

Olympic Solidarity



National Boxing Course, Patiala (IND), 16th-27th March 1982

Messrs. John Holhaus (AIBA) and Sam Hickman, experts for the national boxing course sponsored by Olympic Solidarity and held in Patiala (IND) from 16th to 27th March 1982, based their coaching programme on the articles of the AIBA. The 28 judges, referees and timekeepers were instructed by Mr. Holhaus, whilst Mr. Hickman demonstrated boxing techniques to the 26 boxers and coaches. On occasions the two groups joined together to improve their knowledge of rules and fouls. Afternoons were set aside for question and answer sessions on rules and regulations employed by referees, judges and timekeepers. These were supplemented by oral tests at the end of each week.

The detailed and specific teaching programmes were aimed at preparing the participants for international and Olympic competition, in the hope that they would then be able to return to their home towns and in turn conduct classes in the same fashion.

The course ended with oral, written and performance tests, in which 80 % of the candidates were successful, nine of them achieving a mark of 98%. Some of the students therefore proved that they were of outstanding ability, and were certainly capable of being AIBA referees and judges. Finally, a competitive element was added to the course by the selection of several candidates to form a boxing team to compete in the Kings Cup in Bangkok (THA).

The participants at the National Sports Institute of Patiala.

National Volleyball Course for Coaches in Uganda, 7th-19th June 1982

The 27 participants drawn from clubs, the armed forces, schools and institutions of higher education, including three women, enthusiastically participated in a volleyball course for coaches supported by Olympic Solidarity in Kampala (UGA) from the 7th to 19th June 1982. The Minister of Culture and Sports Mr. T.O. Olenge opened the course with a rousing speech on the importance of promoting all sports and urged the participating coaches to "make sure to go out and display the very meaning of what will be acquired here". The International Volleyball Federation provided two world-class experts, Course Director Professor Rostslav Voralek (TCH) and Dr. Walter Hessing (GDR) to educate the participants and immediately following an exhibition match between the Senior and Junior National Teams, the course got under way. One problem that became apparent right from the start was the coaches' varying levels of skills (ranging from beginners to middle-level coaches to national players). Nonetheless the experts prodigiously described and clarified the game rules, stressed the importance of watching players

carefully and rectifying their faults and outlined methods to develop speed and strength and unity.

All of the coaches received certificates for their participation and the seven best were presented with FIVB Stage I diplomas.

Regional basketball course, San Marino (SMR), 16th-18th July 1982

Mr. Domenico Bruschi, President of the National Olympic Committee of San Marino, welcomed the participants to the regional basketball course held in San Marino from 16th to 18th July 1982, under the auspices of Olympic Solidarity, the NOC and the national basketball federation. In his opening message, he said that two goals would be achieved during the course of the seminar - "*the improvement of sport and the warmest personal friendship and understanding*".

The two experts, Hank Egan and Roy Chipman (USA), completed a full timetable of lectures, films and round table discussions, in which the 21 participants from AUT, BEL, HOL, IRL, ITA, LUX, SMR, SWE, SUI and TUR became enthusiastically involved. The lectures dealt mainly with various methods of offence and defence - zone offence and defence, man offence and defence - and Mr. Egan gave a final talk on practice organisation. On the afternoon of the 18th the participants left for Porto San Giorgio to watch an international basketball tournament between teams from ITA, TCH, URS and USA.

National athletics course, Kaohsiung (TPE), 20th-31st July 1982

Mr. Wilf Paish (GBR) and Mr. Tapio Pekola (FIN) were the experts appointed by the IAAF to conduct the national Olympic Solidarity course in athletics, which took place in Kaohsiung (TPE) from 20th to 31 st July 1982.

The 45 participants attended informal lectures and numerous practical sessions, which the coaches adapted to suit the needs of the course. Mr. Pekola was in charge of the running events, whilst Mr. Paish dealt with all other aspects of athletics, including hammer,

javelin and shot put, as well as examining various other methods of preparation such as power training. The international stadium provided an excellent setting for the students to participate in practical training and watch the coaches demonstrating certain techniques with national squad athletes.

At the end of the course, Mr. Paish, who was the course director, devised a coaching scheme which would continue and reinforce the work carried out during the course. He also suggested that the means be provided for some athletes to attend coaching courses in Britain and elsewhere, as he felt that they were somewhat isolated in Taipei.

The late Mr. Shen Chia-Ming and Mr. Michael Lee, President and Secretary General of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, lent their full support to this venture.

Regional wrestling course, Auckland (NZL), 26th-29th July 1982

How does one introduce and justify the teaching of wrestling in countries which in some cases have never even seen this sport in the context of world-class amateur competition ? During the regional wrestling course in Auckland (NZL) from 26th - 29th July 1982 organised by FILA and the Australian and New Zealand wrestling federations with the support of Olympic Solidarity, Mr. Dave Long and his two compatriots Fred Powell and Rick Arnold had considerable success in answering this question.

Not only was the approach to the course, which welcomed 20 participants from AUS, NZL, the Cook Islands, Niue Island, Tonga and Western Samoa, made as interesting and stimulating as possible as regards teaching of wrestling skills and techniques, but Mr. Long and his team also attempted to involve all aspects of their world cultural exchange programme, motivating the participants to think in terms of inter-island and international competition - events which would have a positive influence on social and political as well as sports affairs.

Thus during the busy timetable of seminars, often prolonged until the early hours of the morning by animated discussions, the experts used videos, slides and films to illustrate various topics covering coaching, training,



Maurice Houvion (FRA) during a demonstration at Nanjing.

theory, rule interpretation, and skill techniques. Practical sessions also served as a valuable part of the course.

It should be noted that the actual "coaches' clinic" was only a component of the "South Pacific Amateur Wrestling Congress", during which all the nations present met to discuss the future of wrestling in the South Pacific and Oceania as a whole. It was encouraging to see that during the discussions, which involved such questions as finance, equipment, the role of FILA etc., the representatives of those countries with little or no background in this sport gradually overcame their lack of confidence, and by the end of the second day of the Congress were contributing positive and productive ideas.

In conclusion, it was agreed that a long-term practical programme must be employed to spread the sport of wrestling in the South Pacific. To this end, the coaches devised a system of seven basic terms which their students could use in themselves teaching wrestling in their own regions. In addition, the continuation of the ideas propagated during the Congress were to be followed up by means of coordinated distribution of information throughout the islands. These matters would all be reviewed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, scheduled for March and April of 1983 in Tonga.

Technical Assistance for a training course in Athletics in China, from 9th to 24th October 1982.

Thirty-six Chinese coaches, coming from different towns and regions, met in Nanning to take part in an athletics training course organized by Olympic Solidarity.

Mr. Maurice Houvion, the French National Pole Vault Coach, provided the technical assistance.

Both the theoretical and the practical sessions were, for the most part, given over to the drawing up of a training programme, including the principle data on basic educational systems and an introduction to better methods of improving technique.

Mr. Houvion paid particular attention to getting the feel of the pole, and so rapidly achieving an harmonious balance. His demonstrations were followed by the participants with serious application and also admiration,

Each of the young coaches returned home ready to put into immediate practice all he had learnt, and determined to bring about a big development in pole-vaulting in China.

