

## ***OLYMPIC NEWS***

### **1996 Olympic Games**

- The IOC Coordination Commission recently visited Atlanta and noted excellent progress. Richard Pound, chairman of the commission, stated, "I must say, it's great fun to see the enormous progress here since our last visit." Billy Payne, head of ACOG, said the biannual inspections should produce fewer surprises as July 1996 approaches, "As time passes, less remains to be done." It was noted that it becomes more clear to IOC officials that Payne's group can pull off the \$1.6 billion Olympic extravaganza.
- The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games announced that tickets will go on sale on 1 May 1995. A ticket brochure will be released on the same date. The first phase of ticket sales will be via a mail order program. Telephone ordering facilities will be made available in a second phase.

### **1998 Olympic Games**

- The Nagano Organizing Committee (NAOC) has unveiled its program for the Olympic torch relay. The 1998 Winter torch will be lit in Olympia, Greece in December 1997 and flown to Japan.

### **2000 Olympic Games**

- The Sydney Organizing Committee has announced that the Olympic mountain bike circuit will be built in the suburb of Calmsley Hill.

### **2002 Olympic Games**

- At the December meeting of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA; Ostersund, Sweden; Sion, Switzerland; and Quebec City, Quebec, Canada were regarded as the leading contenders among the bid cities for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Christer Persson, President of the Ostersund Bid Committee, said that his city was the best candidate for the intimate, "folk festival" approach. "It all depends on what type of Games the IOC prefers - the small, intimate Games or the high-class, big-sized Games," he was quoted as saying.
- On 20 December 1994, the IOC Evaluation Commission issued its 192 page report on the nine (9) cities which are bidding to host the 2002 Olympic Games. The U.S. press noted that the report "offered its highest praise for Salt Lake City, solidifying its position as the favorite. It lauded the Utah capital in virtually every area, describing both the 'overall sports concept' and the financial plan as 'excellent.'" The U.S. press reports noted that Ostersund and Québec City also received favorable reports. The report cited concerns about the security and environmental impact of Ostersund's bobsled track in a residential area, and concerns were noted over Québec's downhill

course. Sion also received a positive review but said that transportation in the Valais mountains would be a “major challenge.” Another prime contender, Graz, was considered to have problems with its financial plan.

### **2004 Olympic Games**

- Juan Antonio Samaranch hinted that an African country was favored to host the 2004 Olympic Games. At a news conference in Cape Town, he commented, “The IOC will be very pleased to come to Africa. It is quite important for me, for us . . . that Africa is the only continent that has never hosted the Games.” [*Editor’s Note: What about South America?*] Samaranch said spin-offs from improvements in facilities would go beyond the Games and also benefit Cape Town in the future, as the 1992 Games had done for Barcelona. Nelson Mandela told reporters that the government would do everything in its power to ensure financial support for Cape Town’s bid. “It is in the interest of the entire South Africa that the Olympic Games should come here,” he noted.
- A British Columbia, Canada, group that had hoped to bid on the 2004 Olympic Games has ceased their candidature efforts. The group had hoped to spread the Games over Victoria, Vancouver, Seattle (Washington, USA), and Tacoma (Washington, USA). The feeling was that another North American bid, especially a two-country bid, was doomed to failure with recent IOC selections of Montreal (1976), Los Angeles (1984), and Atlanta (1996). The group did note that it may make an effort to bid for the 2008 Olympics, but that it would be a bid limited to British Columbia, primarily in Vancouver, with events such as rowing, equestrian, and yachting possibly in Victoria.

### **2006 Olympic Games**

- After the success of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games, Lillehammer is considering a bid for the 2006 Winter Olympics. This would be a joint bid with the Finnish town of Lahti.
- The three Polish towns of Krakow, Zakopane, and Szczyrk have also announced that they wish to make a bid for the Olympic Winter Games of 2006.

### **2008 Olympic Games**

- *L’Équipe* has reported that Paris will make a bid for the 2008 Olympic Games. The final selection for those Olympics will not be made, per current timetables, until 2001, so this certainly gives the Paris Candidature Committee ample time to plan.

### **Olympic Sports**

- The annual meeting of the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU) took place in November. Changes were made to the Olympic sailing program. Each event will be contested in an 11-race series held over six days, with two races per day. The top three boats in each class will carry a distinguishing mark on both the hull and sails, to allow easy identification.

