

OLYMPIC NEWS NOTES

Contributions from Dr. Bill Mallon, MD and Jean-Pierre Caravan, and further the official magazines *Sydney Spirit* (published by SOCOG), *Nagano Olympic News* (published by the NAOC) and *Sportvision* (official magazine of GAISF).

OLYMPISM

On 21st January, the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee held a meeting in Lausanne, which was attended by the IOC President. The meeting was attended by Conrado Duránte, Yves-Pierre Boulongne, Herman Andrecs, Ivan Curkovic, Jean Durry, Norbert Müller, Geoffroy de Navacelle and Donald Anthony. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 300, 23 January 1998)

* As of today, six NOC's have submitted candidatures for the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006. In alphabetical order, the cities are: Helsinki (Finland), Klagenfurt (Austria), Poprad Tatry (Slovakia), Sion (Switzerland), Turin (Italy) and Zakopane (Poland). The deadline for entries is (was) 1st February. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 301, 30 January 1998)

* The final sports programme for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney was approved (by the IOC Session), with the inclusion of women's modern pentathlon and the Star class in sailing. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 302, 6 February 1998)

* At the Session, Kéba MBaye and Marc Hodler were elected by acclamation as vice-president and Executive Board member respectively. Jacques Rogge was also elected to the Board following a vote. The Executive Board is now composed as follows: the IOC President; vice presidents Pál Schmitt, Richard W. Pound, Anita L. DeFrantz and Kéba MBaye; and members: Kevan Gosper, Thomas Bach, Chiharu Igaya, Un Yong Kim, Marc Hodler; and Jacques Rogge. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 302, 6 February 1998)

* The following were elected to replace outgoing IOC members: Mounir Sabet (Egypt), HRH Prince Henri of Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Nawal El Moutawakel Bennis (Morocco), Melitón Sánchez Rivas (Panama) and Irena Szewinska (Poland). As new members, the Session elected Leopold Wallner (Austria), HRH The Prince of Orange (Netherlands), Ser Miang NG (Singapore); and Mohammad Samih Moudallal (Syria). (The Week's Olympic News, Number 302, 6 February 1998)

* The Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg stepped down at the Session. As a mark of the profound respect in which he is held, and in recognition for the unaccountable services he has performed for the Olympic Movement, the Session unanimously decided to make him Honorary Doyen of the IOC and award him the Olympic Order in gold.

* It was decided that there will be no pre-selection process for the six cities bidding to host the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. The order of presentation to the 108th Session (which will take place in Seoul in June 1999), decided by drawing lots on 5th February, will be as follows: Klagenfurt (Austria), Zakopane (Poland), Helsinki (Finland), Sion (Switzerland), Poprad-Tatry (Slovakia) and Turin (Italy). (The Week's Olympic News, Number 302, 6 February 1998)

* The sports channel EUROSPORT met its objectives for Nagano, as borne out by the figures just published:

> 80 million viewers watched the Games at some moment in time.

> 23.7 million did so every day at a rate of 764,000 every half-hour; the best day was Sunday, 8th February with 39,032,000 viewers; the best week was from 9th to 15th February with 24,100,000 viewers.

> 62 broadcasts exceeded one million viewers, with figure skating in first place: 49 hours of broadcasting and an average of 1,093,000 viewers. Curling created a surprise with an average number of 964,000.

EUROSPORT is watched by 76 million households in 46 countries. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 307, 13 March 1998).

* On 19th and 20th March a meeting took place in Lausanne between the IOC and the National Olympic Committees of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. The IOC President chaired the meeting, and also held individual meetings with each NOC.

The aim was to examine the situation of these new National Olympic Committees and set up cooperation agreements between them and the IOC.

The meetings were attended by Jacques Rogge, IOC Executive Board member and president of the European Olympic Committees (EOC), Abdul Mattaleb Ahmad, secretary general of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), François Carrard, IOC director general, Françoise Zweifel, IOC secretary general, Gilbert Felli, director of sports and IF relations, Pere Miró, director of Olympic Solidarity and NOC relations, marketing director Michael Payne and legal affairs director Howard Stupp. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 308, 20 March 1998).

* IOC honorary member Virgilio de León died this week in Panama at the age of 79. He was an IOC member from 1969 to 1995, and president of the Panamanian Olympic Committee. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 308, 20 March 1998).

* IOC Executive Board member Chiharu Igaya has been appointed chairman of the Evaluation Commission for the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 309, 27 March 1998).

* On 26th March, the IOC hosted a meeting at the Olympic Museum for representatives of the six cities bidding to host the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006: Helsinki (Finland), Klagenfurt (Austria), Sion (Switzerland), Poprad-Tatry (Slovakia), Turin (Italy) and Zakopane (Poland). Marc Hodler, president of the Association of International Winter Sports Federations (AIWF) and a member of the IOC Executive Board, and Janus Piewcewicz, representative of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) took part in the meeting, chaired by IOC director general François Carrard.

The participants were given copies of the "Candidate Cities Manual" to help them prepare their candidature files.

