

OLYMPIC NEWS NOTES

The information for this section was collected by several ISOH members. Jean-Pierre Caravan weekly checked the Internet sites for Olympic information; Ian Buchanan sent the piece on the Olympic cauldron (a sad story); and Dr. Bill Mallon, who as former editor of the *Journal* still collects information for this section too.

International Olympic Committee

* The Executive Board unanimously approved a resolution inviting the President, who has been in office since 1980, to stand for a further term. This resolution, which the President accepted, will be submitted to the IOC members next September at the 106th IOC Session in Lausanne. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 254, March 1997).

* After their deliberations, based on the report submitted by the Evaluation Commission, the Selection College announced the five finalists: Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Rome and Stockholm. The host city of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004 will be elected on 5th September 1997, during the 106th IOC Session in Lausanne. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 254, March 1997).

Olympism

* After the IOC sold the television rights until 2008 to NBC for the USA and to Seven Network Ltd for Australia in 1995, in 1996 it sold the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) the exclusive European TV rights for the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia for \$350 million, and for the 2002 Olympic winter Games in Salt Lake City, USA for \$120 million. In addition, the EBU bought the European rights to the Games of the Olympiad in 2004 (\$394 million), the Olympic Winter Games in 2006 (\$135 million) and the Games of the Olympiad in 2008 (\$443 million).

* The IOC has given the exclusive broadcast rights of the Olympic Games up to the year 2008 to the NHK-led group (Japan Pool Agency): the rights for Sydney 2000 went for \$135 million; the 2002 Winter Olympic Games for \$37 million; the 2004 Olympics for \$155 million; the 2006 Winter Olympics for \$38.5 million and the 2008 Olympic Games for

\$180 million. The agreement was drawn up and concluded by Dr. Un Yong Kim, president of the International Olympic Committee's radio and television commission. (GAISF News, number 117, January 1997).

* The IOC has signed a contract granting the television network NBC the exclusive rights to broadcast the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004, the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 and the Olympic Winter Games in 2006 on United States territory.

* The \$2.3 billion contract was signed in Lausanne on 5 March by the IOC President, president of NBC Sports, Dick Ebersol, and president of the United States Olympic Committee, William Hybl. NBC already holds the rights to the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney and the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. The XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano will be broadcast in the United States by CBS. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 254, March 1997).

* The Olympic Solidarity Commission, which met on Sunday March 2nd under the chairmanship of the IOC President, approved the 1997-2000 Olympic Solidarity budget, which stands at \$121.9 million. The current budget, prepared by the new director of Olympic Solidarity, Pere Miró, has increased by almost 65%. The 1993-1996 quadrennial budget was \$74,107,800. The Olympic scholarships, young athletes' scholarships and coaches scholarships have increased from \$19.35 million to \$30.4 million. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 254, March 1997).

* The International Olympic Committee has contributed \$10 million toward the cost of rebuilding the sports facilities in Sarajevo, host city of the XIV Olympic Winter Games in 1984. The two venues with which the IOC is involved are the Zetra Hall, the main ice arena during the Games and venue for the closing ceremony, and the Kosevo Olympic stadium. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 244-245, December 1996/January 1997).

* In statistical terms, a total of 10,305 athletes took part in the Atlanta Games, 3,496 of them women. This figure is higher than that for Barcelona in 1992, where 9,368 athletes

competed, 2,705 of them women; and Seoul in 1988, where there were 8,465 athletes, 2,186 of them women. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 244-245, December 1996/January 1997).

* One of the biggest successes of the Centennial Games was the number of new NOCs which appeared in the medal table. In Atlanta, 79 NOCs won medals, 15% more than at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, and 17% more than in Seoul, in 1988. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 244-245, December 1996/January 1997).

* Another big achievement was the results obtained by athletes with scholarships from Olympic Solidarity. Of the 206 athletes from 56 developing countries who received Solidarity scholarships to help them prepare for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, 18 won medals: 7 gold, 4 silver and 7 bronze. A total of 19 NOCs from Africa, 15 from Europe, 11 from America and 11 from Asia received assistance from Olympic Solidarity. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 244-245, December 1996/January 1997).

Atlanta's Olympic Cauldron is Beacon of Distress

Last summer it symbolized world unity and sporting excellence but today the cauldron in which the Centennial Olympic flame burned has become the focal point of a row in Atlanta because nobody wants it or its £150,000 annual maintenance bill.

The cauldron and the 160 feet metal tower, bridge and stairs surrounding it, stand forlornly in a car park after being removed from what was the Olympic Stadium, during alterations to prepare the ground for its new role as home to the Atlanta Braves baseball team. City authorities want the Braves to take care of the cauldron, but the team, owned by Ted Turner, will have nothing to do with it and has asked that the local authority remove it from the stadium, now renamed "Turner Field".

