athletes of the countries taking part are fully prepared. It constitutes a test of courage, particularly for women, to career down the ice track from which, once entered, no athlete can emerge until the end of the run. A tremendous amount of cou-



rage and a total command of physical and mental strength is needed by every athlete who wants to gain split seconds in finding the shortest route through the curves.

To gain even a fraction of a second, it is necessary to have the luge under such perfect control that the sportsman can rely completely upon it. He needs skill to direct the flexible runners in order to take the ideal path through the run-and to win precious

time. No one thinks of brakes-indeed, that would be impossible, as luges have none, and even mechanical steering is out of the question. The major factors involved are the speed of reflexes and physical conditioning.

According to the international rules, all competitors must have identical conditions. To this end, all entries in the single slater category must complete four runs, each staged with a different order of participants. By means of a weight ratio which is carefully calculated and laid down, each luge participant has the same mechanical and physical conditions. In addition, the weight of the sled is carefully controlled. The starting procedure, too has an important effect on the expected finishing time, and the speed at starting is extremely critical, as it must be calculated according to the inclination and angle of the slope. Top speeds of up to 120 km/hr are often registered on the run.

The luge runners are true amateurs in the spirit of the Olympic laws. No profit is made from luge ! The FIL, therefore, has an important role to play in the Olympic Games and in the Olympic ideal.



**Jacques Favart,
President of the
International
Skating
Union**



Faithful ever since the first Games at Chamonix (FRA) in 1924, the International Skating Union is proud to take part in the XIIIth Olympic Winter Games in the two sports it governs : figure skating and speed skating.

It is grateful to the IOC for having agreed to the inclusion of ice dancing on the Olympic programme, from 1976, as it has been an official branch of figure skating since 1952. In view of the technical progress it has

achieved and the success it has had with the public, ice dancing fully justifies this decision.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at Lake Placid in February 1980.



**Marc Hodler,
President of the
Fédération
Internationale
de Ski**



Twenty years after Squaw Valley the Olympic Winter Games are returning to the United States. Again, a small mountain community is engaged in a very heavy task. The confidence, courage and endeavour shown by Lake Placid and its inhabitants have won our warm sympathy and admiration. Once more we pledge our full support for the great undertaking together with our hopes that the XIIIth Winter games will be recalled as a complete success and great contribution to

both the Olympic movement and the promotion of winter sports. May friendly and fair competitions in the beautiful hills and forests of Lake Placid let everyone forget at least for two weeks the conflicts of today's world.



**General Sven Thofelt,
President of the
Fédération
Internationale
de Pentathlon Moderne
et Biathlon**



As President of the UIPMB I, at the outset of this Olympic year, sincerely hope that no political or other difficulties will stop the activities of the world's sports and Olympic movements, activities so important for general understanding among nations and for the physical and moral education of young people all over the world and that modern

pentathlon and biathlon in these respects will be able to make a contribution of value.

Sven Thofelt