

OLYMPIC NEWS

from various sources

IOC Notes

- On 23 June 1994, the IOC celebrated its centenary at the University of the Sorbonne in Paris with a solemn ceremony paying tribute to Baron Pierre de Coubertin. President Samaranch was quoted as saying, “After a century of existence, the IOC can be proud of the world its members have achieved. The Olympism of today is faithful to the conception of its initiator building upon the foundations laid by Pierre de Coubertin. We can affirm it today, 23rd June 1994, in this year proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal.” President Samaranch also announced that the IOC has signed cooperation agreements with specialized agencies of the United Nations in order to involve the Olympic Movement more closely with the well-being of humanity.
During the ceremony, IOC Member Maurice Herzog asked what de Coubertin would think of the Olympic Movement if he were alive today. Herzog noted, “He would notice the advances of Olympism, whose first conquests of the new Olympism were his work: conquest of the greatest number of participants, the extending of the competition to all the continents, access for all races, religions, and languages, affirmation of the best, whatever that may be.”
During the Centenary Celebration, IOC Honorary Member Raymond Gafner announced the publication of a new book in three volumes, *1894-1994: A Century of the International Olympic Committee: The Idea, The Presidents, The Achievements*.
- On 22 June 1994, 31 world organizations governing Olympic sports signed an agreement to establish an International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS). The Council is designed to prevent lawsuits from further interfering with international sport. The tentative plan is for all disputes between athletes, sponsors, agents, and governing bodies to be referred to the Council for a final decision. The newly announced secretary-general is Philippe Rochat. The Court of Arbitration for Sport will be placed under the ægis of the ICAS. There will be 20 members of the ICAS. Twelve will be provided by the IOC, the Association of National Olympic Committees (ACNO), Association des Fédérations Internationales Olympiques d’été (ASOIF), and the Association of International Winter Sports Federations (AIWF).
- Karel Wendl, ISOH Executive Committee Member and formerly head of the IOC Research Department, has recently been appointed curator of the IOC’s Olympic Study and Research Centre.
- Recent information from the Olympic Museum indicates that several scholars are in Lausanne using the facilities of the IOC’s Olympic Study and Research Centre. The following projects are definitely underway in Lausanne: Elias Mbengalack of Cameroon is working on his thesis, “Sports and Politics in Africa”; Marco Carrorrio from the Centre for Olympic Studies in Barcelona is working on “Sports Advertising Sponsorship: Communications Strategies”; Pascal Follonier of Lausanne University is studying the history of the candidate cities; and Stepan Kuzmenko of the Journalism Faculty at Moscow has been studying “Olympic Movement Coverage by the Mass Media.”

