

Brazil

With the presence of one thousand guests, the Brazilian Olympic Committee hosted a gala event last December, to close the national sports calendar in style. The third edition of the Brazil Olympic Award was also attended by the President of the Republic, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who received both the NOC's Olympic Merit award and the Olympic Personality of the Year award, for the support he has given to sports in Brazil. The President of the Republic also presented the awards to the best athletes of 2001: yachtsman Robert Scheidt among the men, gymnast Daniele Hypolito among the women, and to the best paralympic athlete of the year, swimmer Danilo Glasser. Moreover, 40 other athletes were awarded the Olympic Brazil Award as the best athletes in their respective sports. The Minister of Sports and Tourism, Caries Melles, was named BOC's Great Benefactor. Bernard Rajzman, volleyball silver

medallist in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games received the Olympic Order from the hands of Carlos Arthur Nuzman, IOC member. Two new prizes were introduced by the BOC: Best Coach of the Year, awarded to Larri Passos, who has been Gustavo Kuerten's coach since the beginning of the latter's career; and the Adhemar Ferreira da Silva Trophy, which will be awarded every year to an athlete who represents the legacy of Adhemar, the only Brazilian athlete to win two Olympic gold medals, known worldwide for his elegant bearing, both on and off the field. This year's winner was the triple jumper Nelson Prudencio, silver medallist in 1968 in Mexico, and bronze medallist in 1972 in Munich. The 2001 Olympic Brazil Award also included the Great Athletes of the Century award, honouring 70 Brazilian Olympic athletes who competed in the Olympic Games between 1920 and 1968.



(from l. to r.) Robert Scheidt, Danilo Glasser the President of the Republic Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and Daniele Hypolito.

Sport and volunteerism

In the framework of the year 2001, proclaimed International Year of Volunteers by the United Nations General Assembly, the Barbados NOC, presented the IOC "Sport and Volunteers" trophy to Keither Lennards, president of "Special Olympics Barbados". In Hamar (Norway), at the presentation of sport trophies, IOC member Gerhard Heiberg awarded the IOC trophy to the 'Asker' ski club, represented by its president Bjorn Tangnes, in recognition of his important voluntary contribution to Norwegian sport.

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Bjorn Tangnes and the IOC trophy.



(from l. to r.) Rudolph Greenidge, Keither Lennards and Steve Stoute.