

OLYMPIC NEWS NOTES

The information for this section was compiled with contributions from Ian Buchanan, Jean-Pierre Caravan, Tony Bijkerk and Bill Mallon.

CAULDRON FINDS A CORNER HOME

by Carlos Campos, staff writer for *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*.

The Olympic Cauldron has found a new home and a new owner.

Under a deal tentatively approved by the Atlanta-Fulton County Recreation Authority Thursday evening, the cauldron is moving from in front of Turner Field to just a few blocks north at the corner of Hank Aaron Drive (until recently Capitol Avenue) and Fulton Street.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and the Atlanta Braves struck a deal to split the \$450,000 cost of moving the cauldron, and ACOG has set up a \$200,000 trust fund out of its money to maintain it.

The Atlanta-Fulton Recreation Authority, which is supported by taxpayers in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County, will become the new owner of the cauldron at a dedication ceremony July 19, exactly one year after the Games opened.

Authority lawyer Kevin Ross, and some authority members, balked at formalizing the agreement Thursday because Ross hadn't seen the contract ACOG and the Braves signed with the cauldron's designer. ACOG officials reassured authority members that the contract simply stipulates the cauldron is a trademarked work of art that cannot be altered, but can be tom down.

Still, Ross asked for time to review the contract between the Braves and ACOG to move the cauldron.

Pending Ross' satisfactory review of the contracts, the six authority members present voted to formalize the deal today.

City officials and others hailed preservation of the cauldron, which provided one of the most memorable moments of the Olympic Games when boxing great Muhammed Ali lit its torch.

"I believe that this is the last piece of Olympic history left in our city", said Atlanta City Councilwoman Davetta Johnson-Mitchell, chairman of the recreational authority. "The stadium is now Turner Field. And Centennial Park is changing. This is the last piece of history we have to salvage".

The cauldron will stand about 111 feet high, which should make it visible from the Downtown Connector and I-20. The cauldron's bridge will stretch across Hank Aaron Drive, where it will connect with another structure, but won't serve as a walkway.

"It's a legacy that citizens of Atlanta will come to cherish over the years as the Olympics become more nostalgic to people", said Richard Monteilh, director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority. (*Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 4 April 1997).

PLAN TO MOVE CAULDRON DISREGARDS ITS ENTIRE SIGNIFICANCE

by Catherine Fox in the Visual Arts section, *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 11 May 1997).

Atlanta has always been careless about its history. Here we go again.

At the urging of the Atlanta Braves, plans are in the works to remove the Olympic cauldron from its spot next to Turner Field [the current name of the Olympic Stadium Tony B.] and relocate it up the street a couple of blocks north, toward downtown, at the intersection of Hank Aaron Drive and Fulton Street.

The reason? Its design doesn't go with the stadium. "It clashes with the whole look and entry," explains Braves' president Stan Kasten. "It obscures the big blowup of Hank Aaron's baseball. It's the only thing that doesn't say baseball."

Moving it to Fulton Street, where it will span Hank Aaron Drive, will turn it into a gateway to the area, he says. Its high elevation will render it visible from downtown. There will be an Olympic memorial at its base and a marker at Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, where it is now. Kasten feels it will look better there than it ever has.

"I think it's going to be a magnificent photo-op from either direction," he says.

Maybe and maybe not. The move could also play havoc with the Capitol Avenue streetscape installed only a year ago at taxpayers' expense. Randal Roark - design director of the Corporation for Olympic Development in Atlanta, which oversaw the design and construction of the Olympic corridors - is "terribly upset" about the move. As he notes, the streetscape was created as a processional of vertical elements (the pylons and the dishes) terminating in the cauldron and the stadium. Popping the cauldron down at

Fulton Street would be like putting the exclamation point in the middle of a sentence.

If the moving budget permits the removal of the pylons leading up to the cauldron, won't that space be as bleak and barren as it was before?

In any event, the cauldron's unbaseballness or decorative incorrectness should not be the deciding factor here. Its success as a sculpture is not the issue either. Let's face it: Wherever you put it, the cauldron is disappointing aesthetically, and ill thought out: If an artist and client plan a monument intended to be experienced as a bridge and tower, then arrangements to ensure that use should have been made before building it. A bridge to nowhere that no one can walk across is as inspiring as a fallen soufflé.

It is the Olympic cauldron, nevertheless. What's important - or what should be - is that the cauldron is a monument of tremendous historic significance to this city, a monument few cities in the world can own. It should remain to mark the spot where it has historical meaning. It should remain to mark the stirring moment when Muhammad Ali lit its Olympic flame. It should remain where millions of people saw it and where many will seek it out again. The fact that only the original columns of the Olympic stadium remain as a shadow of Olympic history makes the cauldron's location even more significant.

