

OLYMPIC NEWS

compiled from various sources

2002 Olympic Winter Games

- On 16 June 1995, at the 104th Session of the International Olympic Committee, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States was chosen as the host city for the 19th Olympic Winter Games to be held in 2002. Salt Lake won the bid with a very rare first round victory, with the voting going as follows:

Salt Lake City, USA	55
Ostersund, Sweden	14
Sion, Switzerland	14
Quebec City, Canada	7

See the article on the Salt Lake City bid and the city itself in this issue of *Citius, Altius, Fortius*.

Olympism

- The Olympic Studies Centre of the Autonomous University of Barcelona will hold an International Symposium on the Olympic Ceremonies from 13-19 November 1995. The symposium will consist of two parts. Part One will begin in Barcelona, entitled "Olympic Ceremonies, Culture, and Communication." Part Two will then follow in Lausanne at the Olympic Museum where a retrospective of images of Olympic Ceremonies from Athens 1896 to Lillehammer 1994 will be shown.

International Olympic Committee

- At the 104th IOC Session in Budapest in June 1995, eleven new members were co-opted into IOC membership, bringing the number of active members to 106. The following are the new members: Sam Ramsamy (RSA), Antun Vrdoljak (CRO), Reynaldo González López (CUB), Jean-Claude Killy (FRA), Patrick Hickey (IRL), Toni Khouri (LIB), Olegario Vázquez Raña (MEX), and Véra Cáslavská (CZE). The following International Federation presidents were made *ex-officio* members of the IOC upon the recommendation of President Samaranch: Mustapha Larfaoui (FINA - swimming), Yuri Titov (FIG - gymnastics), and René Fasel (IIHF - ice hockey). Per Rule 20, paragraph 1.2 of the Olympic Charter, the IF Presidents will remain IOC Members only as long as they remain Presidents of their respective federations.
- The IOC Executive Board also underwent changes at the recent IOC Session. Pál Schmitt (HUN) was elected as a vice-president, replacing Vitaly Smirnov (RUS), and R. Kevan Gosper (AUS), a former Executive Board member (1986-1990) and a former Vice-President (1990-1994), was renamed as an Executive Board member.

The current make-up of the Executive Board is as follows: President: Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP); Vice-Presidents: Kim Un-Yong (KOR), Marc Hodler (SUI), Prince Alexandre de Merode (BEL), and Pál Schmitt (HUN); Executive Board Members: Richard W. D. Pound (CAN), Ashwini Kumar (IND), Anita DeFrantz (USA), Judge Kéba Mbaye (SEN), He Zhen-Liang (CHN), and R. Kevan Gosper (AUS).

- The most controversial decision undertaken at the 104th IOC Session dealt with the age limit for members. At the opening of the session, the proposal to raise the age limit from 75 was defeated in a secret ballot of the entire Session, when the Session failed to obtain a two-thirds majority. Richard Pound was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph* (GBR) as saying, "This was a wonderful afternoon of democracy in action." However, a petition was brought forward to bring the proposal to another vote, this one a voice vote, on the last day of the session. At this time, the age limit for IOC Members was raised to 80, with 74 votes in favor, 10 against, and 2 abstentions. This clears the way for President Samaranch to run again for the office of President when his current term expires.
- The IOC has recently decided to award the Olympic Order to two ISOH Members: Ján Mraz of Slovakia and John Lucas of the United States. They join the Honorary President of ISOH, Erich Kamper of Austria, as holders of the Olympic Order among the ISOH membership.
- The Olympic Museum was named European Museum of the Year on 10 June 1995. The Olympic Museum was selected from among 45 candidates in 15 countries.
- The forthcoming sessions of the IOC will be held as follows: 16-19 July 1996: Atlanta, Georgia, USA; 3-6 September 1997: Lausanne, Switzerland; 1998: Nagano, Japan, just preceding the 18th Olympic Winter Games (7-22 February 1998); and 1999: Seoul, Korea (dates not yet decided).
- According to a recent market study done by Sponsorship Research International (SRI), the Olympic Symbol (Rings) is the most recognized symbol - commercial or non-commercial - in the world. Over 90% of people in a total world-wide sample of 7,000 were able to correctly identify the Olympic Symbol.

National Olympic Committees

- At the 104th IOC Session in Budapest in June, the IOC granted outright recognition to the Olympic Committee of Guinea Bissau. Its official three-letter abbreviation has been announced as GNB.