- At the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, the IOC will be hosting two events of interest to ISOH Members in October. From 7 - 9 October, there will be the “First Olympic Collectors World Fair,” followed by Olympic Week in Lausanne.
- At the conclusion of the Olympic Congress the IOC held their 103rd Session from 3-5 September in Paris, with several momentous announcements concerning IOC membership. The IOC approved an amendment to Rule 20.1.2. of the Olympic Charter allowing the IOC President to propose to a session to elect no more than 10 members without distinction of nationality. Of these ten, one member only per country can be elected and no more than ten are allowed. Members elected in this manner will have all rights of regularly elected members of the IOC, including the ability to hold office, including President. This rule will allow Presidents and Secretary-Generals of IFs to be added to the IOC membership ad lib. In those cases, their membership will cease when they no longer serve that role within the IF.
- The IOC Session also approved a 78-page amendment to the Olympic Charter modifying Rule 20 of the Charter concerning the Medical Code, listing prohibited substances, authorized treatment options, and proposed sanctions for every kind of infraction.
- The Olympic Committee of Nauru was recognized by the IOC as a member of the IOC, bringing the number of NOCs to 196.
- The Executive Board was also changed at the recent IOC Session, with elections to vacant seats and voting on officers. Prince Alexandre de Mérode [BEL], Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission was elected vice-president, a position he held previously from 1986 to 1990. He filled the vacancy left by R[ichard] Kevan Gosper [AUS] who ended his four-year term. [*Editor’s Note:* News reports in late September noted that Gosper sustained a cranial <cerebral> hemorrhage during the Olympic Congress and he was placed at rest by doctor’s orders. A cranial hemorrhage is a “stroke” in layman’s parlance, but no word was mentioned in press reports if any serious deficits were sustained by Mr. Gosper. Our best wishes go out to him.] Judge Kéba Mbaye, President of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, [SEN] and He Zhenliang [CHN] were also elected to the Executive Board, replacing Judge Mbaye himself, and Flor Isava-Fonseca [VEN].
The current Executive Board is now as follows: President: Juan Antonio Samaranch [ESP], 1st Vice-President: Vitaly Smirnov [RUS], 2nd Vice-President: Kim Un-Yong [KOR], 3rd Vice-President: Marc Hodler [SUI], 4th Vice-President: Prince Alexandre de Mérode [BEL], Members: Pál Schmitt [HUN], Richard W. Pound [CAN], Ashwini Kumar [IND], Anita DeFrantz [USA], Judge Kéba Mbaye [SEN], and He Zhenliang [CHN].
- Finally, the Session announced the election of 12 new members to the IOC, bringing the membership to 101 active members, as follows: James L. Easton [USA], Craig Reedie [GBR], Mohamed Hasan [INA], Mario Pescante [ITA], Gerhard Heiberg [NOR], Arne Ljungqvist [SWE], Austin L. Sealy [BAR], Robin Mitchell [FIJ], Alpha Ibrahim Dialio [GUI], Alex Gilady [ISR], Shamil Tarpichev [RUS], and Valery Borzov [UKR]. Several of these appointments were historic.
Easton is President of FITA (Archery), bringing another IF President to the IOC, and also filling the three-year gap since Robert Helmick’s resignation, during which time the USA has had only one IOC Member for the only significant length of time in the 20th

century Reddie likewise brings Great Britain up to two active members (Mary Glen-Haig is now an Honorary Member), as has been standard in IOC History Pescante is President of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) Heiberg was the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the recent Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games and was obviously recognized for his involvement in them . . . Borzov is the former Olympic sprinter. He is also the first official IOC member to the Ukraine Hasan, Sealy, Mitchell, Dialio, and Gilady are also the first IOC members to their respective countries Gilady's appointment is especially significant, as he will represent the IOC in the politically sensitive nation of Israel. He is also a former vice-president of NBC Television in the United States and will likely be helpful in television negotiations for the IOC.

Olympic Sports

- In the new team rhythmic gymnastics events to be contested at the Atlanta Olympics, eight (8) teams will contest the event.
- Although there have been rumors that synchronized swimming will be dropped from the Olympic program as a sport, the IOC recently received a petition with over 40,000 signatures requesting that synchronized swimming be maintained as an Olympic sport.
- President Samaranch recently announced that he expects both triathlon and taekwondo to become medal sports at the Olympic Games by the end of the century. He also said that boxing will be kept on the Olympic program. At the recent IOC session in Paris, the IOC gave provisional status to triathlon and taekwondo as medal sports for both men and women at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. The long-term status of the two sports will be reviewed after the Sydney Olympics. The triathlon will consist of the now standard "Olympic course" [Note: the triathlon's term] of 1,500 metres swimming, 40 km. cycling, and running 10 km. There will be four weight classes in taekwondo for both men and women.
- Gymnastics, via the 69th Congress of the FIG, has announced that, starting in 1997, compulsory exercises will no longer be a part of international competitions, including at the Olympic Games. The minimal age to compete for women will also be raised in 1997 to 16 years.
- In the ongoing saga of whether ice hockey will permit National Hockey League (NHL) players to compete in the Olympics, René Fasel, President of the International Ice Hockey Federation, and Gary Bettman, Commissioner of the NHL, signed an agreement in principle to permit the NHL players to compete at Nagano in 1998.

