
ATHLETES AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD :

THE JOINT MEETING TO BECOME AN ANNUAL ONE

Games open to the best athletes and sanctions as measures against doping : these are the major points stressed by the Athletes Commission during its first joint meeting with the IOC Executive Board on December 11th, 1986.

The members of the Athletes Commission, recently joined by Ms. Anita DeFrantz, IOC member for the USA and former rowing champion, and the Italian pentathlete Daniele Masala, met under the presidency of Mr. Peter Tallberg, IOC member in Finland, on the eve of this first meeting to formulate the ideas they wished to put forward to the Executive Board. The joint meeting took place at Olympic House in the Executive Boardroom. Each athlete present was able to speak on the Commission's concepts of various subjects regarding athletes. Mr. Pal Schmidt, IOC member in Hungary and Vice-President of the Commission, described his meetings and communications with the OCOCs of Seoul and Calgary regarding daily life in the

Olympic Villages and the different activities which would be available to the athletes. The Xth Asian Games were seen as an excellent example in this connection, and many lessons could be learned from them.

Sebastian Coe then spoke on the question of doping. The IOC, he requested, must take a much firmer stance regarding cases of doping, for it is the only organisation which has the social and political power within the world of sport to propose measures to the federations which would be respected in this regard. An athlete should be prepared to undergo controls even during his preparation, and any cases of abuse would lead to exclusion from all regional or international competitions for a significant period of

In the Conference room of Olympic House, the Athletes' Commission meets the Executive Board for their first joint session.



time, without any means of reintegration. It was clear that the British champion had become the spokesman for the firm attitude of his colleagues regarding the use of illegal substances, which remains one of the Commission's major concerns. It is necessary to prove to young athletes that records are possible without the use of drugs.

Edwin Moses, the American champion, then took the floor in order to explain the Commission's point of view regarding the adoption of a new Rule 26 which would lay down the principles of eligibility for the Games. The representatives of the athletes support the IOC in its objective of making the Games open to the best athletes, but nevertheless feel that a definitive solution concerning eligibility criteria must be found, on the basis of fair play, for the 1992 Games. The criteria must be applicable throughout the entire career of an athlete.

Kipchoge Keino of Kenya spoke on the quota system, which needs to be adapted according to the type of sport — individual or team, and also on the offer by Olympic Solidarity to pay all expenses for six athletes at the Olympic Games. In the opinion of the Athletes Commission, which is very much in favour of this concept, it can only apply to high-level athletes from a country.

The awarding of medals was one of the points raised by Vladislav Tretyak (URS), who be-

lieved that these should not only be presented by IOC members or Presidents of Federations but also by outstanding athletes. On the subject of doping, he requested that a solution be found in cases where a competitor who had won a medal was disqualified, in order to allow the real winner to enjoy the honour he or she deserved, which does not usually take place.

Support for athletes at the end of their sports career was the main point raised by Michelle Ford (AUS) with the Executive Board. She noted that some countries already had a policy regarding assistance in re-insertion, and that the Commission requested the IOC to encourage NOCs to concentrate their efforts on this problem, which was often neglected. "We must all remember", she stated, "that these athletes carry the *spirit of the Games with them, and this is even more reason why they are models for those who strive to become like them and for all young people of the world*". Edwin Moses also stressed this point, stating that financial, social and educational aid was a moral obligation which the IOC owed to those athletes who had pursued Olympic excellence.

Thomas Bach (FRG) firstly recalled the urgent necessity for the existence of the Commission, and suggested several ways of increasing its role within world sport. One such way would be the distribution of a document which explained the goals and the work of the Commission to all

The members of the Athletes' Commission pose at Olympic House around "Fair Play", a sculpture by Jean Ipoustegey. One recognizes, from left to right, Sebastian Coe, Thomas Bach, Pal Schmill, Daniele Masala, Vladislav Tretyak, Peter Tallberg, Edwin Moses, Anita DeFrantz, Michelle Ford, Ken Read, Kip Keino and Walther Tröger. Nadia Comaneci was excused





The Commission for the programme too met at Vidy on 8th and 9th September.

competitors at the Games. *“The work of the Athletes Commission is not limited to one aspect of the Olympic Movement”* the German fencer continued, *“and it is for this reason that athletes should be able to take part in the work of other IOC Commissions”* — and that of the Medical Commission in particular, where the participation of athletes could be beneficial, as Sebastian Coe pointed out. The athletes should also be able to take part in the preparation of the XIIIth Olympic Congress, and wished to have their speeches play a significant role. Ken Read (CAN) raised the question of the publication of a brochure containing the Commission’s beliefs, could serve as a basis for discussion with the athletes. Explaining the technicalities for the Commission’s participation at the Olympic Games, he explained that seminars and working groups would be scheduled at the Olympic Village during the competitions which would be open to all participants at the Games.

The IOC Executive Board undertook to study the different requests raised by the speakers, and the President expressed his satisfaction at the meeting, which had been a success and would in future be held each year.