International Federations

- Controversy continues to swirl concerning the eligibility of certain volleyballers for the beach volleyball tournament in 1996. The FIVB has demanded that members of the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP) compete in at least one of the 18 tournaments sponsored world-wide by the FIVB. The AVP runs the top beach volleyball circuit in the United States. Further, USA Volleyball has demanded that

AVP players participate in at least one of the two FIVB events located in the United States. AVP professionals are concerned that the FIVB is forcing them to choose between competing on the AVP circuit and qualifying for the Olympics. FIVB President Ruben Acosta was widely quoted as saying, "I laugh when they say it is a struggle for power. They have no power." John Carroll, executive director of USA Volleyball, was quoted in *Sports Illustrated*, with the following comments in a letter to AVP President John Stevenson, "If the top AVP players don't want to acknowledge that the Olympic Movement worldwide is very complex and that all of their personal demands cannot be met, then I believe the game of beach volleyball is in jeopardy, not only as an Olympic sport, but as a worldwide attraction." This problem was somewhat resolved when several of the AVP professionals competed in an FIVB event in the United States recently, notably Karch Kiraly, the biggest name in beach volleyball. Stay tuned.

- FIFA announced in June the make-up of the eight qualifying teams for the 1996 Olympic women's football (soccer) tournament. The eight teams are as follows: Brazil, China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. At the recent 1995 Women's World Cup of Football, Norway won the title, defeating Germany in the finals, with the United States third.
- The Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) has announced plans to merge with the International Trampoline Federation (FIT). FIG has also announced that, beginning in January 1997, the minimum age for competitors in World, European, and Olympic gymnastics competition will increase to 16 years from the current minimum of 15 years.
- The World Archery Championships were held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 2-6 August 1995. The first eight teams in the men's and women's team events obtain an automatic entry to the 1996 Olympic archery events, and the top three archers from those teams will also qualify for the individual events.

1996 Olympic Games

- Invitations to the Games of the XXVIth Olympiad were mailed from Lausanne by the IOC on 19 July 1995. NOCs have four months (by 19 November 1995) to replay to the invitations. Within 24 hours of the mailing of the invitations, the Swedish Olympic Committee was the first NOC to officially accept the invitation.
- Through 1 September 1995, 115 nations have accepted the invitation to compete at the Games of the XXVIth Olympiad. This includes the following nations which have not previously competed at the Olympics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Nauru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Slovakia, The Ukraine, and Uzbekistan [11].

1998 Olympic Winter Games

- Exclusive Canadian television rights to the Nagano Winter Olympics have been acquired by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) for the sum of \$16 million (US). In 1994 at Lillehammer, Canadian Television paid \$12 million (US) for television rights.

- To date, the Nagano Organizing Committee has signed six “Gold Sponsors.” They are: Mizuno Corporation, Hachijuni Bank, Seiko Corporation, Kirin Brewery, NTT, and KDD, a communications company.

2000 Olympic Games and 2002 Olympic Winter Games

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), the Salt Lake City Olympic Organizing Committee (SLOOC), and the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) made a momentous announcement in mid-August 1995. The rights for the 2000 Olympic Games and the 2002 Olympic Winter Games were awarded to NBC by the IOC for a fee of \$1.27 billion (US). The fee is to be distributed with \$715 million (US) going to SOCOG for the 2000 Olympic Games and \$555 million (US) going to SLOOC for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. In addition to providing the Olympic coverage for the United States for both Olympic Games, NBC has agreed to produce a weekly series of television shows on the Olympic Movement and International Sports between 1996 and 2002.
- Gary Pemberton has recently resigned as Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG). He will remain in office as President of SOCOG.

2004 Olympic Games

- For the selection of the host city for the 2004 Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee has again decided to use an Evaluation Commission to reduce the number of candidate cities prior to the final voting. This decision was taken at the 104th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Budapest in June 1995. If there are at least seven candidate cities, an Evaluation Commission will reduce the candidates to four, or in exceptional circumstances, and via a unanimous decision, five. The Evaluation Commission will have basically the same make-up as for the selection of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, namely, all members of the Executive Board, save those members whose NOC is putting forward a candidate, the Doyen of the IOC, a representative of the International Federations, a representative of the National Olympic Committees, and an IOC Member not otherwise eligible appointed as Chairman of the Evaluation Commission. In addition, for 2004, an athletes’ representative has been added to the Evaluation Commission. For 2004, Thomas Bach (GER) will once again serve as Chairman of the Evaluation Commission.
- The exact timetable for the bidding process for the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad has been announced by the IOC. NOCs have until 10 January 1996 to submit their candidate cities to the IOC. Bid books by the candidate cities have to be finished by 15 August 1996. The Evaluation Commission (see above) will begin their visits to the candidate cities in September 1996, and will present its final report in February 1997. The host city for the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad will be chosen at the 106th IOC Session in Lausanne on 5 September 1997.

- Five cities have currently submitted official bids to host the Games of XXVIIIth Olympiad in 2004, as follows: Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; Seville, Spain; Saint Petersburg, Russia; and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

2006 Olympic Winter Games

- Sofia, Bulgaria has announced tentative plans to bid on the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. They have formed a Bid Support Committee.
- Sion, Switzerland, which lost in the bid for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, has pledged to bid again in 2006.