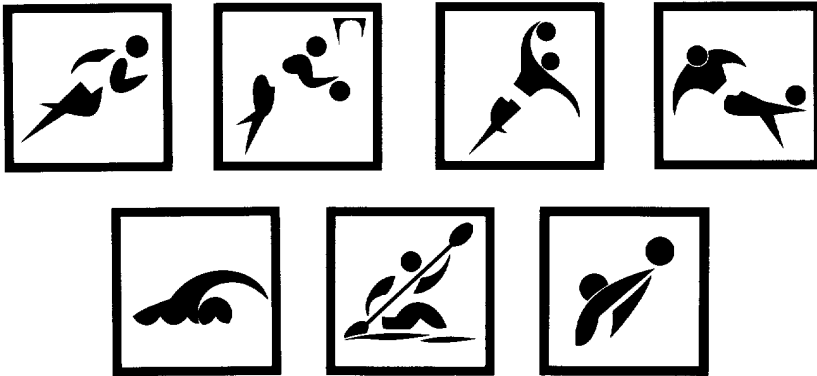


FIRST PRINCE DE ASTURIAS OLYMPIC YOUTH RALLY



Nearly two thousand young athletes will get a taste of the Olympic atmosphere this July in the 1st Prince de Asturias Olympic Youth Rally in which thirty four countries will take part.

Conceived as a stepping stone to international sports competition for talented under-nineteen-year-olds, the Youth Rally is a way of preparing the Olympic athletes of tomorrow. Behind the event, the regional government of Castile and Leon, supported by the Supreme Council of Sport and the NOC.

Whilst the focus on sport in Spain has been inevitably centred on Catalonia and 1992, this year's Youth Rally in Castile-Leon will show that the Games have had a pervasive beneficial effect on encouraging sports initiatives outside Catalonia. The organizing committee hopes that other countries hosting the Olympic Games in the future will want to follow its example.

As the title makes clear, the rally has received the support of the Prince of Asturias, the heir to the Spanish throne, while King Juan Carlos has accepted the honorary presidency. The IOC will also be very much part of the event as the IOC President will preside over the opening ceremony - the Olympic flags will be flying at all the venues.

Countries were selected to send athletes on the basis of the performance of their national teams at the last Olympic Games in Seoul. Europe will be the conti-

nent best represented, with twenty two countries announced. (FRG, BEL, BUL, DEN, FRA, GBR, GRE, HOL, HUN, IRL, ISL, ITA, NOR, POL, POR, ROM, SUI, SWE, TCH, URS, YUG). Seven delegations are expected from America (ARC, BRA, CAN, COL, CUB, URU and USA), three from Asia (CHN, KOR, and JPN). The Algerian team will be there from Africa and the Australians from Oceania.

Sports have been allocated, from 13th to 21st July, according to the best facilities, among seven of the nine provinces of Castile-Leon. In athletics, eight teams will take part in events in Salamanca from 19th to 21st. The handball tournament will have eight teams in contention in Leon from 15th to 17th and 19th to 21st. Dates which coincide with those of the basketball competition in Valladolid, whilst football will be held in Burgos on alternate days from 13th to 21st. Swimming events, with the greatest number of competitors - 400 from sixteen countries, will be in Avila, from 15th to 18th. Second biggest sport on the programme, canoeing is scheduled for Sanabria Lake in Zamora on 16th and 17th and 19th and 20th. Finally, eight volleyball teams will meet in Palencia from 15th to 17th and 19th to 21st. Segovia and Soria are staging the cultural programme for this important summer event.