1996 Olympic Games

- Beach volleyball has been approved as a sport to be contested at Atlanta in 1996, but major controversies now exist regarding the eligibility rules. The main U.S. circuit (and world circuit) for beach volleyball is headed by the AVP (Association of Volleyball Professionals). However, the world governing body of volleyball, FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball), wishes to start its own beach tour, to be sponsored by Budweiser beer. The AVP tour is sponsored by a rival beer company, Miller. AVP players are banned by Miller from competing in any events sponsored by rival beer companies. However, the FIVB is requiring that beach volleyball players compete in a multi-country FIVB tournament in Brazil in early 1996 in order to be eligible for the Olympics. This is further complicated by the fact that NBC, the American television network for the 1996 Olympics, pushed hard for beach volleyball's inclusion in the Olympics, and wants the best players in the world, i.e., the AVP players, to compete. Should they be banned by the FIVB, there are rumors that NBC would not telecast that sport.
- Another problem with beach volleyball has arisen because of the site which is tentatively scheduled to be Savannah. Because of some recent failures by a development company, there does not appear to be space to hold both yachting and beach volleyball in the scheduled area near Savannah. ACOG recently announced that the beach volleyball competition has been moved to Atlanta Beach, a recreational facility in Clayton County approximately 24 km. (15 miles) from downtown Atlanta.
- More Atlanta notes: the rowing and canoeing events (except for slalom) will be contested at the Sydney Lanier Lake in Gainesville, Georgia, about 80 km. from the Olympic Village. The original venue of Stone Mountain Park had to be abandoned. The canoe slalom events will take place on the Ocoee River.
- Major controversies continue with the site of Cobb County as a venue for preliminary volleyball matches. Cobb County has recently enacted into law a statement against the homosexual lifestyle. Thus, gay protest groups in the United States have demanded that the ACOG rescind the right of Cobb County to contest any Olympic Events, considering that resolution to be antithetical to the Olympic Ideal. At the Gay Games in New York in June 1994, Olympic diving great Greg Louganis, who admitted openly for the first time that he is gay, spoke out against Cobb County as an Olympic site, stating that it should be changed. As of mid-July 1994, the Atlanta Organizing Committee had apparently heard these pleas and has tentatively changed the venue for the preliminary volleyball events to the University of Georgia at Athens, Georgia.

2000 Olympic Games

- Gary Pemberton, the director of the Australian Airline Qantas, has been appointed as the Executive President of the Organizing Committee of the Games of XXVII Olympiad in Sydney for 2000. He will begin his duties on 31 December 1996.
- The Australian Department of Tourism estimates that the Sydney Games will bring an additional two million foreign visitors to their city over the next decade. This estimate includes an additional 450,000 visitors in 2000, 480,000 in 2001, and 385,000 in 2002.

2002 Olympic Winter Games

- The citizens of the Swiss canton of Valais voted in a referendum to support the proposed bid of Sion for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. 61% of the citizens supported the bid and agreed that the canton should support the bid with 30 millions Swiss francs (circa \$20 million [US]).
The citizens of Tarvisio (ITA) also supported their proposed Olympic Winter bid with a referendum in which 68.7% of their citizens supported the bid.
Jaca, Spain, made a presentation of their proposed bid for 2002 at a June meeting of the Spanish Olympic Committee.
On 24-25 January 1995, the IOC Electoral College will make a pre-selection of four (4) cities from among the 9 bidding for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. The presentation order before the IOC Electoral College has been announced as follows: Sion (SUI), Salt Lake City (USA), Poprad-Tatry (SVK), Jaca (ESP), Sochi (RUS), Graz (AUT), Ostersund (SWE), Québec City, Quebec (CAN), Tarvisio (ITA), and Almaty (KAZ). The final selection will occur at the 104th IOC Session in Budapest, Hungary on 16 June 1995, after the four finalists have given their presentations to the IOC Session. It should be noted that the IOC recently reported that only nine cities handed over their candidature files for 2002 by the 18 August 1994 deadline. Almaty (KAZ) has withdrawn as a candidate city.

