



## FAIR PLAY TROPHIES AT UNESCO

The award ceremony for the International Pierre de Coubertin trophies and fair play diplomas of honour given by the international Committee for Fair Play (CIFP) took place, as every year, in the grand hall of the Unesco headquarters in Paris on 9th November

These trophies were awarded in recognition of remarkable acts of good sportsmanship and actions to promote fair play and good conduct in sport in 1992 and 1993.

The room was almost full, writes CIFP secretary-general, **Mr Janusz Piewcewicz**, with people there to applaud the winners from ten countries. **Mr Jean Durry**, director of the French Sports Museum, in charge of the presentations, recounted the history which lay behind this 29th ceremony. He recalled that as early as 1908 Pierre de Coubertin had declared that "fair play is in danger", and stressed the importance of the personal attention devoted by successive directors general of Unesco to promoting this fundamental element of sport. **Mr Federico Mayor**, the current director-general, surprised everyone by presenting **Mr Willi Daume**, honorary IOC member, with a "Special Trophy", a tribute from the members of the CIFP to their president on the occasion of his 80th birthday, after painting a brief but warm picture of this "man of many passions". Mr Mayor also paid tribute to the prizewinners, for whom the true meaning of sport "leaves room neither for the domination of the winner, nor the frustration of the loser". "You are the artisans", he added, quoting Paul Verlaine, " of a peace without victory, which is the source of an infectious joy." The Trophy went to



After the presentation of the trophies, the souvenir photo with Mr Federico Mayor

the British gymnast **Eddie van Hoof** and the spectators at the 1993 World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart. As a tribute to the whole of their careers, the French cyclist **Raymond Poulidor** and the Russian skier **Raïssa Smetanina** also received a trophy. From the always well-stocked list of winners, here are the names of those who received fair play diplomas: the Argentinian pelota player **F.J. Elortondo**, the Turkish basketball player **Nur Gencer**, the German rower **Thomas Lange**, the Maltese athlete **Joseph Pace**, the Luxembourg table tennis players **Ch. Schaus and D. Wintersdorf** and the Canadian wrestler **Chris Wilson**. Speaking as a member of the board of the CIFP, **Miss Anita DeFrantz**, IOC member in the United States and Executive Board member, outlined in a few strong words the essential meaning of fair play. "Sport is part of human nature. We take pleasure in the demands it makes upon us..., but for many it presents a moral dilemma: do we respond first to the desire to win, or to the need to observe the rules of the game? ...It is the ability to (go beyond these choices) in excellence which makes sport a sublime experience. "