Meanwhile, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) has said it would be nice if the cauldron remained as a reminder of the games, but it has washed its hands of any role in maintaining it.

"As far as some Atlanta city officials and other civic leaders are concerned, the cauldron has all the significance of a used-up butane cigarette lighter," wrote *The New York Times*.

A group of Atlanta people, led by Eva Goss, has formed the "Keep the Cauldron" campaign, with which it hopes to raise cash to preserve it.

"It means a great deal to anyone who was at the Olympics," Goss said. "There is Olympic spirit in this town. It should stay as a reminder of that spirit."

The city has received two offers from outsiders: one from a Georgia lawyer who has offered to pay the annual maintenance, but only if the flame is re-lit and as long he can put up a plaque dedicated to his late grandfather.

A Jasper, Georgia, land developer wants it as a centerpiece for a mountain resort he is developing, even suggesting the cauldron might make a good nesting box for bald eagles.

The problem stems from the fact that the cauldron was not designed as an integral part of the stadium, but bolted on almost as an afterthought.

Although the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce expects someone will save the structure for the city, it doubts that it will remain as part of the stadium that hosted the largest sports event in history. (From "The Daily Telegraph", London, 9 January 1997).

NAGANO 1998

* The well-known film director and ISOH member Bud Greenspan is to direct the official film of the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano. Greenspan's outstanding record includes four official films of the Summer and Winter Games, the most recent being the Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta. Greenspan, who received the Olympic Order in 1985, has won three Emmy awards for his film portrait of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. (Highlights of the Week's Olympic News, number 241, December 1996).

* After many discussions the organizing committee of the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano (NAOC) has agreed to move the Alpine combined slalom competition from the town of Yamanouchi to the ski resort of Hakuba. Both the International Ski Federation (FIS) and the Ski Association of Japan wanted the competition to take place at the same site as the men's and women's combined downhill. This will greatly simplify the logistics, particularly in the event of cancellation or postponements. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 242, December 1996).

* On December 17, 1996, NAOC, the Coca-Cola Company and Coca-Cola (Japan) Company announced that Coca-Cola would sponsor the Torch Relay for the Nagano Olympic Winter Games. This will mark the fourth time that Coca-Cola has supported the Olympic Torch Relay, following the 1992 Barcelona, 1994 Lillehammer and 1996 Atlanta Games. The domestic portion of the Torch Relay for the Nagano Games will be presented by "Georgia," one of brand names of Coca-Cola Japan. The international portion will be presented by Coca-Cola. The flame for the Nagano Games will be kindled in Olympia, Greece at the end of December 1997 and will travel by air to Japan. The Torch Relay will begin in January 1998, the Olympic year, and will pass through all 47 prefectures in Japan on three routes. One course will go through eastern Japan, one along the Pacific coast, and one along the Sea of Japan. The flames will then travel through all 120 municipalities in Nagano Prefecture. On February 6, 1998, the day before the Opening Ceremony, the flames will be united in a ceremony in Nagano City

before entering the stadium on February 7 to light the flame in the Olympic cauldron. Some 6,600 runners are needed for the relay. (Nagano Olympic News, January 1997, No. 23.)

The IOC has sold the exclusive television rights to broadcast the XVIII Olympic Winter Games, Nagano 1998, in the territory of New Zealand to Television New Zealand Limited for a fee of \$600,000, and in the territory of Jamaica to CVM Television Limited for a fee of \$12,000. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 248, January 1997)

The NAOC has published the official guide of the Games. Its 190 pages contain information about various sites for Olympic competitions and ceremonies, the cultural program, the Olympic city, press services, volunteers and sponsors, along with a complete explanation of the sports events and their histories. The many diagrams, maps and photographs make it easy to read. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 247, January 1997).

On 7 February 1997, in a ceremony at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, IOC President Samaranch signed the official IOC invitations to take part in the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, which were sent to the NOCs of Greece, Japan, Australia, the United States of America, Norway, South Africa, France and Switzerland. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 250, 7 February 1997).

With the Winter Olympics a year away, the Nagano organizers are under siege from everybody-from the international sports federations to their own Olympic committee. The operating budget, penciled in for \$644 million in current dollars, is now \$800 million and the Japanese recession has played havoc with corporate sponsorship.

The hockey federation says the 10,000-seat arena is too small. The ski federation says the downhill is too short. The skaters say the hotels aren't suitable. And the ski-venue traffic and unpredictable weather have doomsayers predicting the worst. Hironoshin Furuhashi, who runs Japan's Olympic Committee, says he hears "only bad news" about Nagano.

