



# Olympic News Section

## OLYMPISM:

IOC honorary member Jose Dalmiro Vallarino Veracierto (Uruguay) died this week. Mr Veracierto was President of the Uruguay Olympic Committee from 1976 to 1987 and an IOC member from 1976 to 1996. [The Weeks Olympic News, number 44, 29 October – 4 November 2001].

The IOC is setting up Olympic Knowledge Services (OKS), a partnership company of Monash University in Australia and the IOC. It will deliver a range of education, management and consulting services to Olympic Games organising committees and candidate cities, ensuring that the knowledge derived from one Games is successfully transferred to other organisers and aspirants. OKS will be based in Switzerland and operational by November 2001. While the IOC will control the venture, both organisations will contribute members to the board of directors. Craig McLatchey, former Secretary General of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), will serve as Director of Olympic Knowledge Services. Mr McLatchey will report to the OKS board to be chaired by IOC Vice-President Kevan Gosper. Mr McLatchey, who has worked for the AOC for the last ten years, also served as a member of the board of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad (SOCOG). [Olympic Highlights, number 42, 15-21 October 2001]

## SALT LAKE CITY

### SALT LAKE ORGANISING COMMITTEE unveils Olympic Winter Games Medals

#### SLOC design team, O. C. Tanner and Axiom Design Create Compelling Medal

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah.

A medal from the Olympic Games is the highest form of recognition an athlete can achieve in the sporting world. The Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 (SLOC) today unveiled the look of the Games medals, which captures the essence of the Salt Lake 2002 vision, "Light the Fire Within."

On the front of the medals, an athlete bursts forth from flames carrying a torch, representing the Olympic Spirit, the resilience of the human spirit and the power to inspire. The figure has triumphed

over adversity and is thus released from a mountain of ice and rock. The Olympic Rings anchor the image of the athlete, while the words "Light the Fire Within" are etched into the medal. The back of the medals pays tribute to the history of the Games. Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, holds a small victory leaf, symbolizing the olive wreaths that were presented to winners of the ancient Olympic Games.

Within Nike's embrace is an illustration of the event for which the medal is being presented. For the first time in history, the medal varies for each sport with 16 unique artist's renderings. Also imprinted on the back of the medal are the Crystal Emblem, Salt Lake 2002, and the name of the event. At the base of the ribbon loop is the Roman numeral XIX, signifying the XIX Olympic Winter Games. At 1.25 pounds each, the medal is weighty, the heaviest medal produced for the Games. It is designed to be substantial and tactile; its smooth, irregular edge is reminiscent of a river rock that could be found in Utah's natural environment. Part modern and part rustic, the medal design attempts to encapsulate the awakening of both athletes and audiences while experiencing or watching the inspiring struggle for greatness,

"SLOC's creative team wanted to design a medal that not only had meaning to the athlete but was also considered a piece of art," said Mitt Romney SLOC president and CEO. "The medal not only achieves these objectives, but also represents the best of the state of Utah."

The Olympic medals were designed by Brent Watts, creative director of Axiom, a Salt Lake City based firm, and SLOC's senior creative team, including Scott Givens, managing director of the Creative Group, Libby Hyland, director of Creative Services, and Ron Stucki, design manager.

Made solely from metal mined in Utah, the Olympic medals were handcrafted by OPUS supplier O.C. Tanner, a Salt Lake based employee recognition awards company. O.C. Tanner invested tens of thousands of hours in the remarkable medal-making process. There will be 239 gold, silver and bronze medals each produced for the Games for a total of 717 medals. Additional medals will be produced for the Paralympic Winter Games as well as archive and commemorative copies. Creating each medal requires about 15 processes as well as hours of crafting by hand. Because of this painstaking process, no two medals will be exactly the same. "Olympic champions represent the epitome of human endeavor," said Kent Murdock, O.C. Tanner president and CEO. "Our employees are proud to make the medals that will honor their accomplishments?to have made medals that will become the athletes' most prized possessions."

The boxes that hold the medals are made of a single piece of walnut, with a rectangular medallion of gold, silver or bronze inset of the Olympic rings on the front. Each box houses the diploma on the left, with the athlete's name and the date of the event in calligraphy using gold, silver or bronze ink, and the medal on the right, with a compartment for the sash.

The sash colors are mountain shadow, deco blue and lapis. The Salt Lake 2002 crystal pattern, the words Salt Lake 2002, the Olympic rings, and the Salt Lake 2002 Games' theme "Light the Fire Within," are woven into the sash. The clasp that holds the ribbon is in gold, silver or bronze and is engraved with XIX, for the XIX Olympic Winter Games.

"The dream of every athlete is to have an Olympic medal," said Cathy Priestner, SLOC's managing director of sport and an Olympic medalist. "An Olympic medal is concrete evidence of an athlete's achievements."

The IOC requires that all Olympic medals include the Olympic rings, mention the sport and event for which they are awarded, and have the ability to be fastened to a detachable chain or ribbon. The medals must also be at least 60mm in diameter and 3mm thick. SLOC's Olympic Winter Games medals are the heaviest medals ever produced and for the first time in Olympic history have SLOC's vision statement "Light the Fire Within," etched into the medal.

## SUPPORT FOR SLOC

Numerous sports organisations have this week pledged their support for the staging of the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

- The IOC Athletes' Commission confirmed its confidence in the Salt Lake Organising Committee (SLOC) and its preparations for the Games.

- The European Olympic Committees (EOC) Athletes' Commission also expressed its views on the matter with a letter from Commission Chairman and IOC member Sergei Bubka.

Mr Bubka underlined how vital it was that "we should not let terrorism put an end to what the Ancient Olympic Games stood for, Peace in the form of the Olympic Truce. ... The world needs the message that the Olympic Games send. Athletes want to compete and spectators around the world want to see good triumph over bad."

- For its part, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), through its President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, issued a statement noting that "this is neither the first time, nor will it be the last, that some antisocial elements have subjected the world to such horrific acts ... However, the OCA has total confidence in the precautionary measures being undertaken by the IOC, SLOC, the State of Utah and the Federal Government of the USA." [Olympic Highlights, number 43, 22-28 October 2001]

## OLYMPIC BRIBERY SCANDAL [FINAL DECISION]

In connection with the Olympic Bribery Scandal of 1999, Tom Welch and Dave Johnson, President and Senior Vice-President, respectively, of the Salt Lake City Bid Committee for the Olympic Winter Games and of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, were charged on 20 July 2000 by the United States Government on a 15-count indictment of conspiracy, mail fraud, and wire fraud. On 16 July 2001, the United States District Court for the District of Utah (Central Division) dismissed counts 2 through 5, termed the Travel Act Counts. In a more recent decision, on 15 November 2001, the same court, with Senior Judge David Sam ruling, dismissed the remaining counts (count 1 and counts 6-15) against Welch and Johnson.

Judge Sam ruled in a 27 page judgement that is available on the Internet (URL below). His ruling was based on section IIIA, in which he noted that count 1 and counts 6-15 were related to, and dependent upon, counts 2 through 5. Dismissal of those counts made the case on the remaining counts less viable and they were dismissed. Attorneys for Welch and Johnson also tried to argue for dismissal on several other grounds. Judge Sam noted, however, that those grounds would not have been sufficient to dismiss the counts of their own accord.

The U.S. Government has the right to appeal the ruling by the U.S. District Court. However, it has been noted that several of the FBI agents assigned to this case, have been re-assigned in relation to the terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001. Given the priority assigned to that case, many observers consider it unlikely that the U.S. Government will appeal the ruling and that, even if an appeal is launched, it is unlikely to be successful. [If matters remain as Judge Sam's judgement has decided, That IOC's *ad hoc* Commission decision of March 1999 will, in effect, have been confirmed by the U.S. courts.]

See also [www.utd.uscourts.gov/reports/highprofile!/00000168.tif](http://www.utd.uscourts.gov/reports/highprofile!/00000168.tif) for the complete decision.

## ATHENS 2004

This week's reshuffle of the Greek Government reflected Prime Minister Costas Simitis' ongoing commitment to the organisation of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004.

Most notable in the Olympic-orientated appointments is the nomination, within the Ministry of Culture, of Nasos Alevras as Deputy Culture Minister responsible for overseeing projects and issues related to the 2004 Games.

Also, Tilemachos Hytiris has been appointed Press and Mass Media Deputy Minister, responsible for Olympic Games communication issues.

Evangelos Venizelos, the Minister of Culture in charge of Sports and the Olympics, remains in office. [Olympic Highlights, number 43, 22-28 October 2001]

## BEIJING 2008

Lausanne, 6 November 2001

The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Dr Jacques Rogge, has decided to appoint Mr Hein Verbruggen as Chairman of the Coordination Commission for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, in 2008.

An IOC member in the Netherlands since 1996 as President of an International Federation (IF), Mr Verbruggen chaired the IOC Evaluation Commission for the 2008 Games from September 2000 to July 2001.

“Hein Verbruggen has all the qualities needed to chair the Coordination Commission. His experience as Chairman of the Evaluation Commission and his knowledge of the Olympic Movement make him the ideal person to accompany Beijing in its preparations for the Olympic Games in 2008”, the IOC President declared.

“It is a great honour for me to be entrusted with this responsibility. Having already worked as Chairman of the Commission which evaluated the candidate cities for the Summer Games in 2008, I am very pleased to be able to make a further contribution to the IOC during the forthcoming years of hard work that await us”, said Mr Verbruggen.

“I am confident that the Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) will be able to guarantee us ideal conditions for staging superb Games”, he added.

President of the International Cycling Union (UCI) since 1991, Mr Verbruggen is also Vice-President of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and has been a member of the Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency since 1999. A member of the Evaluation Commission for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004 (1996.1997), representing the IFs, he has been on the Coordination Commission for these Games in Athens since 1998.

The creation of the Organising Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games is scheduled for December 2001, and the first Coordination Commission meeting should be held in the spring of 2002. The Commission members will be appointed in December this year. [Olympic News Flash, November 6, 2001]



## Book Reviews

**OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS 1908\* 1912\* 1920\* 1924\* 1928\* 1936.** Published by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics [IFFHS], Graf-von-Galen-Strasse 72, D-65197 Wiesbaden, Germany. Two volumes, with resp. 184 [Volume 1] and 194 pages [Volume 2]; written in four languages; English, Spanish, French and German. Price: DEM 45 per volume, plus DEM 8 for postage; for the two volumes DEM 90 and no postage. Hard cover and no ISBN number. Reviewed by Wolf Lyberg.

Let me start with a confession. When our editor and ISOH Secretary-General (knowing my interest in international football) asked me to review these books, my first thought was:

- Well, probably another of these many books made for 'fast' money, containing a lot of well known facts and a lot of 'exclusive' photographs.

How wrong I was!

Just opening the books for a first look made it say "click", as it showed to be a completely different set of books as I had expected it to be. And reading its contents confirmed that these volumes are a treasure for every friend of football and its statistics.

We, who like figures and facts, have here a real gold mine to dig in, as a lot of experienced statistic experts in the sport of 'soccer' have made contributions.

Not only do we get the history of the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* [FIFA] and the start of the great international tournaments. We also get small reports on each of the individual games in the various Olympic tournaments, containing figures for attending crowds and giving details of the teams, with the names of the players and the clubs for which they used to play.

There is also in each of the volumes a list of all players with dates of birth and death (if available). Any collector of such facts, like myself, will find a lot of data unknown until now. In spite of many letters which I wrote all over the world, and all in vain, I now, in a short time, found many important data!

My sincere congratulations go to Dr. Alfredo W. Pöge from Wiesbaden in Germany, and the other members of his editorial team. Dr. Pöge however, was the soul behind this most agreeable surprise.

Let me also lift my 'borsalino' [I have to find it somewhere, stowed away as it is], for the wonderful photos in the two books. They are in many ways unique, and there are plenty of these. Just