

Olympic solidarity

National Ice Hockey Course in the United States

Location : Colorado Springs.

Dates: 16th-23rd August, 1981.

Participants : 100 coaches of highest standing.

Staff: Curt Lindstrom (SWE) and Tommy Topel (SWE).

Programme : The agenda was devised so as to follow the steps needed for a player to attain a total physical and psychological mastering of the game. This was certainly an ambitious programme, but met with the expectations of the participants due to the great proficiency of the 'staff members. In considering the importance of the audience, the NOC invited six other specialists, along with the two experts from the Olympic Solidarity programme.

National Boxing Course in Malawi

Location : Lilongwe.

Dates : 10th-21st August 1981.

Participants : 17 youths.

Staff: Carmen Williamson (USA) and Maurice Robert Hackey (USA).

Programme : The programme was divided between theory and demonstration classes.

Because of the timid nature of the participants, the staff stressed the psychological aspects in preparing for the match, as well as developing their desire to win. Otherwise, their vivacity and physical agility permitted the youths to quickly and easily absorb the theories and their application. For continuing growth of this sport in Malawi, the staff recommended that matches be organised between districts and in particular to see the establishment of a special junior programme. They proposed for this a creation of groups of young boxers for ages 10/11, of 12/13 year olds, and 14/15 year olds, and 14/15 year olds. Those athletes who will participate in the Olympic Games will thus arrive with a serious and invaluable training. At the end of the course the staff

members declared that they would be surprised and disappointed if some of the participants did not reach the ranks of future Olympic champions.

Technical Participation in Ice Hockey in Canada

Location : Fredericton.

Dates : 28th July-4th August 1981.

Staff : Werner Persson (SWE) and Kjell Larsson (SWE).

Participants : 78 certified Level 4 coaches.

Programme : The agenda was established so as to give a certificate of Level 5 to the national coaches. The main objectives were :

- a) to review the basic hockey fundamentals and how these relate to team play ;
- b) to understand the basic principles of physiology and their application to both on- and off-ice training programmes ;
- c) to understand the basic principles of psychology and their application to the development of the players ;
- d) to review the concepts of offensive and defensive team play ;
- e) to be aware of the systems used by different countries in developing programmes for elite hockey players ;
- f) to be able to detect and analyse various strategies and tactics ;

All of these subjects were delved into. After the course, the participants had to write a report and answer several proposed questions. Here is an example of one of the questions : "From the Soviet hockey presentation by Werner Persson and the Swedish hockey presentation by Kjell Larsson, and from your general knowledge of international hockey, develop a plan or strategy for Canada to use successfully in international play against European teams".



Professor Jorge Salas, course Director, with Professor Flojt and one of their trainees.

Regional Biathlon Course in Argentina

Location : Caviahue (Neuquen province).

Dates : 7th-21st September 1981.

Participants : 15 people, 12 of whom were Argentinian, one Ecuador, one Peruvian and one Paraguayan. The students were selected by their NOCs and they had to be recognised Biathlon runners, coaches or certified instructors, or international cross-country ski instructors recognised by the Finnish ski federation.

Staff : Enrik Flojt, Finnish team member, national junior Biathlon champion, Junior 4 x 7,5 km relay Silver medallist at the World Championships in Lake Placid in 1973, Gold medallist at the World Championships in Anterselva (ITA) and Silver medallist in the relay at the Olympic Games in Innsbruck in 1976, continues to participate in international competitions.

Programme : The programme included physical preparation for training, the study and interpretation of the rules, the psychology of the biathlete. The practical classes took place on the trails of the Caviahue tourist complex where many international cross-country skiing and biathlon events have been held.

Regional Mini-Basketball Course during the 1st international doubles Jamboree in Spain

Location : Sada (La Coruña).

Dates : 16th-30th July 1981.

Participants : 86 children, girls from age 10, and boys from age 11, from Bilbao, Léon, Madrid and Saragosse (ESP and from AND, BEL, FRA and POR.)