The city that will host the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006 will be elected on 19th June 1999 during the 108th IOC Session in Seoul.

(The Week's Olympic News, Number 309, 27 March 1998).

MEDICAL CODE FOR THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

After hearing the reports of the Medical Commission and Juridical Commission, the IOC Executive Board has decid-

ed to submit the following proposal to the International Federations of Olympic Sports:

At their meeting with the Executive Board in April 1998, the summer sports IF's will be invited to give their opinions on the proposal to create a single Medical Code for the entire Olympic Movement. This code would allow a certain degree of uniformity to be achieved in preventing and punishing doping, while fully respecting the autonomy of each IF and the specific characteristics of each sport. The winter IF's already gave their approval to the principle of a single medical code at their meeting with the Executive Board in December 1997.

If both groups agree to a single medical code, a draft will be sent to all the IF's and interested parties in May 1998. They will have until 30th August to submit their comments to the IOC. A new document taking these observations into account will then be sent to all the IF's and interested parties by 30th October at the latest. Relations will be maintained continuously with the international organizations involved and possibly also the authorities of certain countries.

From 26th to 28th November 1998, a conference will be held to discuss the adoption of the Olympic Movement Medical Code, where all the parties concerned will be present to discuss the final draft of the document.

If agreement on this is reached, the representatives of all the interested parties will sign the document on 28th November. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 303, 13 February 1998)

NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

* Lia Manoliu, president of the Romanian Olympic Committee, died this Friday in Bucharest at the age of 65. She was Olympic champion on six occasions between 1952 and 1972, winning the gold and setting an Olympic record (58.28 m) at the Games of the XIX Olympiad in Mexico City in 1968, and a bronze medal at the Games in Rome, in 1960 and in Tokyo, in 1964. The many decorations awarded to her included the Olympic Order, which she received in 1974. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 298, 9 January 1998).

* The general assembly of the Ethiopian Olympic Committee, under the chairmanship of NOC president Gezew Tekle Mariam, appointed Fékrou Kidane, director of the IOC President's executive office (and member of the Executive Committee of ISOH), as the NOC's first honorary member. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 299, 16 January 1998)

* The Argentinean Olympic Committee has published a book entitled: *Olimpismo, Historia y Proyección en la Argentina* ("Olympism, its history and influence in Argentina"). (The Week's Olympic News, Number 299, 16 January 1998)

* Robert H. "Bobby" Symonette, president of the Bahamas Olympic Association from 1957 to 1972, died on 1st March. Symonette competed in the sailing events at five Olympic Games: Melbourne 1956, Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968 and Munich 1972. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 308, 20 March 1998).

* The Hungarian Parliament ratified with an overwhelming majority the formerly enacted law under which all Olympic champions over the age of 35 receive a monthly allowance as of 1st January 1998. The allowance currently amounts to 60,000 Hungarian forints (US\$300) for champions, while widows are entitled to receive 50% of this. Currently 116 champions and 22 widows are entitled to these benefits (The Week's Olympic News, Number 309, 27 March 1998).

* Mr. Joop van der Reijden has been appointed president ad interim of the Netherlands Olympic Committee. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 309, 27 March 1998).

WORLD YOUTH GAMES AND YOUTH-SCIENCE-OLYMPISM INTERNATIONAL FORUM

The Russian Olympic Committee, the Government of the City of Moscow and the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Physical Culture and Tourism will organise 'World Youth Games' in Moscow, under the patronage of the IOC from July 11th to July 19th, 1998.

During the same period, July 14 to July 18, the 'Youth-Science-Olympism' International Forum will be held in Moscow too. This Forum will be organised under the patronage of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education.

NAGANO 1998

* On 7th February, Emperor Akihito of Japan officially opened the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano.

In his speech, the IOC President made a special appeal to the 185 Member States of the United Nations, calling on them to respect the Olympic Truce, and underscoring the universal importance of the Olympic Games in contributing to peace. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 303, 13 February 1998)

* One of the most emotional moments of the ceremony was when Chris Moon, a campaigner against landmines, accompanied by a crowd of children wearing jerseys featuring the flags of all the 72 participating National Olympic Committees, entered the Minami Stadium carrying the Olympic torch. The cauldron was lit by Midoro Ito, skating silver medallist at the XVI Olympic Winter Games in Albertville in 1992.

Kenji Ogiwara, an athlete in the Nordic combined event, pronounced the oath on behalf of the athletes, while figure skating judge Junko Hiramatsu did so on behalf of the judges.

Japanese high technology was at the forefront during the

ceremony when choirs from five continents, in Nagano, Peking, New York, Berlin, Sydney and Cape Town simultaneously sang Beethoven's Ode to Joy in a live satellite link-up, under the baton of conductor Seiji Ozawa. The quality of the sound was more like that of a concert hall than an open-air stadium. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 303, 13 February 1998)

* The majors of six Olympic cities, Sapporo, Calgary, Albertville, Lillehammer, Nagano and Salt Lake City, met in Nagano this week and made a special appeal for the Olympic Games to contribute to promoting peace and protecting the environment through sport. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 303, 13 February 1998)

* A total of 2,586 E (press) accreditations were issued for the Games in Nagano, which is almost identical to the figure in Lillehammer four years ago (2,578). For the broadcasters, some 5,737 RT (radio and television) accreditations were issued, not including those for the 2,053 host broadcaster's (ORTO) staff.

