

Around the National Olympic Committees

FRG



• *Jürgen Hingsen*, 26, improved his own world record in the decathlon by 19 points on 10th June last at Mannheim (FRG). Rising from 8779 to 8798 points, he continues to push back the limits of this athletic discipline.

He is in direct competition with the British athlete Daley Thompson who has made a name for himself in the big international competitions, the European championships at Athens and the World Championships at Helsinki last year and who has himself beaten the world record in the decathlon three times, taking it back from Hingsen on 8th September 1982 with a total of 8743.

People's Republic of China



• It was in Los Angeles that China first took part in the Olympic Games ; in 1932, a solitary competitor, Liu Changchun, accompanied by his trainer, spent twenty days at sea in order to reach the south west coast of America. Still weary after his exhausting journey, Liu took part in the 100 m and 200 m elimination heats, without reaching the finals. However, once the races were over, as he did not have enough money to buy a ticket, he could not go and watch the other events.

Liu saw other difficult Olympic Games: in 1936 and in 1948, the members of a badly organized and poorly financed Chinese team found themselves obliged to ask for aid from local Chinese inhabitants in order to be able to return home

How Liu would have envied the members of the 1984 Chinese Olympic team ! After a 32-year

absence from the Olympic Games, more than two hundred athletes accompanied by about fifty coaches and dozens of officials will fly across the Pacific in less than twenty-four hours. And the athletes will not have to go without during their stay in the Olympic villages for the budget established for their delegation this year is in the region of \$1.5 million.

Spain



• *The Spanish Olympic Committee* has just published an account of its activities and the texts of lectures given for the year 1982-83 in « Academia Olimpica Espanola - Actas curso - 1982-83 - Madrid ».

The 1982-83 cycle of the Academy began in April with a series of talks and seminars on current sports matters such as sport and society, Spanish participation in the IOA, and on the history of Rome and Olympia, the Games of the CCXXVIIInd Olympiad and the first Spanish Olympic Committee, by Dr Conrado Durantez, Director of the AOE and member of the Spanish Olympic Committee.



Messrs. Conrado Durantez, Joaquim Duald Santos Lamandrid, firts Vice-President of the CEO and Mrs. Victoria Ybarre, member of the COE dunne meeting of the Academy.

United States of America



- On 14th June 1984, *Mr. Ronald Reagan*, President of the United States, handed over to *Mr. William Simon*, President of USOC, the American flag behind which the United States team will parade on 28th July 1984, at the opening ceremony of the Games.

Mr. Reagan declared that "behind this flag our team will feel the unity and the patriotism which we share in regard to America, the land of the free".

France



- The discus thrower, *Paul Winter*, won the only French medal in the athletics events at the Games of the Xth Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932. This bronze medal meant that he was the first Frenchman to mount the Olympic podium since it was in Los Angeles that the mini-rostrum with three places was used for the first time.

In an interview published by "*Athlétisme français*", Paul Winter, now aged 78, tells how it took him sixteen days to get from Paris to Los Angeles - seven days for the crossing between Le Havre and New York, and five days in a train to California.

A four-time French champion in 1931, 1933, 1935 and 1937, he held the French record for the first time in 1930 with 47 m 92 ; the following year he improved this by 98 cm. On his return from Los Angeles, he went to 50 m 71, a record which he kept until 1958, when Serge Grisoni brought it to 51 m 59.

With a bronze medal, and a silver one at the first European Championships in 1934, 41 selections for the French team and 13 international wins, Paul Winter has had an exceptional career, and the French athletes who will travel to the Olympic City this year in only thirteen hours dream no doubt of similar performances.

- The law on physical activities currently under examination by the French Parliament deals with the setting up of a National Council for Physical and Sporting activities. This is an advisory council and will give advice on draft

laws and decrees relating to sports policy. The CNOSF, which already held the post of adviser, will take care to ensure that the law does not remove any of its previous attributions. As far as the rules on disputes in sport are concerned, the CNOSF has suggested that its role as arbitrator appear in the text of the law and that it be recognized as official conciliator in differences amongst licensed athletes, sports groups, and federations and that it be permitted to organize arbitration within the limits of common law.

With or without this amendment, the law is due to be voted on at the end of July.

Iraq



- *Messrs. Noori Faysal Shahir and Fahmi Sabri Arif* were elected President and Secretary General respectively of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee on 6th June 1984.

