

### Women's basketball as a world game\*

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Women's basketball as a world game scored high marks in 1965 when the national teams of Brazil and Czechoslovakia played a demonstration game in Madrid during a meeting of the International Olympic Committee. As a result, women's basketball was included in the programme of the Olympic Games. When the first women's basketball Olympic tournament was held at the XX1st Olympic Games in Montreal, it crowned years of effort by FIBA's officials. An important role had also been played by the National Basketball Federations and National Olympic Committees ; and in the first place, by Dr. R. William Jones, now Honorary Secretary General emeritus of FIBA.

Women's basketball is one of the world's most popular sports. According to the latest statistics, it is played in two-thirds of the FIBA member states by 70 million women players. The first European Women's Championship was held in Rome in 1937, five years after the foundation of FIBA ; world championships have been held since 1953 ; continental championships are organised; and in Europe there are European club cup competitions. All these are proof of the increasing popularity of basketball among women.



\* Reprinted from "International Basketball", N° 9, 1980.

Undoubtedly, in the beginning women's basketball as a world game had several problems. Initially the pace of women's basketball was slow, development was slow as the game could not progress beyond the physical and psychological characteristics of women, the players and the coaches had some difficulties in fully adapting themselves to all the rules of the game. In short, the concept of the game corresponded to the situation of women in the 1930s 1940s and 1950s. Women's basketball was underestimated and often belittled in some National Federations.

The 1960s brought a significant increase in the interest in women's basketball, and a rise in standards in Europe, South America and Asia. As the physical conditioning of the players was raised, the game became faster and more dynamic, while still preserving the elegant style of women. Women's basketball followed much the same road as the men's game. Efforts to formulate special rules, decrease the size of the ball and the backboard, and other moves to change the game failed, fortunately so, as success would have meant a division of basketball. The inclusion of women's basketball in the programme of the Olympics, the elimination of special rules for women in the United States, and the appearance of a new generation of coaches-many of whom had successfully trained men's teams-opened up a new era in the development of women's basketball.

The International Basketball Federation aims at raising the standards of the game. The success of their efforts was reflected by the standards of play shown in the Pre-Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Varna: by the national teams of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, the United States, Canada, China, South Korea, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Cuba, France, Brazil, Australia and other countries. And standards at the six nation Olympic Final Tournament in Moscow, was evidence of how close the women's game approaches that of men's basketball.

The Varna tournament was the best indication of higher standards on all continents, and that women's basketball is at its peak. The Moscow Olympic tournament, and primarily the performances of the three medal winners, added weight to the justified demand that the number of teams in future Olympic tournaments be raised from 6 to 8 or 10.

FIBA and its Women's Commission have set themselves the aim of increasing the number of participants in the women's Olympic tourna-

ment. Success in this field will undoubtedly require close cooperation between the Central Board, the International Organising Committee, the National Olympic Committees and the national basketball federations. Unanimity and common action by these bodies could bring early success.

FIBA Women's Commission also regards as being among its responsibilities the arranging of an exchange of experiences between the Zonal Committees, extending the relations between the continents, assisting and supporting women's basketball in the less developed countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, regulating the fixtures system in the European Champions' Cup, and providing regular playing opportunities for the European select squad.

The Women's Commission seems to coordinate activities in the interest of the development of women's basketball, and Mr. Borislav Stankovic, the secretary general of FIBA, is of the opinion that the entire leadership of FIBA, led by the Central Board, should play a definite role in bringing about that development. Much depends on the countries where women's basketball has a broad basis and extensive experience-including USSR, USA, China and Bulgaria.

Cooperation, understanding and-closely related to them-progress ; these ideas were cited at the FIBA Congress in Moscow, manifested themselves on the Olympic courts, and were in evidence at the opening and closing ceremonies of the XXIInd Olympic Games. They are a reliable guide towards continued, even more dynamic development of the basketball movement in the spirit of the treble motto of the Olympic Games: *Citius, Altius, Fortius*.



International Amateur  
Athletic Federation  
(IAAF)



- In 1982, the 10th world cross-country competitions will take place in Poland. This is the first time they have been organised by an eastern European federation. This year, the 9th competitions will be presented by the Spanish federation in Madrid.

