

Atlanta competition sites approved by the Session



Lake Lanier; the Olympic rowing and canoeing venue. Right, Messrs Charlie Battle, Billie Payne, Bill Campbell and A.D. Frazier concentrate on their report to the Session



Mr Billy Payne confirmed to the 102nd Session that the choice of sites had been finalized, as announced in the last issue of the *Review*. However, the rowing competitions will be taking place on Lake Lanier, and not in Rockdale County, as we mistakenly reported. Moreover, we should add that the tennis competition will be at Stone Mountain. Along with the cabling

system for rowing and canoeing, the site includes a series of permanent constructions: the finish tower; 2500 spectator seats and four boat houses. As many seats again will be installed temporarily) as well as two more boat houses and a day village for the athletes. After the Games the installations will be handed over to the Gainesville authorities for rowing and canoeing competitions at all levels. Mr Denis Oswald, FISA president and IOC member in Switzerland, added that this new Olympic rowing

site, although an hour away from Atlanta, would be excellent for rowing and canoeing. Mr Payne assured the Session that the rowing course would become the United States' best, and would be used for several years after the Games. Mr Joao Havelange, IOC member in Brazil and president of FIFA, also thanked ACOG for the choice of football stadiums, and added that the fact that twenty-two cities had asked to host an Olympic football match was a sign of football's popularity in the region.

IAAF president and IOC member Mr Primo Nebiolo considered that the changes made to the Olympic stadium plans were in line with the wishes of his federation.

This is a summary of the remarks made by Mr Denis Oswald during ACOG's report to the Session. The President of FISA and IOC member in Switzerland explained his federation's position on the rowing sites.

“Contrary to the information given in the last edition of the Olympic Review (3151), the Olympic rowing and canoeing events at the Games in Atlanta will not take place in Rockdale County. As many conflicting and sometimes incorrect reports have appeared on this subject, FISA wished to outline the different stages that led to the choice of Lake Lanier as the Olympic rowing venue.

1- In its bid file, the Atlanta Committee proposed organizing the Olympic rowing and canoeing events on Stone Mountain lake. ACOG also gave assurances that the lake would become a permanent rowing facility after the Games.

2- This proposal was entirely satisfactory to FISA from a technical point of view. Moreover: Stone Mountain Park had the advantage of being close to the city and the Olympic Village, and had been conceived as a sort of Olympic sub-centre with seven ports. FISA therefore never asked for the rowing site to be moved.

3- For various reasons, which we shall not elaborate here, the Atlanta Committee was unable to fulfil the commitments it had made in its bid file. It asked FISA to abandon the idea of Stone Mountain and choose a new site: either Rockdale County or Lake Lanier.

4- With the support of the IOC, the FISA did everything in its power to try

to “save” the Stone Mountain venue, but to no avail. Thus the FISA was forced against its will to relinquish the site.

5- After very careful study of the two new sites proposed, FISA chose Lake Lanier, imposing a number of conditions that ACOG has undertaken to fulfil.

6- The IOC Executive Board has now approved Lake Lanier as the site of the Olympic rowing and canoeing events for 1996.

7- Although Lake Lanier is unfortunately an hour away from the Olympic Village, the site offers excellent technical conditions. Moreover, the local authorities and community are enthusiastic in their support of this project, and ACOG has undertaken to work together with FISA to ensure complete satisfaction for the rowers. FISA is therefore convinced that the Olympic rowing events of the Centennial Games will be a great success for all concerned.”

AT&T GOES OLYMPIC

Electronic signatures were exchanged by Billy Payne, ACOG Director General, Harvey Schiller, USOC Secretary General and Robert Allen, president of AT&T, to formalize the agreement between the American communications network and the organizing committee of the Centennial Games.

AT&T, which has the most extensive long-distance and international communications network in the world, has agreed to provide telecommunications material: plugs, cables for the venues, standard and cellular phones, videophones and video-conferencing facilities. The Olympic Family will also benefit from AT&T services: simultaneous interpreting, speaking electronic mail, and international call exchanges for athletes, officials and spectators.

make the Centennial Olympic Games a showcase for the latest telecommunications technology Billy Payne knows he can count on AT&T for a partnership which will go well beyond financial support.

will also be a big part of the Games...AT&T will help make the Games a showcase for

AT&T

with the American NOC

extend this network to the IOC in lausanne, and subsequently to all the NOC and IF headquarters worldwide. The network will constantly be adapted to take advantage of the most recent technological developments. It will support data, facsimile and video traffic, and will even work from vocal commands. But this is not all: among numerous revolutionary projects undertaken by AT&T, athletes are at the centre of a vast programme to take care of their families during the Games. A successful experiment was carried out by AT&T in Seoul in 1988 with the families of athletes in the American delegation. “Our program during the 1996 Games will have a unique twist,” explained Mr Peter de Tagyos, AT&TOlympic relations director.

open their homes to the families of Olympic athletes from every country.

more than half the American delegation to the 1992 Games participated in AT&T family programme.