2004 Olympic Games

- Tentative bids for the 2004 Olympic Games are being prepared. The Turkish Olympic Committee has officially announced that Istanbul will be bidding for 2004.
The South African Olympic Committee has submitted Capetown as their candidate for 2004, after choosing among Capetown, Johannesburg, and Durban.
The French city of Lille has announced its intention to bid for 2004.
Seville (ESP) made a presentation of their proposed bid for 2004 at a June meeting of the Spanish Olympic Committee.
President Samaranch also announced that San Juan, Puerto Rico, has officially submitted a bid. [*Editor's Note:* Puerto Rico is actually a self-governing commonwealth of the United States. The Olympic Games were in Los Angeles in 1984 and are scheduled for Atlanta in 1996, both United States' cities.]
During the recent Goodwill Games, the mayor of St. Petersburg, Russia, mentioned that St. Petersburg will bid for the 2004 Olympic Games.
The IOC has announced that 14 cities have shown an interest in these Olympics - six are listed above. The schedule for election has been announced as follows: on 1 June 1995 the IOC will send a letter to all the National Olympic Committees inviting them to present their candidate cities. The NOCs will then have until 10 January 1996 to submit their bids to the IOC.

2006 Olympic Winter Games

- The Finnish city of Lahti has expressed an interest in bidding for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. A delegation from Lahti recently visited Lausanne and the Olympic Museum. President Samaranch also recently visited Lahti, accompanied by IOC members Thomas Bach, Primo Nebiolo, and Jacques Rogge.

Olympic Television Notes

- Eurosport, the European sports television channel, announced a record total audience figure of 27 million viewers for the Lillehammer Olympic Winter games. The IOC Marketing Department announced that the Lillehammer Olympics were seen by viewers in 120 countries, 34 more than the number of nations watching Albertville (1992). The global cumulative audience was estimated at 10.7 billion viewers. [Editor's Note: the current edition of *The World Almanac* estimates the Earth's population at 5.6 billion.]
- CBS Television has been awarded the U.S. Broadcasting rights for the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. The agreement was signed 24 June 1994 in Lausanne and the rights fee was announced as \$375 million (US). The previous record for U.S. rights fees to the Olympic Winter Games was \$309 million (US) for the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary. It should be noted, however, that after correcting for U.S. inflation, the value of the 1988 bid in 1994 U.S. dollars is almost exactly \$375 million (US).

Olympic Economics

- Richard Pound, IOC Executive Committee Member and ISOH Member, recently gave a speech at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC, USA. He stated during the speech that the IOC will never again award the Games to a city which does not have "significant public sector commitments." This was in reference to the Atlanta situation. Although host cities or governments are usually required to guarantee that they will underwrite any deficit, Los Angeles in 1984 refused to do this and Atlanta has been allowed a similar situation.
- Eighteen years after the Montréal Olympics, the total debt remaining to the citizens of Quebec, Canada totals \$304 million. Much of this remains in construction costs. It is estimated that the debt will be paid off by 2008, 32 years after the Olympics. In 1971, the mayor of Montreal, Jean Drapeau, stated, "The Olympic Games can no more have a deficit than a man can have a baby."
- In contrast, the Barcelona Organizing Committee (COOB) has released a "final" financial statement on the Games. Josep Miquel Abad, former COOB CEO and member of the coordination commission for the Games in Atlanta, announced that the surplus from the 1992 Olympics was 425 million pesetas (*ca* \$3.27 million [US]), up from original estimates of 356 million pesetas (*ca* \$2.74 million [US]).

Economics professor Ferran Brunet recently completed a study on the overall financial impact of the Barcelona Olympics. It was prepared for the IOC by the Centre for Olympic Studies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Professor Brunet noted that the Barcelona Olympics caused a positive financial impact on the local economy which measured approximately \$23 billion (US). This was divided into moneys directly related to the Olympics (\$9.5 billion [US]) and moneys from derived investments (\$16.4 billion [US]) [Note: *sic*, this totals \$25.9 billion {US}, not \$23 billion (US)]. The report noted that the Barcelona Olympics created 20,000 permanent jobs in Barcelona and that, along with the Tokyo Olympics, the 1992 Games were “the best in history from the point of view of economic impact.” [Editor’s Note: Compare this to the article, “A Look at Olympic Costs”, by Dr. C. Frank Zarnowski, in the first edition of *Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Vol. 1, No. 1). Dr. Zarnowski, a professor of economics, found the Tokyo Games to be the most expensive in history, correcting for inflation, exchange rates, and also in terms of per capita costs per athlete.]