- The honour of Organising the first world athletics championships falls to Finland. The event is planned for 1983.

- The 2nd African athletics championships are to be held this year from 12th to 16th August in Lagos. They will be used as a basis for selecting the African team which will take part in the 3rd world cup on 4th and 5th September in Rome (ITA).

- The Arab athletics championships are to be held from 21st to 26th August 1981 in Tunis.

- A new edition of the "Progressive World Record Lists 1913 to 1977" including supplementary lists for 1978, 1979 and 1980, is currently available from the IAAF bureau at 162, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW 15 2SL. Priced at £1.50 (S.Fr 6.80), plus postage.

Fédération Internationale  
de Basketball Amateur  
(FIBA)



- Ten teams (KOR, CHN, HKG, JPN, PHL, SRI, MAL, SIN, INA and IND) took part in the Asian women's championship in Hong Kong. The tournament was won by KOR which defeated CHN by 101-68 in the final.

- The 11th ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) championships for men will be held in Calcutta (IND) in October.

- The first international basketball exhibition is to be held from 20th to 24th March 1981, in Philadelphia (USA) to coincide with the annual convention of the National Association of Basketball Coaches of the USA. Exhibits will be grouped by continent in order to demonstrate

the development of basketball throughout the world by means of photographs, statistics and official bulletins. A special section will be devoted to the specialised press and prizes will be awarded to the best publications. In addition, an exhibition of international basketball history is being considered.

- The 22nd European championships for men are scheduled to take place from 26th May to 5th June 1981 in Czechoslovakia. Participants will be divided into two groups of six teams. Group A matches will be played in Bratislava and those of Group B in Havirov. The final stages will be held in Prague.

Fédération Internationale  
de Bobsleigh  
et de Tobogganing  
(FIBT)



- The 1982 world championships have been allocated to the town of St. Moritz (SUI). The two-men bobsleigh events will be held on 6th and 7th February and the four-men on 13th and 14th February. The 1983 championships will take place in Lake Placid (USA).

- The 1982 European championships will be staged in Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA) on 23rd and 24th January (two-men) and 30th and 31st January (four-men). The bobsleigh run in Sarajevo (YUG) will host these same championships in 1983.

Fédération Equestre  
Internationale  
(FEI)



- The following were among the principal decisions of the ordinary General Assembly of the FEI convened on 10th and 11th December 1980 in Berne (SUI).

The debates were attended by delegates representing 59 of the 69 national federations affiliated at the date of the meeting.

Elections

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was unanimously re-elected as President of the Federation to serve a further term of four years (see Olympic Review No. 159). Count Dieter

Landsberg-Velen (FRG) (2nd Vice-President and President of the Disciplinary and Eligibility Committee) and Viscount Jurien de la Gravière (FRA) (President of the Three-Day Event Committee) were re-elected as members of the bureau.

#### *Admission of new National Federations*

The national federations of KUW, PAR and ZAI were admitted for membership of the FEI.

The applications of Brunei, MAL, THA and ZAM will be considered at the 1981 General Assembly. The FEI now comprises 72 national federations.

#### *Annual report of the bureau*

The report was approved in full by the General Assembly. During the debate, the growth in the assistance of Olympic Solidarity towards the full development of equestrian sports was noted.

#### *Veterinary matters*

##### *a) Phenylbutazone*

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the General Assembly, it was agreed that if any sample taken from a horse is found to contain more than four microgrammes of phenylbutazone per millilitre of plasma, the horse in question will be considered to have competed under the influence of a prohibited substance and penalised in consequence. This maximum permissible residue level will be reconsidered in 1981.

##### *b) Non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs other than phenylbutazone*

All non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs other than phenylbutazone are to be added to the list of prohibited substances which enters into force on 1st May.

##### *c) New veterinary regulations*

A completely revised edition of the veterinary regulations was adopted by the General Assembly. It will come into force on 1st May 1981.

##### *d) Pamphlet for the identification of horses*

A pamphlet for the identification of horses was introduced to assist veterinarians and to standardise the technical details required in the passports of each horse.

##### *e) Recognition of laboratories*

Any laboratory which is a member of the Association of Official Racing Chemists (AORC) will be automatically recognised by the FEI. Other laboratories may apply for recognition by the FEI but will have to pass the appropriate analytical tests.