"If it continues like this," he said recently, "I think the Nagano Games will not be successful."

The Nagano organizers, who got a "totally confident" vote last week from International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch, insist all will be well by next February and they blame Atlanta's shortcomings - particularly transportation, security and computerized results - for the harsh scrutiny they're receiving.

"We're getting a lot of extra demands from different organizations because there were so many mistakes at the Atlanta Olympics", committee director general Makoto Kobayashi told Reuters.

Fact is, the last time the Japanese hosted the Winter Games, in Sapporo in 1972, they were a fraction of the size they are now-35 events in eight sports, compared with 68 events in 11 sports-with several hundred thousand fewer

spectators and dramatically smaller media coverage. They're no longer an intimate Alpine carnival.

Meanwhile, the Salt Lake City organizers are thanking their lucky stars that six years ago they missed getting next year's Games by four votes. They'll be ready well before 2002, but couldn't have been now. (John Powers in 'Boston Sunday Globe', 9 February 1997).

Marc Hodler, president of the International Ski Federation (FIS) and IOC vice-president, declared that "the slalom course is one of the best in the world". (The Weeks Olympic News - number 255, March 1997).

Hodler also made a proposal, accepted by the organizing committee of the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, to create an emergency committee to handle scheduling and other problems in the event of bad weather. The committee would include IOC members, members of NAOC and representatives of the winter IF's and would meet every morning during the Games.

Ottavio Cinquanta, president of the International Skating Union and IOC member in Italy, has announced that competitors will be allowed to use slap skates in the speed skating events at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games. Slap skates are a Dutch improvement on the original American invention from almost a century ago. Dutch professor Van Ingen Schenau from Amsterdam made the most recent improvements, through which many speed skaters shattered their best performances during the past winter season. (The Week's Olympic News - number 255, March 1997).

SYDNEY 2000

The Sydney Olympic torch relay will be the longest and most spectacular in the history of the event. The Olympic flame will be carried by about 12,000 people over 25,000 kilometers around and across Australia for 100 days before the Games begin in September 2000. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 242, December 1996).

The cities of Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney will host the football tournament of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad, according to an announcement by the organizing committee. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 246, January 1997).

SOCOG announced details relating to the three mascots which will symbolize the spirit and character of Australia and the Olympic Games. The mascots are Millie (for "millennium"), an echidna or spiny anteater; Olly (for "Olympic"), a kookaburra, a bird with a loud, human-sounding laugh; and Syd (for "Sydney"), a duck-billed platypus. With these three animals, SOCOG wishes to show the world that the diversity of Australia's native species extends beyond the familiar kangaroo and koala. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 248, January 1997).

Japanese broadcasters have paid a record \$135 million for

the television rights to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. \$35.5 million more than was paid for the Japanese television rights to the Atlanta Games. The Japanese rights exceeded SOCOG's budgeted figure of \$100 million, continuing the outstanding success in the sales of overseas television rights for the 2000 Games. Television rights are SOCOG's biggest single revenue source, with total sales to date worth \$1.245 billion. SOCOG has already passed the original budget forecast of \$664 million. (The Sydney Spirit, issue 10, January 1997).

Michael Knight, president of the organizing committee of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney (SOCOG) has announced that the cycling competitions will not take place in the Olympic Park in Homebush Bay as originally planned, but will be moved to Bankstown, a suburb southwest of Sydney. Construction on the new velodrome, which will provide seating for 6,000 people, will begin in January 1998, with completion expected in September 1999. The cost will be around \$23.5 million. The decision to relocate the velodrome was made to provide more room for crowd control and security. Knight also announced that the women's softball competition will be held in Blacktown, where a center containing one competition field and three training diamonds, with a capacity for 8,000 spectators, will be built. (The Week's Olympic News - number 253, February 1997).

Planning is under way to build village accommodation for 6,000 media representatives who will cover the Games in Sydney. The village will be constructed in Lidcombe on the site of a former hospital. It will be close to the sports venues and medical facilities at Homebush Bay. A shuttle bus will operate between the village and the Main Press Center and International Broadcast Center. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 255, March 1997).

The Australian customs authorities are working with other government departments to ensure a fast and smooth entry to the country for foreigners arriving in Sydney for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad (The Week's Olympic News - number 255, March 1997).

For the Sydney Olympic Games' sailing program, 10 new classes have been proposed to the IOC. They are:

1. and 2. Women's and Men's Board (Mistral).
3. and 4. Single-Handed Women (Europe) and Men (Finn).
5. and 6. Double-Handed Women and Men (470).
7. Open Single-Handed Dinghy (Laser).
8. Dinghy Open High Performance (49er, a new category).
9. Multihull Open (Tornado).
10. Fleet/Match Race (Soling).