Programme : The mini-basketball course took place in the middle of the organised activities of this great assembly. The official language chosen for the course was that of the FIBA, French.

The objective of this course was to familiarise the children with playing different national teams. It took ten days before they mingled among themselves, thus contact between the children took a long time to establish. In the future it would be more productive if the course lasted 14 to 20 days during this Jamboree. Mr. Anselmo Lopez, the inventor of mini-basketball was present and was able to take note of the popularity for this sport. The daily tournaments united two or four teams from different nationalities. The technical levels were more or less on an equal par. The instructors supervised and corrected the teams playing, but because of the large number of children participating, they were unable to truly offer theoretical classes.





The President of the IOC and Mr. Anselmo Lopez, founder of Mini-basketball, well received in Sada.

Besides these competitions, the children regularly followed the other sports activities, such as swimming. They were also enormously interested in the various cultural activities : ballets, singing, dances, handicrafts.

The initiative of this Jamboree proved excellent, as the children became acquainted with the folklore and customs of the neighbouring countries. It supplied for them an occasion to exchange ideas and to get to know each other.

Regional Fencing Course in New Zealand

Location : Auckland.

Dates : 25th August through 5th September 1981.

Participants : 49 judges and coaches from CHN, HKG, MAL, NZL, SIN and THA.

Staff : Maître Jacques Donnadiou, ex-national technical director of the French Fencing Federation, and Mr. Patrick Vajda, international judge (FRA).

Objective : There were three objectives for this course : technical, educational and tactical improvement of fencers, theoretical and practical improvement of the judging rules in view of an international level exam and the organisation of the Oceanic Games.

Programme : The nine daily hours were divided into one hour of general and specific physical preparation for fencing, three hours of individual technical work with individual lessons,

one hour of technical work and group teaching, two hours of theory improvement and judging practice (this part was taken by Mr. Patrick Vajda), two hours devoted to the organisation of controlled training (individual and team competitions) allowing practice of both judging and perfection of tactics. This programme was elaborated on in discussion with the staff members and technical coaches/managers of the represented countries. It was well-received and followed with great attention.

The New Zealand fencers, like all the assembled Oceanic countries, suffer essentially from a lack of coaches which would allow a numerical improvement of participants.

The basic content of information therefore was aimed at promoting teaching to suit the group.

This method was well appreciated, and it would now be desirable to follow it up by making it possible for some from this group to come to Europe in order to undertake a course of instruction and the appropriate diplomas.

The technical and tactical levels were good in foil, moderate in épée and poor in sabre, and the results of the international level exams reflected the actual situation in the region. Of the 21 candidates in foil and the 12 in épée, six passed in the first category and two in the last. No diploma was awarded in sabre, a weaker practised sport compared to foil.

The New Zealand Amateur Fencing Association has decided to prepare edited video cassettes of the lessons given by Maître Donnadiou.



Canoeing, technical participation in the People's Republic of China

Location : Wuhan.

Dates : from 9th to 22nd December 1981.

Participants : 20 coaches, including two women.

Mr. Navasart (right) during a practical lesson.



Staff : Mr. Nicolae Navasart, International coach (ROM).

Objective : to develop the practice of this sport in a country that has over five thousand rivers.

Programme : Mr. Navasart gave a short account of the history of canoeing, the means of transport used by the Canadians on their rock-strewn rivers and big lakes which became a sport in the middle of the last century with the foundation of the "Royal Canoe Club" at Richmond near London (GBR). Canoeing was included in the Olympic programme for the first time at the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936.

He then went on to explain the techniques that have to be mastered in order to succeed in this peaceful contest opposing man to the most treacherous and wildest of the elements. In turn, the participants studied embarking, disembarking, the position of the paddler, holding the paddle, propulsion, the different manoeuvres. the Eskimo roll which makes it possible by pressing the paddle on the water to right a canoe that has turned over. The theoretical courses were held in the morning. The second half of the day was reserved for putting theory into practice. Very attentive, the participants all derived great benefit from this course.