- Paul Henderson, who is President of the IYRU, was in Atlanta and Savannah recently to inspect the proposed site for the 1996 Olympic yachting events. Plans for these events and the proposed site have been through difficult times, and preparations for 1996 yachting bogged down when a resort facility planned for Savannah lost financing. He bashed the Savannah efforts while in Atlanta recently, stating, "After four and a half years, you have to get out of the conceptual stage and get into the doing stage. We know how the building will look, but we don't have a site." It should also be noted, however, that Paul Henderson was President of the Toronto bid committee which, with Athens, was one of the two major challengers to Atlanta during the bidding for the 1996 Olympics.
- After studying the effects of the Atlanta climate on horses, changes have been made in the schedule of the 3-day event in the equestrian sports planned for 1996. The competition will take place in its entirety, but certain stages will be modified to allow recovery of the horses. The roads and track section of the endurance ride will be shortened and the rest time lengthened. The recuperation time after the cross-country phase will be increased by 15 minutes. The FEI also has changed the schedule so that the event will be held in early morning and end before noon. The horses are also to be in the area for at least three weeks prior to the event to allow for acclimatization.
- Advocates for a women's modern pentathlon event at the Olympics presented their case to the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in December. Women have competed in world's championships in modern pentathlon since 1981 but have never competed in the Olympics. The contract between the IOC and the Atlanta Organizing Committee states that the IOC agrees not to add sports three years or less before the Games. IOC Members Anita DeFrantz, stated, "It would be up to Atlanta to come to us [and request women's modern pentathlon to be added]." The modern pentathlon federation (UIPMB) is helping all it can, by agreeing to pay for all additional costs, including for horses, if the 1996 Olympics open up their sport to women.
- In late November, Juan Antonio Samaranch signed an agreement in Cardiff, Wales which restored rugby football as a recognized international federation. Reported on the wire services, it was mentioned that rugby could not realistically hope to return to the Olympics until 2004. Rugby union football was contested at the Olympics of 1900, 1908, 1920, and 1924, but with the Olympics in Sydney in 2000, it should be remembered that the 1908 Olympic rugby union champion was an Australian team.
- President Samaranch commented that he backed the inclusion of snowboarding as an Olympic sport for Nagano in 1998. "Snowboarding would be an interesting sport for the Nagano Games. I will respect the Nagano Olympic organizers' decision . . . but it is very important for the Games to have a new sport," he told Japan's Kyodo agency.
- The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has been re-admitted to the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF). The IIHF was the only federation on the Olympic program which was not represented in the GAISF.

## National Olympic Committees

- Yugoslav athletes may once again take part in international sports competitions. The United Nations' Security Council adopted a resolution in September which partially lifted the sanctions on Yugoslavia which have been in effect for the past two years. IOC President Samaranch has recommended to the International Federations that they take the necessary measures to enable athletes and teams from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to take part in their various competitions.
- The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has announced that all eleven Chinese athletes who tested positive at doping controls during the recent XII Asian Games in Hiroshima (JPN) would be stripped of their medals. The IOC has stated that they consider this a very serious issue but announced that "the structures and procedures put in place within the Olympic Movement have functioned perfectly." The positive drug tests by Chinese athletes was significant because of the rumors that have surrounded their athletes, primarily their female athletes, who have made incredible advances in the past two years in swimming and distance running. All of the bans were for the drug dihydrotestosterone, which is a derivative of the male sexual hormone, testosterone, and has significant anabolic effects. Arnold Beckett, a former IOC testing official, stated that he was certain the athletes were taking dihydro[testosterone], based on the results of the tests which he saw. Don Catlin, director of the Olympic laboratory in Los Angeles, stated, "It's sophisticated doping, not bush league."  
Prince Alexandre de Merode, Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, said that drug use by athletes in China was no worse than in any other country, and that there was no reason to single out China. "The Chinese had a delegation of 500 athletes at the Asian Games and about 10 positive cases is not such a high percentage," de Merode was quoted as saying.  
IOC Member Prince Albert of Monaco took a different tack. In October he was quoted as saying, "We always suspected the Chinese were taking something." He also stated that life bans are needed instead of the minimum two-year ban for a first offense involving anabolic steroids. "We have to go back to a lifetime ban. That's going to be the only way. The IOC has to show the way. It has to increase the out-of-competition testing," according to Prince Albert.  
In the keynote address on the closing day of the ANOC Meeting in Atlanta in December, U.S. Vice-President Al Gore stated, "In some cases, regrettably it is coaches and trainers who instigate drug use . . . It may also be time to apply the same strict penalties, if not more serious penalties, to coaches, trainers, and administrators who know of, and therefore condone, drug use . . . We can't have fair competition when we let go unpunished the conspirators to foul play."
- On 5 December 1994, the Hellenic (Greece) Olympic Committee celebrated the 100th anniversary of its creation.
- At the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) meeting in Atlanta in December, the group approved a requirement, to begin with the 1996 Olympics, that athletes must sign a form agreeing to arbitrate disputes within the Olympic Movement, presumably the Court for Arbitration of Sport, rather than by filing lawsuits.

