

International Children's Games

MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL

In the year 1999, three International Children's Games were organized: in Medias in Romania; Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic for the first time; and in Velenje, the sixth Slovenian town. More than 2,000 athletes from 39 towns in 14 countries participated.

At the dawn of the new millennium, the Canadian town of Hamilton organized the 32nd annual International Children's Games, the so-called Millennium Festival, with great success. It was a true festival of sports, friendship and youth, hosting more than 2,000 pupils from 69 towns in 26 countries, competing in athletics, swimming, gymnastics, baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball. The contests will always be remembered by all the participants in this meeting of the youth from the Americas, Europe and Asia. Apart from the main events, in various well-equipped modern sports facilities,

by Jozef Sater*

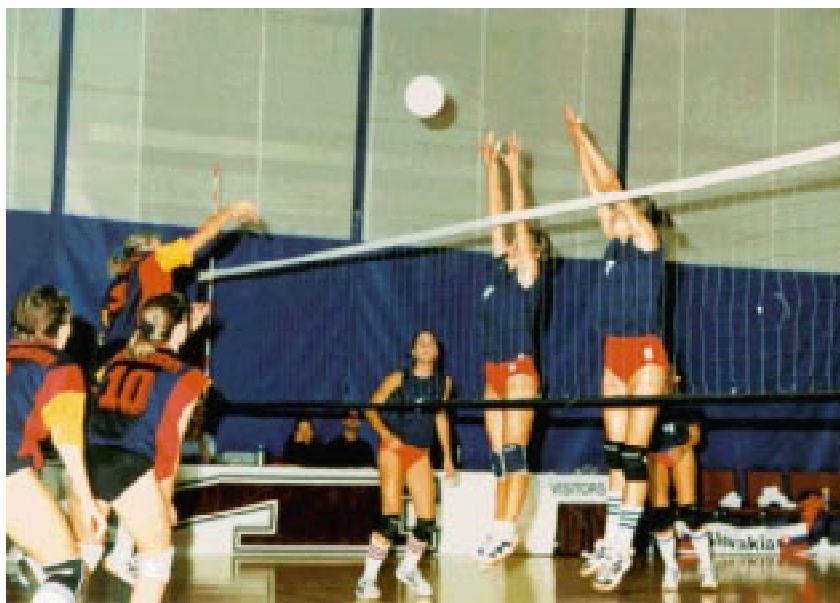


which facilitated good sports performances, the organizing committee provided highly attractive side events. A magnificent parade of all the participants in the streets of Hamilton was organized on the occasion of the



Canadian national holiday. The opening of the Games in Copps Coliseum, lighting the Olympic flame, playing the hymn of our Games and the Olympic oath were all as splendid as those of the Olympic Games. Excursions to Niagara Falls and Toronto were also on the programme.

The plenary session of the committee of the International Children's Games in Hamilton examined its achievements, the promising results of its meetings and socializing on the basis of sports developed in the true spirit and ideals of the Olympics among young students aged 12 to 15. So far over 20,000 sportswomen and -men from 200 European, American, African and Asian towns have taken parts in 35 games (32 summer and three winter) organized by 24 towns in 15 countries. Resolutions for the future were also made. Having checked all candidatures, the committee confirmed the



Women's volleyball...



...and the long jump, on the programme of the Children's Games.

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organization of future Games in:

- Szombathely (Hungary) in 2001
- Plock (Poland) in 2002
- Graz (Austria) and Patra (Greece) in 2003
- Cleveland (United States of America) in 2004

The General Assembly of the International Children's Games will be held from 4 to 6 October 2001 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The International Children's Games are gaining in popularity as well as importance, they are open to the whole world with interest from Corner Brook, Taipei, Jerusalem and other cities in their organization.

Thus, the Olympic ideal is being rooted even in the youngest among us.

* President, Committee of the International Children's Games



Young female footballers in action.

Olympic Quiz*

Olympic Games Candidate Cities

Questions

1. Which cities are still bidding for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008?
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2. Which cities were candidates for the 2008 Games but have been eliminated?
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3. Three cities have hosted the Olympic Games twice? What were the cities?
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4. Which city has bid most often for the Olympic Games?
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5. Which cities have bid most often without being chosen to host an Olympic Games?
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6. What are the three cities that have bid for both the Games of the Olympiad and the Olympic Winter Games?
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7. Ten different American cities have made official bids to the IOC for the Olympic Games. Which ones?
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8. Which nation, after the United States of America, has had the most cities bid to host the Olympic Games?
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9. Many cities have bid several times to organize the Olympic Games. Four cities have made only one bid for the Olympics, and won the right to host them with that one bid. What are these cities?
.....
10. Outside of the war years, three cities have been chosen to host the Games of the Olympiad or the Olympic Winter Games but did not do so. What were these cities?
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* Compiled by Bill Mallon, president of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH).