

A BAREFOOT BOY WITH CHEEK

RICHARD W. POUND, DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA

At 3:30 on the afternoon of Friday, June 11, 2004, Canada's and ISOH's Dick POUND was awarded the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, at the 282nd Convocation Ceremonies of the *University of Western Ontario* in London, Canada. Thus POUND, became history's second IOC member to be awarded an honorary doctorate degree from a Canadian university. The first was IOC President Juan Antonio SAMARANCH, bestowed honoris causa status by *Laval University* in Quebec City in 1990. The citation for POUND, composed and read at the gala ceremony by Professor Emeritus and ISOH member, Bob BARNEY, appears as follows:

'One of the most inspirational outcomes of the Rome Olympics in 1960 resulted in a diminutive, barefooted Ethiopian runner, Abebe Bikila, winning the gold medal in the marathon, thus becoming Africa's first Olympic champion. There was another Olympian who competed barefooted in those Rome Olympics; he stands here before you, Canadian freestyle swimmer, Richard W. Pound.

Dick Pound was five years old when he first dunked into the shallow end of a local Ocean Falls, British Columbia swimming pool to learn to swim. At 16 he was the Canadian Junior National 100 yard freestyle champion and a member of Canada's 1958 Pan-American Games team. By 1960 he was in the Olympics, finishing sixth in the 100 meters at Rome, exactly 1.1 seconds behind the gold medal swim. He closed his swimming career with a gold medal in the 100 meter freestyle at the 1962 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Dick Pound received bachelor degrees in Commerce and Civil Law from McGill University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts from Sir George Williams. He is a senior partner in Stikeman Elliott, a distinguished Canadian law firm with offices on three continents. A creative and thorough scholar, he has edited and authored numerous publications on tax and legal issues, published a biography of



the noted Quebec Chief Justice, W.R. Jackett (1999), and written two Olympic books, Five Rings over Korea (1994) and more lately, Inside the Olympics (2004). He currently serves McGill University as chancellor.

But, it has been the emotional power of the Olympics that has fired Richard Pound's interest in and dedication to sports. Following closure to his swimming career he entered the realm of volunteer service in the cause of amateur sport in Canada, ultimately rising to the presidency of the Canadian Olympic Association in 1977. In 1978 he was elected to the International Olympic Committee, which he has served for 26 years, 17 of them on the Executive board, 8 as Vice-President, and most critically, 18 as "lord" of the IOC's "five rings" financial portfolio.

During his years as craftsman of the IOC's policy and practice of marketing the Five Rings symbol to American television networks and corporate sponsors, he rose to

Richard W. Pound and his Olympic history: 6th in the 100m freestyle final 1960.

become arguably the most critical human factor in the Modern Olympic Movement's steady march towards its currently robust state of financial health and vitality. In 1983 it was Juan Antonio Samaranch's decision to appoint Dick Pound to steer the Olympic financial ship. For this task, the IOC needed a person who could deal with the Americans on their own aggressive, "in-your-face" negotiating terms. The results of his labors over almost two decades produced in excess of \$10 billion (U.S.) for the Olympic Movement. Dick Pound's new Olympic challenge, the most critical facing the Modern Olympic Movement today, is the post he now holds as Director of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the international body responsible for fighting the war against the use of drugs in sport.

Madame Chancellor, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and in the name of the Senate, I ask you to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, upon Richard W. Pound, superior athlete, gifted lawyer, able administrator, respected scholar, international public servant par excellence in the cause of sport, and a great Canadian, who continues to personify the dictum: "a man for all seasons," and, lest we forget, a man who evolved from a modest "barefoot boy" at pool-side, to, as American television networks and multinational business executives will attest, a "barefoot boy with cheek."

ISOH extends its heartiest congratulations to Dick on this notable achievement in his long and illustrious career in sport and Olympic matters. Honor to his name!