

venture in Mexico, where he gained his first experience working with teams of the so-called weaker sex. Upon his return, he was faced with the choice of either returning to grass-roots coaching or trying his hand at high-level performance.

His involvement in the women's national judo team triggered a series of victories that elevated him to world status. It comes as no surprise that all the countries excelling in this form of combat always wish to compete against Veitía's pupils.

An example is the traditional invitation to the Fukuoka



Ronaldo Veitía with his pupil Legna Verdecia.

Cup in Japan, toward the end of each year, when Asian experts and athletes follow the progress of Cuban women's judo.

At the last World Championships, they won one gold medal and three silver medals; with this same record, they would have triumphed at the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games, in 1996 in Atlanta, where they were runners-up, with one gold, one silver and three bronze medals. Veitía's dream is now Sydney.

\* Journalist, Cuban Olympic Committee.

## Olympic Quiz\*

### Questions

- Five women have won 10 or more Olympic medals. Can you name them?
- 14 women have won five or more Olympic gold medals. Who were they?
- Which woman has competed in the most Games of the Olympiad?
- Which woman has competed in the most Olympic Winter Games?
- Which two women spanned the longest time between their first and last appearances at the Olympics.
- Up to 1998, there have been nine nations whose women have won more medals at the Olympics than their men. Who were they?
- Who was the first woman to carry the Olympic Flame into the stadium at the opening ceremony of the Games of the Olympiad?
- Who was the first woman to light the Olympic Flame at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games?
- Who was the first woman to pronounce the Oath of the Athletes at the Opening Ceremony of the Games of the Olympiad and of the Olympic Winter Games?
- Who were the first two women members of the International Olympic Committee?

\*Compiled by Bill Mallon, vice president of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH).



and of different origin, but who were both marked by misfortune.

The American lost the use of her left leg when, as a child, she suffered from, double pneumonia and scarlet fever. Thanks to the help of her family, and almost effortlessly, she managed to free herself first from her callipers and then from her orthopaedic shoes, to become an outstanding runner and, aged 16, join her country's Olympic team. At the Games in Melbourne, she won a bronze medal in the 4x100 relay, but it was at the next edition, in Rome in 1960, that she showed the true extent of her abilities: she was three-

times champion in the 100 and 200 metres and in the 4x100 relay.

The story of Quirot is also impressive. After becoming, in the second half of the eighties, America's greatest middle-distance runner, her career took a promising leap when she won the 800 metres bronze medal at the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona. In 1993, however, an unfortunate domestic accident gave her 38 per cent burns. The Cuban athlete, whose face, neck, thorax, abdomen and arms were affected, soon began painful rehabilitation and exactly ten months after the accident she reappeared in high-level competition. After

having a number of skin grafts to regain mobility in her trunk and extremities, Ana Fidelia regained not only her initial form but also markedly improved her results and was twice world champion, in 1995 and 1997, and Olympic silver medallist at the Games in Atlanta.

The most important sports gathering in history, the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney, will undoubtedly offer new stories, records and achievements by other women who, in a few years time, will appear in the best women athletes list of another century.

\*EFE Journalist.

# Olympic Quiz

## Answers

- Larisa Latynina (Soviet Union/gymnastics; 18); Vera Cáslavská (Czech Republic/gymnastics; 11); Polina Astakhova (Soviet Union/gymnastics; 10); Agnes Keleti (Hungary/gymnastics; 10); and Raisa Smetanina (Soviet Union/nordic skiing; 10).
- Larisa Latynina (Soviet Union/gymnastics; 9); Vera Cáslavská (Czech Republic/gymnastics; 7); Kristin Otto (East Germany/swimming; 6); Lidiya Skoblikova (Russian Federation/speed skating; 6); Lyubov Yegorova (Russian Federation/nordic skiing; 6); Polina Astakhova (Soviet Union/gymnastics; 5); Bonnie Blair (United States of America/speed skating; 5); Krisztina Egerszegi (Hungary/swimming; 5); Agnes Keleti (Hungary/gymnastics; 5); Nadia Comaneci (Romania/gymnastics; 5); Nelli Kim (Soviet Union/gymnastics; 5); Larisa Lazutina (Soviet Union/nordic skiing; 5); Birgit Schmidt-Fischer (East Germany/Germany/canoeing; 5); and Jennifer Thompson (United States of America/swimming; 5). Thompson has yet to win an individual gold medal, the only person on the above list with that distinction. She was won all hers in swim relays.
- Kerstin Palm of Sweden competed in fencing at seven Games of the Olympiad, consecutively from 1964. through 1988.
- Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi-Hämäläinen of Finland competed in cross-country skiing at six Olympic Winter Games, consecutively from 1976 through 1994. Her husband, Harri Kirvesniemi, also competed in cross-country skiing at six Olympic Winter Games, from 1980 through 1998, which equals the record for men.
- Jessiva Newberry-Ransehousen of the United States competed in dressage at the 1960 and 1964 Games of the Olympiad and then returned to the United States Olympic team 24 years later, competing in 1988. Christilot Hansen-Boylen of Canada also competed in equestrian events, competing between 1964 and 1992. Hansen-Boylen missed only the 1980 and 1988 Games.

Nations	Medals won by women	Medals won by men
Romania	109	104
People's Republic of China	98	78
Ukraine	13	11
Liechtenstein	5	4
Nigeria	5	3
Costa Rica	2	0
Zimbabwe	1	0
Hong Kong, China	1	0
Mozambique	1	0

- At the Games of the XIX Olympiad in Mexico City in 1968, hurdler Enriqueta Basilio de Sotelo did the honors of carrying the Olympic Flame and lighting the torch.
- In 1976, there were two Olympic Flames lit, in honor of Innsbruck hosting the Olympic Winter Games for a second time. Christil Haas lit one -the other was lit by Josef Feistmantl. In 1984, figure skater Sandra Dubravcic lit the lone Olympic Torch at the Sarajevo Opening Ceremony.
- In 1956 at Cortina d'Ampezzo, the oath of the athletes was pronounced by Italian alpine skier Guillian Chenal-Minuzzo. In 1960, figure skater Carol Heiss was the second consecutive woman at the Olympic Winter Games to do so. The first time this occurred at the Games of the Olympiad was in 1972 in Munich when runner Heidi Schüller pronounced the oath of the athletes.
- The first two women elected to the IOC were Flor Isava-Fonseca (Venezuela) and Pirjo Häggman (Finland), who were co-opted in 1981. Pirjo Häggman retired in 1999.