#### *New planned activities*

##### *a) Continental and regional championships for young riders*

As a follow up to the recent introduction of a new "young riders" category, continental and regional championships in jumping, dressage and three-day event will be staged this year.

The rules for young riders, adopted for a trial period only, are subject to review at the next General Assembly due to be staged in Vienna (AUT) on 9th and 10th December.

##### *b) Long-distance riding*

A new ruling to govern long-distance riding was admitted for a trial period of one year.

- *The FEI directory for 1981* will shortly be available from the Federation's headquarters at Schosshaldenstrasse 32, CH - 3000 Berne 32 (SUI). Priced at S.Fr. 5.-, the directory includes updated addresses of national federations as well as the composition of the bureau and standing committees and lists of officials for 1981.

- *A seminar for veterinarians*, open to all contact and event veterinarians who are on the official FEI lists (limited to two per national federation), will be organised in Berne (SUI) from 23rd to 24th April. The course will cover, in particular, the respective responsibilities of contact and event veterinarians, the passport and identification of horses and medication controls at events.

Fédération Internationale  
de Football Association  
(FIFA)



FIFA

- *The next meeting of the FIFA Executive Committee* is scheduled for 7th May 1981 in Madrid (ESP).

- *Following his tour of national associations in East Africa*, the President of the FIFA, Dr. João Havelange (BRA), undertook a similar visit to West Africa from 9th to 19th November 1980. During his stay, Dr. Havelange, who was accompanied by Mr. Joseph S. Blatter, Director of the FIFA technical department in Zurich, met with leading government officials and sports administrators from six countries namely, SEN, CIV, LBR, SLE, GAM and TOG.



*The President of the FIFA greeting the Sierra Leone national team. At the back: the team manager: on the left: Godfried Ekué, member of CAF's Referees Commission and FIFA instructor. (Photo : S.N. Casset, Dacar).*

- The technical committee of the FIFA is to study the viability of creating a technical documentation centre in Zurich incorporating a library, filmothèque and mediathèque as well as audiovisual materials. The principal aim of such a centre would be to place at the disposal of national associations complete documentation on training referees and players, sports medicine and the sciences of administration and organisation. The establishment of the complex would be the first step towards realisation of a permanent football school which could occur following the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

- *The Royal Spanish Organising Committee of the 1982 World Cup* has announced the following details concerning media coverage in the 17 stadia that are to host the 52 games in the final stages of the tournament :

"In total, 10,900 seats will be put at the disposal of the written press: 9,540 of these seats will have a desk attached and there will also be 3,840 telephones. The other 1,360 seats will have no desk and will be divided in the following manner : 680 for the "Nou Camp" stadium and 680 for the "Santiago Barnabéu" stadium where the opening and final games will take place.

A total of 1,875 places have been put aside for the radio and television commentators plus 5,625 seats and 3,750 TV seats.

The photographers will have 1,160 places.

The communication media will also be able to enjoy 540 telephone booths. 130 restricted and 181 general public telephones, 239 telexes, 523 hole-punchers, 82 telephoto machines and 26 dark-rooms."

- *As part of the programme of the UEFA to assist those clubs adversely affected by the recent Italian earthquake*, a match was organised on 25th February between ITA and a European selection. The gate receipts for the match, played at the Olympic stadium in Rome, will be distributed to the clubs concerned.

- *The Spanish national mint* (Fabrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre) has struck a series of special coins to commemorate the FIFA world cup due to take place in Spain in 1982. One side of the coins will feature football motifs and the other a portrait of HM King Juan Carlos. The values of the coins will be 50,25,5 and 1 pesetas.

Fédération Internationale  
de Gymnastique  
(FIG)



- *Congratulations are due to Max Bangerter (SUI)*, Secretary General of the FIG who celebrated his 70th birthday on 23rd January.

International Handball  
Federation  
(IHF)



- *The next IHF central course for referees* will be held from 9th to 13th May 1981 at Linderbrunn, near Vienna (AUT).
- *The federal sports school at Magglingen (SUI)* will be the venue of the 4th IHF symposium for trainers which is due to take place from 17th to 23rd May.
- *Following the recent decision of the commission of Organising and competition of the IHF*, the 3rd junior men's world championships, due to take place in December, will comprise 13 teams from Europe and one team from each of the continents of Africa, America and Asia. Already qualified are the teams from URS, YUG, SWE, DEN, TCH, GDR, ISL and the host country, POR.
- *Handball will be featured for the first time on the programme of the 2nd Central African Games* which are due to take place in July in Luanda (ANG). Apart from the host country, ten other national associations are expected to participate, namely those of Burundi, CAF, CGO, CHA, GAB, GUI, Rwanda, São Tomé e Príncipe, ZAI and ZAM.

- *More than 11,500 spectators attended a recent benefit match for Joachim Deckarm* involving the IHF world selection.

A total of DM 300,000 was raised and added to the special fund set up to assist Deckarm, the victim of a serious accident.

Three days later, on 26th November 1980, the world selection travelled to Göteborg in order to mark the 50th anniversary of the Swedish federation in a special match against the Swedish national team. The match itself, which was won by the world selection 28 : 24, was closely fought and proved a fine advertisement for the game.

- *The international handball school at Freiburg im Breisgau (FRG)* is shortly to reopen. Already on the programme are a sports medicine colloquium from 24th to 26th July, a coaching seminar and a special training course for goalkeepers from 26th July to 1st August and, finally, an international referees' course during the same period. Details may be obtained from the Internationale Freiburger Handballschule, Postfach 174, D-78 Freiburg im Breisgau (FRG).

Union Internationale  
de Pentathlon Moderne  
et Biathlon  
(UIPMB)



- *No fewer than 23 nations* entered participants for the UIPMB biathlon world championships which took place from 10th to 15th February in Lahti (FIN).
- *The following officers were elected at the 1980 Congress of the UIPMB* held on 2nd and 3rd October 1980 in Monaco : *President*: Sven Thofelt (SWE), *President Delegate*: Ivor Novikov (URS), *Executive Vice-President for biathlon* : Robert Gallezot (FRA), *Executive Vice-President for modern pentathlon* : Emile Jarrot (FRA), *Secretary General*: Wille Grut (SWE), *Treasurer*: Thor Henning (SWE), *Assistant Secretary, General*: Dieter Krickow (FRG) and *Assistant Treasurer*: Pauli Swanljung (FIN).

International Skating  
Union  
(ISU)



- *Natalia Petrusheva (URS)* recorded two world records during the Soviet national championships held in Alma Ata. First she achieved 2:06.01 in the 1,500 m (previous record - 2:07.18 set by her compatriot Kalita Vorobiova) and then bettered her own world record in the overall long combined event with a total of 171,149 points. At Alma Ata, the Olympic champion in the 1,000 m at the XIIIth Winter Games in Lake Placid was victorious over each of the four distances that make up the long combined event, namely 500 m, 1,000 m and 3,000 m.

- *At an international meeting in Davos (SUI)*, Canada's Gaetan Boucher, silver medalist at the XIIIth Winter Games in Lake Placid, bettered two world speed skating records set, also in Davos, by Eric Heiden (USA).

He first bettered the 1,000 m record by 0.21 seconds in a time of 1:13.39 and then recorded 148,785 points in the combined sprint event, an improvement of 1,465 points on the previous record.

At the same meeting, Jan Ykema (HOL) bettered the junior world records for the 500 m,

1,000 m and the combined event and Canadian competitor Jean Bichette did likewise for the 3,000 m, 5,000 m and the small combined event.

International Weightlifting  
Federation  
(IWF)



- *The 1981 junior world championships* will be staged in the Friul area of north-east Italy, from 13th to 21st June, in either Lignano or Pordenone.
- *Igor Nikitine (URS)*, silver medallist at the Games of the XXIIInd Olympiad in Moscow, bettered his own world record for the snatch in the 100 kg category by 0.5 kg with a lift of 183.5 kg.

Due to an editorial error, an item concerning an IWF symposium for coaches, referees and medical practitioners, to be held in Tata (HUN) from 28th to 31st May 1981, was published in the English edition of Olympic Review No. 158 in the FILA column. Our apologies are due to both federations for any confusion this error may have caused.