Paul Henderson, ISAF president, commented: "I have no doubt that we now have a blend of classes which encourages young sailors, both men and women, of all weights and aptitudes, to aspire to participate in the Olympic regatta". (GAISF News, number 117, January 1997).

SALT LAKE CITY 2002

February 21, 1997. Its budget spent, the Olympic speed-skating oval at Oquirrh Park Fitness Center has closed for the rest of the winter after two months of operation.

* The Utah Sports Authority had budgeted \$70,000 for ice on southwest Salt Lake City oval this season, but soon found the outdoor track was costing up to \$2,000 a day, chairman Randy Dryer said.

The Salt Lake City Organizing Committee is contracted in 1999 to buy the State's Olympic facilities for \$59 million, the amount of money that taxpayers spent to built them.

Organizers are also obliged to set aside \$40 million to run the facilities after the Games, when a private foundation assumes ownership of the Utah Winter Sports Park near Park City and the state's interest in the oval. The oval will be covered for the 2002 Winter Games. Olympic Organizers told the USOC that they planned to close the oval for two years for construction and reopen it about four months before the Games begin. (Schoolhouse - February 1997).

NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

* Prince Bertil of Sweden, president of the Swedish Olympic Committee and uncle of King Carl Gustav XVI of Sweden, died in Stockholm on January 1997 at the age of 84. On behalf of the Olympic Movement, the IOC President sent a message of sympathy to the Royal Family. Prince Bertil always showed a deep love for sport. In 1956 he was among those chosen to light the Olympic flame when Stockholm hosted the equestrian events of the Games of the XVI Olympiad. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 246, January 1997).

* Nikos Filaretos (ISOH member) is the new president of the International Olympic Academy for the period 1997-2001, and Lambis Nikolaou is the new vice-president. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 251, February 1997).

* Alois Hudec, who at age 89 was the oldest Olympic gymnastics champion in the Czech Republic, died in Prague earlier this year. Hudec won a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936. (The Weeks Olympic News - number 249, January 31st, 1997).

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

* The International Cycling Federation (UCI) has confirmed the inclusion of four new events at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney: women's 500-meter time trial, Madison, Keirin and Olympic sprint. This brings the number of Olympic events to eight for men and four for women, as at the world championships, but will not increase the number of athletes, since the UCI's quota for the Sydney Games is still 480, compared with 491 for the Games in Atlanta.

* At its recent extraordinary congress in Sydney, the International Rowing Federation agreed to reduce to 550 the number of rowers entered in the 14 events on the Olympic program at the 2000 Games in Sydney. This figure is 50 fewer than in the Atlanta Games. (The Week's Olympic News - number 252, February 1997).

* Taekwondo, whose governing body is headed by Un Yong Kim, IOC member in Korea, will make its debut as a full Olympic sport at the 2000 Games, with four weight classes for men and four for women. (The Week's Olympic News - number 252, February 1997).

* The executive committee of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) has approved the changes made to the IWF weight categories. These will come into effect on January 1, 1998 and will thus apply to the 2000 Olympic Games. Men: 56 kg, 62 kg, 69 kg, 77 kg, 85 kg, 94 kg, 105 kg, and over 105 kg. Women: 48 kg, 53 kg, 58 kg, 63 kg, 69 kg, 75 kg, and over 75 kg.

* In wrestling the number of categories was reduced to make competitions more dynamic. The number of men's categories drops from 10 to eight: 48 to 54 kg; 58 kg; 63 kg; 76 kg; 85 kg; 97 kg; and 97 to 125 kg. The number of women's categories falls from nine to six: 41 to 46 kg; 51 kg; 56 kg; 62 kg; 68 kg; and 68 to 75 kg. FILA hopes that this step will enable women's wrestling to be included in the Olympic Games program. (GAISF News, number 117, January 1997)

Fresh Bid For Games With Three Frontiers

* Austria, Italy and Slovenia have entered a combined bid for the 2006 Winter Olympics in an attempt to become the first three countries to jointly hold the Games. Dubbed "the first real European Union bid," their submission has the backing of the Austrian and Slovenian governments, Italian regional authorities and Franz Klammer, Austria's former Olympic downhill gold medalist.

Fears that the Games, spread over three countries with three different languages, might prove to be an organizational nightmare are being dismissed.