Italy



- The 8th *International Exhibition of Comic Sports Drawings* to be held in Ancona (ITA) from 27th April to 12th May 1985 will have three facets :

a) "Human advancement through sport", the compulsory theme; b) the 1985 Biennial Prize which will cover motorcycling, volleyball, table tennis, and clay pigeon shooting ; c) caricatures of personalities in the sporting world 1983-84.

For sections a) and c) an unlimited number of works may be sent in out of which the Organizing Committee will choose three. To take part in the 1985 Biennial prize, four works must be sent in, each dealing with one of the sports listed above.

Entries for this exhibition, which is open to all, should be received before the end of 1984 and the works should be sent in before 31st March 1985. All correspondence should be sent to :

Centro Sportivo
"Rivera del Conero"

Via Panoramica, 40
60123 ANCONA (Italy) - Tel: 071 201344.

- Seven hundred young people aged under seventeen, coming from twenty-eight countries, met together at the VIth Gymnasiade organized from 6th to 9th June in Florence (ITA). The event hinged around three disciplines : athletics, which took place in the municipal stadium, where the track has just been re-laid ; swimming, where the events were held in the "Costoli" swimming pool; and gymnastics in the San Marcellino "Palazzo dello sport" in Florence.

The Italian Minister for Sports and Tourism, Mr. Lelio Lagorio, and the Minister for Public Instruction, Mrs Franca Falcucci, presided over the opening ceremony at the Municipal stadium.

Switzerland



- The winners of the "Lausanne Ville Olympique" poster competition received their prizes at the Olympic museum on 20th June.



The happy prize-winner congratulated by the President of the IOC.

The International Olympic Committee and the Lausanne Tourist Office worked together on the launching of this competition last December ; it was intended for professional graphic artists and photographers both from Switzerland and abroad. Amongst the requirements for the competition, entrants had to present a quadrichrome work, using new typography for the word "Lausanne" and also incorporate the emblem of the town, which shows the outline of the cathedral.

The first prize of FS 12,000 was awarded to Mr. René Wuillemin of Geneva; second prize, FS 6,000, went to Mr. Orio Galli of Caslano, and the third prize, FS 3,000 to Mr. Jean-Pierre Moser, of Lausanne. The presentation was made by H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch in the presence of Mr. Paul-Rent Martin, Syndic of Lausanne.

These three prize-winning posters, chosen from over a hundred others, may be seen at the Olympic Museum. Mr. René Wuillemin's poster shows a stylized Olympic flame in which the towers of the cathedral symbolize the flame.

- The National Youth Competitions (CNJ) organized by the Swiss Athletics Federation, set a new record for participation in 1983. More than 120,000 young people aged from 8 to 17 took part in the "Cristallina" Cup (the trade name for products of the Union of Swiss Milk Producers, who sponsored this event) competing in three athletics disciplines : running, throwing, and jumping. The national final in these events, which take place first of all at local! then national level, is planned this year for Fribourg. It will bring together the best participants in each Canton.

To obtain further information on how to enter, contact the Federation suisse d'athlétisme, Case postale 2233, 3001 Beme.

USSR



Finding one's own rhythm

- Anna Ambraziene, holder of the world record in the 400 m hurdles in 54"02 seeks, like all champions, to improve her technique, "Find-

ing one's own rhythm is certainly the key to progress", she declared in an interview published in "Sport en URSS".

"The obstacle race is like a musical phrase. I begin to run by taking 16 absolutely identical strides between the hurdles. One has only to lengthen one's stride by barely 10 cm to bump into the next one. At that moment it matters little where my rivals are, in front of me or behind. Only one thing matters, the rhythm. Then, tired, I shorten my stride slightly and this is why I change to 17 strides after the 8th hurdle... I want above all to improve my world record. I may modify the rhythm of the race yet again I have tried to jump the first five hurdles by making 15 strides, the next two with 16 strides and the last three with 17. You might say I'm getting there, but it is unbelievably difficult ; it calls for a larger stride, almost that of a man. But whatever happens, I will succeed."

- In 1983, 8.600 students took voluntary university courses to obtain a diploma as coach, referee or instructor, granted by the USSR Sports Committee.

The acquisition of this type of certificate while at the same time following professional studies is common practice in the Soviet Union.

With this diploma in their pockets, young people can easily run a local club, holiday camp, or school where they help to build up the football or hockey teams and teach other sports. Next, the volunteer instructor will take his place in the service of sport within his company or administration.

As physical education, sport and health are indissoluble, it is mostly medical students who seek this complementary training.