We are already a city of secondhand history. A plaque here, a marker there is all we have to remember all the buildings we've torn down. This thing isn't a year old, and already it's going to be replaced with a headstone.

As a result of Atlanta's "out with the old" mentality, we have precious few buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Once we move the cauldron (and shorten its bridge span, as planned), it will no longer be eligible for that status. The move will cost upward of \$450,000. A needless expense. The cauldron should stay where it is.

CELEBRATING THE GAMES

by Melissa Turner, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

The fireworks will fill the night sky if not the roving Olympic cauldron during an upcoming Olympic anniversary celebration.

With the Olympic stadium transformed into a baseball field, most of Centennial Olympic Park still under construction and the rest of the Olympic Ring venues off-limits to the public, ACOG's July 19 bash will be a street party with the beleaguered cauldron as the focal point.

Olympic officials will wait until the conclusion of the Braves-Los Angeles Dodgers game before holding a rededication ceremony at the cauldron's new site at the corner of Fulton Street and Hank Aaron Drive. Music begins at 7 p.m. and the ceremony and fireworks display is expected about

9:30 p.m. An adjacent Athlete Tribute Wall engraved with the name and country of each of the Games' medalists will be unveiled.

ACOG also is hosting previews of the official film of the Games, produced by Olympic cinematographer Bud Greenspan (ISOH-member!), who will be on hand, throughout the day at the Rialto Theater downtown.

ARSONISTS TRY TO HALT BID FOR OLYMPICS,
by Julian Isherwood, Scandinavia Correspondent, in the
Daily Telegraph from Thursday, June 5, 1997)

Arsonists have burned the home of a former prime minister of Sweden in a growing protest over a bid to host the Olympic Games in 2004.

Militant environmental protesters have also targeted sports facilities as part of their campaign to halt the bid. They claim the games would attract too many people and that building work would harm the environment.

Police warned possible targets yesterday to take precautions after scientific evidence from recent fires pointed to arson. In one fire, the home of Ingvar Carlsson, a former prime minister, was burnt down on Tuesday. Mr. Carlsson and his wife were on holiday and neighbours alerted emergency services after an explosion caused a fire at the lakeside home outside Stockholm.

Mr. Carlsson has been prominent in the campaign to secure the games and has travelled throughout Europe to lobby for support. However, since Sweden announced last year that it would seek to host the games, there have been growing objections.

Protesters say that the country cannot afford to finance the games at a time of economic problems.

Over the past two weeks, two stadiums, a tennis hall and a ice hockey rink in Stockholm have all been targets of arsonists.

No one has been hurt in the fires, which have taken place at night.

A police spokesman said: "There is every indication that all fires have been lit by the same person or persons. Our technical investigations so far pointed to the same method". Goran Laangsved, chairman of the Stockholm 2004 group, said the fires were the work of "mad men". He said: "We are taking this very seriously and have established contacts with the police to follow the investigations closely. But it's rather difficult to protect yourself against mad men".

Sweden hosted the 1912 games, at which electrical timing devices and public address were used for the first time. In 1956, although the summer games were held in Melbourne, Sweden hosted the equestrian events because of Australia's strict quarantine regulations.

The Olympic Stadium from Amsterdam:

Mid-July, the "Restore the Amsterdam Olympic Stadium" Foundation, mainly responsible for the big action to collect money for the stadium's salvation, which action actually brought in the required amount of NF1.5 million from the Dutch public, made it known that this year yet, the renovation of the monumental Olympic Stadium will definitely start. The renovation will begin after the Amsterdam Marathon, which will be organized on November 2, 1997.

The finish of the marathon will take place in the Stadium, as it is of old.

As indicated before, the intention is to keep the stadium available exclusively for athletic sport; with the two Amsterdam Athletic clubs: "SAGITTA" and "AAC Olympia", both finding their definite homes in the stadium. The Monument (the nomination as such was the exact reason why the Olympic Stadium finally could be saved!), will be adapted to be used as an international "Track and Field"-stadium, where all international meets can be organized. The renovation-project will be completed mid-1999. Total costs of the renovation are estimated at NF1.23 million. ("De Telegraaf", 18 July 1997).

International Olympic Academy

5th Postgraduate Seminar in Olympia

The International Olympic Academy has been situated in antique Olympia in ancient Greece since 1961. It originated from the ideas of Carl DIEM and Ioannis KETSEAS to develop this institution in Olympia in 1938. Their ideas could not be realised until 1961. Initially 14 day annual sessions were organized for students (now for "young participants") at which scientists from the whole world concerned with the topic of Olympia presented lectures and discussed the Olympic movement with the students.