## **International Olympic Committee**

- IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch announced that he will not seek re-election as IOC President in 1997, "It is my obligation to respect the age limit for IOC members. I do not plan to be re-elected in 1997 as president and of course I will not be a candidate." Samaranch is currently 74 years old.
- Richard Pound, IOC Vice-President and ISOH Member, stated recently that he is in favor of tightening control of the Olympic brand name at the IOC Level. He compared the IOC to a franchisor and the organizing committees to the franchisees. Further using the analogy of fast food, he stated, "We'd like to control the hamburger. The local organizing committees - that's where you get the sauce."
- On 7 December 1994, the 49th Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution concerning the Olympic Movement. The resolution is entitled "Building a Peaceful and Better World Through Sport." (full text follows this paragraph) The resolution was co-sponsored by 149 member nations and is considered historic for several reasons. It is the first time that a non-governmental international organization (the IOC) has enjoyed special treatment within the United Nations because of the nature of its achievements. It is also the first time that the General Assembly has examined a document concerning the Olympic Movement submitted by the President of the IOC.

## **Building a Peaceful and Better World Through Sport**

### **The Olympic Ideal**

#### ***The General Assembly***

Recalling its resolution 48/10 of 25 October 1993, in which it commemorated the centenary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee by proclaiming 1994 as International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal,

Recalling also its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, on the observance of the Olympic Truce, which, inter alia, revived the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheria* or "Olympic Truce," calling for all hostilities to cease during the Olympic Games, thereby mobilizing the youth of the world in the cause of peace,

Taking into account resolution CM/Res. 1530 (LX), adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixtieth ordinary session, held at Tunis from 6 to 11 June 1994,

Reaffirming that the Olympic Ideal is to promote international understanding among the youth of the world through sport and culture in order to advance the harmonious development of humankind.

Recognizing, that the Olympic Ideal is relevant to the United Nations Year for Tolerance, which will be commemorated in 1995, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/126 of 20 December 1993.

Noting with satisfaction the mutually beneficial cooperation agreements made between the International Olympic Committee and the relevant organs, organizations, programmes, and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and the World Health Organization,

Aware of the increasing humanitarian activities of the International Olympic Committee, such as food relief assistance to children in war-torn areas in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and also aware of the pledges by the Committee to help reconstruct sport installations destroyed by war, such as those used in the Winter Olympic Games at Sarajevo in 1984,

1. Congratulates the International Olympic Committee upon its centenary and for its activities organized to celebrate the observance of the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal in 1994 in cooperation with the international sports federations and the national Olympic committees;

2. Welcomes the report of the President of the International Olympic Committee transmitted to members of the General Assembly concerning the 1994 International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to invite and encourage ministers of youth and sport or concerned officials of States Members of the United Nations to participate in the consideration by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session of an item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal" on the eve of the centenary of the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens, and also requests the Secretary-General to invite the President of the International Olympic Committee to attend;

4. Calls upon Member States to reaffirm during the General Assembly at its fiftieth session the observance of the Olympic Truce, which will be observed during the next summer Olympic Games, to be held at Atlanta in 1996;

5. Invites the President of the International Olympic Committee to mobilize the Olympic Movement in support of the forthcoming celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and of the United Nations Year for Tolerance in 1995;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session an item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal."