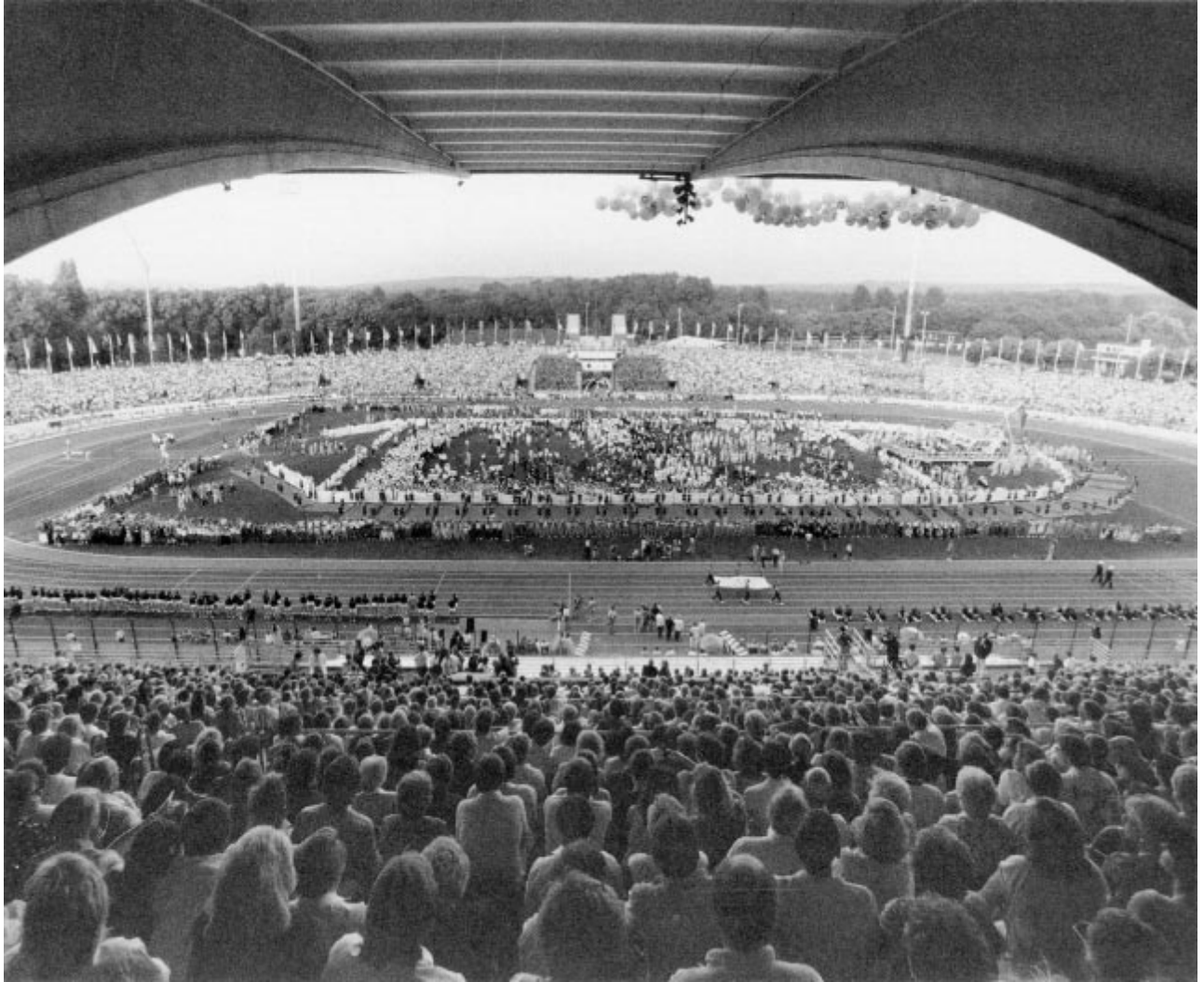


UNIVERSIADE IN DUISBURG : POSITIVE BALANCE



*Duisburg saved the 15th
Universiade with style.*

By Roch Campana
Secretary-General of the FISU

In January 1989, the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo was compelled to renounce hosting the 15th World University Games for political and economic reasons. The cancellation, only a few months before the scheduled date of the games, placed the International University Sports Federation (FISU) in a serious situation.

RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

Aware of the importance of guaranteeing the future of the World University Games, H.E. Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President, gave the complete support of the International Olympic Committee to the President and Secretary-General of FISU, Messrs Primo Nebiolo and Mr Roch Campana, in their search for an alternative solution.

These steps resulted in the authorities of the Pro Ruhrgebiet Association and the North Rhein Westphalen, as well as of the Federal Republic of Germany, stepping forward with the economic and political means of organizing the Universiade in the city of Duisburg.

The five short months at the disposal of the organizing committee forced them to limit the number of disciplines on the programme. The quality, the organization and the high standards of the athletes' performances made it a real Universiade in which 2,619 athletes from 79 countries participated.

At the opening ceremony, the crowd in the Wedau stadium created the atmosphere of a huge celebration. The Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr Nebiolo and Mr Samaranch greeted representatives from round the world, who paraded in colourful and perfect harmony to the rhythms of their different cultures.

The basketball and fencing competitions opened the festival's programme and, right from the first day of competitions, the enormous wealth of talent amongst participating athletes was evident. In basketball, where the number of teams had been limited to sixteen, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. were quickly seen to take the lead in the battle for medals.

The U.S.A. team, whose last victory in a Universiade tournament was in 1981 in Bucharest, reclaimed the championship with an 88 points to 80 win over the U.S.S.R. The Federal Republic of Germany,



Heide Rosendahl, double gold medallist in athletics at the 1972 Games, lighting the flame at the opening ceremony.

who had lined up an excellent team, surprised everyone and took a precious third place at the end of a very tough match disputed against Canada.

The universiade fencing competitions in Duisburg attracted their largest number of competitors ever - over 360 fencers



Matt Bullard, number 12, scoring for the USA team against Israel in the basketball tournament.

A fair turnout by Olympic athletes at the Universiade. Top, Roger Kingdom (USA), who came first in the 110 m hurdles and bottom, Paula Ivan (ROM), who won the 1,500 and 3,000 m.



course is one of the most beautiful in the world and has already hosted numerous European and World Championships.

The Hungarian rowers, nearly all medalists in Seoul, won four out of the five races in which they took part. One surprise which rocked the traditional winners' podium in rowing at the University Games was the arrival of the Chinese rowers, who by their fine performances in Duisburg re-confirmed the results they had achieved in Seoul.

More than half the participants at the Universiade took part in athletics. Sotomayor, Kingdom, Da Silva, Rono, Ivan, Qui-vot, Karivla, Lapschin, and many others, were the principal actors on the stage of the newly renovated Wedau Stadium.

from 32 countries took part in the tournament in the Eissesporthalle in the Wedau Sports Park. Among them, numerous medalists from Seoul, such as Stephan Cerioni, Sabine Blau, Christiane Weber, Annette Klug and many other finalists from the last Games.

The Italian, Hungarian and Cuban fencers dominated the championship and shared more than two thirds of the medals. Conspicuously absent from the winners' podiums was the Soviet Union, which did not manage to win a medal. The tournament provided an occasion for the large German crowd of spectators to appreciate an extremely high standard of fencing.

The Regatta course for the rowing events could well stand comparison with the course for the 1987 Universiade in Jarun in Yugoslavia. In fact, the Duisburg





The winning men's 4 X 100 m relay team, Americans (l. to r.) Mike Marsh, Tony Dees, Walkerlee Watkins and Andre Casson.

In total, nine Universiade records were broken and the best performances in walking and the marathon greatly improved.

The 4 x 100 m and 4 x 400 m relay races closed the 15th University Games in an atmosphere of fraternity and friendship, in which the supreme winners were the young people from all over the world. The star-covered U flag was ceremoniously handed over to the organizers to the 16th Universiade, which will take place in Sheffield in Great Britain from 14th to 25th July 1991.

R. C.

