

# Olympism

## IOC-FIFA meeting

The impact of the Olympic Games on the international football calendar was the main point on the agenda at the meeting held on 1 March 2000 in Lausanne between the IOC and FIFA. Representing the IOC along with the President were: Franco Carraro, IOC member; Françoise Zweifel, Secretary General; and Pere Miró, Director of NOC Relations and Olympic Solidarity. FIFA was represented by its President, Joseph Blatter (who is also an IOC member), as well as Antonio Matarrese, Vice-president of FIFA and UEFA; Michel Zen-Ruffinen, FIFA Secretary General; Walter Gagg, Technical Director; Jerome Champagne, Presidential Advisor and Andreas Herren, from the

Communications office. Matthieu Reeb, Secretary General of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, was also present at the meeting.

The IOC and FIFA reached an agreement in principle over the participation of athletes playing for clubs which, particularly in Europe, will already be in the international competition circuit at the time of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. A proposal will therefore be made that the period of 14 days before the competition, for which clubs are currently required to release players for international duty be reduced to five, given that the Olympic football tournament will start on 13 and end on 30 September 2000. With respect to the participa-

tion conditions for footballers in the Olympic tournament, the age limit is 23; nevertheless, the 16 participating teams are each allowed to name three players over 23. For the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens in 2004, and in order to harmonize the international calendar, the idea of bringing the Games forward was raised. The other points on the agenda included the reforms approved by the 110th IOC Session last December, the creation of an arbitration court for football, cooperation between FIFA and the United Nations, the situation of international sports federations in Switzerland, and the joint development programme between FIFA and Olympic Solidarity.



(from l. to r.) Franco Carraro, the IOC President, Joseph Blatter, Michel Zen Ruffinen and Antonio Matarrese.