An increasing number of summer fixtures have also been held for other interest groups since the academy greatly expanded its facilities with apartment buildings, cafeteria and a congress venue with lecture theatres and library. These include meetings of sport teachers, trainers, sport journalists, sport architects and sport professors. A post-graduate seminar on Olympic studies has been implemented for five years. Academics that have recently successfully completed their studies and are preparing for their doctoral studies are invited. Special emphasis is placed upon internationality. Only one or two participants per country are invited. The young scientists must pay only the flight to the Athens airport. After arrival the Hellenic Olympic Committee and the IOC cover all costs for the next six weeks until departure. The seminar begins with a visit to the antique historical sites and then the certificates of the modern Olympic Games. Corinthia, Mykene, Epidaurus and Nemea are visited on the trip to Olympia. Trips to

Delphi and Sparta (Mistra) are organized during the stay in Olympia.

The courses are held by university lecturers who have conducted research on antique sports and the history, sociology and philosophy of the Olympic movement. Lectures and seminars are presented. Of course there is ample opportunity to conduct sport on the beautiful academy grounds.

This year I was honoured to be invited as a teacher. My colleagues were the professors Ingomar WEILER from Austria (antique Olympic games), Bob BARNEY from Canada (the Olympic movement in the USA), Kurt WEIS from Germany (sociology and the Olympic games), Bob BEAMISH from Canada (sociology and the Olympic games) and Jim PARRY from England (ethics and sport). In addition to these Nikos YALOURIS and Ioannis MOURATIDIS from Greece each held one lecture. My two topics were "Olympic games and politics" and "the importance of ceremonies in the Olympic movement". The dean of the academy, Kostas GEORGIADIS acted as coordinator of the event. 31 postgraduate students from 24 countries (16 male, 15 female) participated this year.

Two further conferences were held in the academy at the same time as the seminars, the 9th International Meeting of Sport Journalists and the 3rd International Session for Teachers and University Lecturers. The participants of the graduate seminar had the opportunity to attend these meetings. Despite different origins, education and languages (the official congress language was English) the participants and professors soon formed a unit which tried hard to understand and discuss the problems of the Olympic movement. I am convinced that everybody returned home with expanded experiences and knowledge. It would be desirable for these seminars to receive official recognition of some sort in the doctoral curricula of the various countries. (By Prof. Dr. Karl LENNARTZ, Cologne.)

International Olympic Committee

Olympism

* The Executive Board approved the finalized programme and the plans for the Olympic flame relay and the design of the torch for the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, and the budget for the organization of the Games of the Olympiad in Sydney. The Board also approved the addition of skeet and trap in the women's shooting events and a duo event in synchronized swimming for the programme of the Games in Sydney in 2000. (The Week's Olympic News - Number 265, 23 May 1997).

* During his visit to Hong-Kong, to attend the celebration of Great Britain's handover of Hong-Kong to the People's Republic of China, the IOC President signed an agreement together with Arnaldo de O. Sales, which conforms to the

Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as enacted in 1984. The Amateur Sport Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong-Kong, China, will therefore continue to enjoy its membership of the Olympic movement as a separate and independent entity functioning in accordance with the Olympic Charter. The NOC will fly the new flag of the Hong-Kong Special Administrative Region with a bauhinia flower, and use the national anthem of the People's Republic of China. The new emblem of the NOC will feature the bauhinia flower, the five Olympic rings, and Chinese characters, all enclosed in a circle followed by "Hong-Kong" with "China" below. (The Week's Olympic News - Number 271, 4 July 1997).

* HISTORICAL SENTIMENT: International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Tuesday that "maybe the Olympic movement has a historical debt to Athens (Greece)" when it selects the site for the 2004 Summer Games. The IOC is to choose from among five finalists Sept. 5. (USA Today, 9 July 1997)

NAGANO 1998

* Gerhard Zimmermann, the second vice president of the International Skating Union (ISU) announced this week that speedskaters will be able to use slap skates at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, as well as during the whole 1997-1998 season, since these do not violate current ISU rules. (The Weeks Olympic News - Number 266, 30 May 1997).

* The XVIII Olympic Winter Games in 1998 will be a showcase for advanced technology. In Nagano, the sport venues and the media facilities and hotels will be linked by fibre optic cable. A powerful central computer will process the information received from almost 1,000 terminals submitting data of all kinds, such as competition results, new records, medical reports, and athlete details. In addition to use of the latest broadcasting technology such as digital and high-definition television, viewers will find themselves literally alongside skaters, thanks to a mini-camera which will follow the athletes from the final turn to the finish line. (The Weeks Olympic News - Number 267, 6 June 1997).

* The English language edition of the Nagano Olympic Winter Games Official Guide Book will go on sale in mid-June. The French version will be released in autumn. (The Weeks Olympic News - Number 268, 13 June 1997).

| A total of 82 National Olympic Committees have now signed up for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano 1998. The deadline for entries was 7th June 1997. (The Weeks Olympic News - Number 270, 27 June 1997).

Note: This sets a new participation record for the Olympic Winter Games, because 66 NOC's took part in the 1994 Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

* IIHF/Ice Hockey. The last five teams have obtained their

ticket for the Nagano 1998 Winter Olympics: GER and SVK at the qualifying tournament held in Germany, KAZ and BLR at the Innsbruck (AUT) tournament. The third place finishers at each tournament played for the final Olympic spot, Austria beating Switzerland for the honours. (SportVision, Number 119, June 1997). [See also the day-by-day programme of the Nagano Olympic Winter Games in this issue].

* After the curling world championships held in Bern (Switzerland) from 12th to 20th April, won by Sweden (men's) and Canada (women's), the following teams have qualified to take part in the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano.

| Men's competition: Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and the United States.

| Women's competition: Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Norway, Japan, Sweden and the United States.

(The Week's Olympic News - Number 261, 25th April 1997).

SYDNEY 2000

* Oriole Park at Auburn, a western Sydney suburb, will undergo a A\$4 million redevelopment and be used as the second baseball venue for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in 2000. The main Olympic baseball competition will be held at the Showground in Sydney Olympic Park. The president and executive director of the International Baseball Association (IBA) will visit Sydney in July to finalise all planning for the two venues. (The Weeks Olympic News - Number 268, 13 June 1997).

* A total of 10,000 people, athletes, citizens and Olympians who took part in the Games of the XVI Olympiad in Melbourne in 1956 will take part in the Olympic torch relay which will begin in Olympia (Greece) in May 2000 and finish on Friday 15th September 2000 when the Olympic cauldron is lit in Sydney's Olympic Stadium. (The Week's Olympic News - Number 270, 27 June 1997).

* The Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games announced this week that the city of Adelaide will be one of the four cities outside Sydney to host football matches for the Games. Sydney will be hosting the two preliminary round matches, one quarter-final and semi-final, the final and the bronze medal playoff.

NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

* The city of Munich has decided to honour Willi Daume by naming one of the streets in Munich's Olympic Park after him. Daume, an IOC member from 1956 to 1991 and president of the German NOC for many years, lived and had his office in the Munich Olympic village for many years. (The Week's Olympic News - Number 266, 30 May 1997).

* A statue of Ferenc Kemény, founder member of the IOC and first general secretary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, was unveiled at a ceremony in Hungary's Olympic Park in Eger. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 271, 4 July 1997).

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

* AIBA/BOXING

Official AIBA bouts (World or continental championships, Olympic Games, and tournaments) will be contested in five rounds of two minutes, and not in three rounds of three minutes. (SportsVision, Number 118, March 1997).

* FIH/HOCKEY

The IOC has agreed to the qualifying of 10 (ten) women's teams for the next Olympic Games in Sydney, rather than eight as previously stipulated. Reigning Olympic champion AUS and the five continental champions (Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania) will automatically qualify. A pre-Olympic tournament will determine the other four teams. (SportsVision, Number 118, March 1997).

* ICF/CANOEING

The ICF has launched a campaign, called "Slalom for the year 2000", to demand that slalom canoeing remain on the Olympic programme for Sydney 2000.

Two flatwater disciplines have been added to the ICF's programme: K1 and K2 over 1000 metres. (SportsVision, Number 118, March 1997).

* HIGH AND DRY: One sport being sidelined for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia is whitewater slalom. "Not being in the Games has meant terrible economic consequences for the team", said 1992 Olympic head coach Bill Endicott of the US-team. (USA Today, 10 July 1997).

* IHF/HANDBALL

The IOC has decided that 10 (ten) women's teams will compete in the next Olympic handball tournament in Sydney 2000. The IHF was hoping for 12. (SportsVision, Number 118, March 1997).

* WTF/TAEKWONDO

100 men and women will compete in the 2000 Olympic Games in four categories:

Women - Under 49 kg., Under 57 kg., Under 67 kg., and Over 67 kg.

Men - Under 58 kg., Under 68 kg., Under 80 kg., and Over 80 kg. (SportsVision, Number 118, March 1997).

*UCI/CYCLING

The "B" category World Road Cycling Championships, organised for less advanced cycling nations, will serve as a qualifying event for the Olympic Games. The 1st edition of these Championships will be held in Ipoh (MAS) from 12-20 December.

(SportVision, Number 119, June 1997).