"I don't see those sort of problems arising," said Dr. Erwin Steiner of the Carinthian Regional Council in Austria. "We have learnt from our failed bid for the 2002 Games. I don't foresee difficulties with the different languages. It's a bid without barriers or borders, which fits in very well with the principles of the IOC. Indeed, our slogan is 'Senza Confini', which means 'Without borders'."

According to the bid team, all events will be held within 30 km of one other.

Dieter Janz, general-secretary of the organizing committee in Klagenfurt, Carinthia, said: "There are still some bridges to build between the countries, especially with regard to bureaucracy because each has different procedures. But the

events will be staged close together and there are good roads and airport links."

Austria, Italy and Slovenia share a history of working together in winter sports and for several decades have held joint cross-country skiing competitions. Despite failing to make the short list of candidates for the 2002 Games (the vote went to Salt Lake City) Klammer's support is seen as crucial. He said: "This is a once-in-a-century chance for thousands of sports fans to converge at the meeting point of three different countries and cultures."

If the IOC accepts the bid, the Games will be divided between Carinthia's southern region, Friuli in northern Italy, and Kranjska-Gora in Slovenia. It is believed Carinthia has requested to stage Alpine skiing's downhill and slalom as well as the ice hockey championship.

Steiner said it would be a true EU occasion. "Italy is a founding member of the bloc, Austria is the youngest member and Slovenia looks set to be one of the next countries to be admitted," he said. The toughest competition would be from Sion, in Switzerland, and Innsbruck, in Austria, which has put in a separate bid.

Austria's National Olympic Committee decides in the autumn whether to choose the joint bid or back Innsbruck's offer. In 1999 the IOC will narrow the field to four bids. (Louise Potterton in THE EUROPEAN, January 1997)

European Committee for the History of Sport

* For the past seven years a European Network of Sport Sciences in Higher Education has combined 180 physical education and sport institutes and departments all across Europe. At the occasion of the 1995 Network meeting in Bordeaux, the Network's Sport History Committee decided it was time to enlarge its activities, set up a European Committee for the History of Sport (CESH) of its own and plan the first of its annual seminars on the history of sport. CESH plans to involve many sports historians from a wide variety of backgrounds and nations.

* The first CESH president (1995-1997) is Prof. Dr. Arnd Krüger, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Göttingen, Germany, and ISOH member. President-elect (1997-1999) is Prof. Dr. Wray Vamplew, director of the International Centre for Sports History and Culture at the De Montfort University in Leicester, England. Wray helps edit this *Journal*. Vice presidents are Angela Teja (ISEF Rome), Janusz Slusarczyk (AWF Katowice, Poland). Treasurer is J.K. Rühl (DSHS Cologne, Germany).

* The first European Seminar on the History of Sport took place in Rome, 28 November through 1 December 1996. There were 115 participants from 20 countries, reading 82 papers in three parallel sections. Among the papers concerning with the History of the Olympic Games were the following:

* Gianfranco Colasante (Rome): Count Eugenio Brunetta d'Usseaux (1857-1919);

* Sotiris Giatsis (Thessaloniki): Which is the last Date of Performances of the Ancient Olympic Games in Olympia?; - by Penelope Kissoudi (Thessaloniki): The Contributions of Fine Arts and Literature to the First Modern Olympic Games - Athens 1896;

* Antonio Lombardo (Rome): Against the Moral Disorder: Coubertin and the Genesis of the Modern Olympic Games;

* J. Anthony Mangan (Glasgow): Coubertin and Cotton: European Realism and Idealism in the Making of Modern European Masculinity;

* Sladana Mijatovic (Belgrade): Historical and social Economic Aspects of the Rising of Olympism in the Kingdom of Serbia;

* Paraskevas Samaras (Lanarca): New Facts of the Revival of the Olympic Games. The Greek Contribution; and

* Ion Todan, Teodor Roibu et al. (Bucharest): Evangelis Zappas' Contribution to the Revival of the Modern Olympic Games.

* Other papers dealt with questions about training, heroes, the history of elite sport and touched Olympic matters without anything "Olympic" in the title of the paper.

* CESH is also organizing its Second International Seminar on the History of Sport and Tourism in Europe from 17 to 21 September 1997. It will take place in Katowice, and Krakow, Poland.

* Papers (20 minutes each) can be in any major European language, but summaries and discussions (10 minutes) must be in English or French.

* Costs are \$200 for CESH members and \$250 for non-members, and include full room and board, Congress participation, a booklet of summaries, proceedings of selected papers and a wonderful trip to Krakow.

* One of the sections will deal with sport during the Holocaust. A planned excursion to nearby Auschwitz is optional.

* George Eisen is expected to be the keynote speaker. There will be at least one section dealing with the history of Olympism and the Olympic Games.

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