In all, 10,376 media (E, RT and ORTO) accreditations were issued in Nagano, compared with 8,145 in Lillehammer. This means that the media presence increased by around 20% from one edition of the Winter Games to the next. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 306, 6 March 1998)

SYDNEY 2000

Olympics Return to Melbourne Cricket Ground

Olympic Games football will be played in Melbourne in 2000 after the SOCOG and the Victorian State Government agreed to use the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) as an official venue.

The announcement by SOCOG President, Michael Knight and Victorian Premier, Jeff Kennett was made on Christmas Eve, providing Melbourne sporting fans with the perfect Christmas present.

The agreement means Olympic Games action will return to Melbourne, host city of the 1956 Olympic Games. The MCG was used as the Olympic Stadium in 1956, adding to the historical significance of the occasion.

Mr. Knight said he was thrilled to include Melbourne as an interstate venue for football. Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra had already been confirmed as other host cities, along with Sydney, for Olympic football matches.

The inclusion of Melbourne will bring the number of available tickets for football to more than 1.7 million; making it the biggest spectator sport of the 2000 Olympic Games.

The MCG was agreed upon as a site after a technical study by SOCOG and the Victorian Government established it would be possible to provide a good playing surface and Olympic facilities at the ground.

Football officials previously considered using the Docklands Stadium as a Melbourne venue for Olympic matches.

“The change to the MCG provided an established facility for Olympic football and therefore removed previous concerns the Victorian Government had about liability should Docklands not be ready or satisfactory,” said Mr. Knight. “The MCG is an exceptional venue which, as evidenced by the World Cup qualifier in November, has proved itself for football at the elite international level.” (Sydney Spirit, Number 3, Jan/Feb. 1998)

* Tickets to see the most popular events at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in 2000 in Sydney will be issued by ballot, the Organizing Committee (SOCOG) said. The Olympic Club, giving all Australians the chance to win Games tickets, was launched by Michael Knight, President of SOCOG.

The general public will be asked to apply for tickets in mid-1999. For events where the demand exceeds the number of available tickets, a ballot will be used.

The bulk of tickets will be sold through the public subscriptions. (The Week’s Olympic News, Number 307, 13 March 1998).

* The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) has announced that there will be an equal number of men’s and women’s teams competing in the beach volleyball competition at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. At the 1996 Atlanta Games there were twenty-four men’s pairs, but only eighteen women’s pairs. At Sydney there will be twenty-four pairs for both men and women (The Week’s Olympic News, Number 309, 27 March 1998).

SALT LAKE CITY 2002

The Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games has announced that it will restructure the community affairs and media relations divisions. Frank X. Zang is the new director of communications and media, Caroline Shaw is the new director of media relations, Dianne E. Hesleph is the new director of education and Robert Bills is the new director of youth programmes. Zang is currently associate director for the USOC media and public affairs division. (The Week’s Olympic News, Number 301, 30 January 1998)

ATHENS 2004

Stratis Strategis has been appointed President of the Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens 2004. The OCOG will be made up of: Constantino Bakuris, CEO, Nikos Filaretos and Lambis Nikolaou, IOC members, Dimtris Diathesopoulos, Secretary General of the NOC, Iannis Papadogianakis, Vice President of the NOC, Lucas Papadimos, Iannis Sgouros, Secretary General of the Ministry of sport, George Papadimitru, Niki Zavela, Spiros Kapralos, Iannis Manos, Iannis Prigiotis, and Theodore Kopulos, President of the Greek Sporting Press Association and Dimitris

Avramopoulos, Mayor of Athens. (The Week’s Olympic News, Number 300, 23 January 1998).

International Federations:

* FINA: It has been confirmed that women’s water polo players will compete for the first time in the Olympics in Sydney with six teams of 11 players. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* FISA: For the OG in Sydney, the FISA Congress has accepted the proposal put forward by its Council to reduce the numbers of each of the fourteen boat classes by 10% in observance of the new quota established by the IOC of “approximately” 550 rowers instead of the 606 for the last Olympic Games in Atlanta. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* FISA: NO MORE AMATEURISM: The concept of amateurism was eliminated from the rules and regulations of FISA in line with current policy of the sports and Olympic movement. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* ICF: SLALOM CANOEING IN SYDNEY: As a result of the efforts undertaken by the ICF, slalom canoeing has been retained in the Olympic programme. A slalom course will be built at Penrith Lakes, site of the rowing and line canoeing events, at a cost of less than six million dollars. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* ITU: FIRST OLYMPICS: 50 women and 50 men will compete in Sydney in the year 2000 for the Olympic triathlon titles. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* UIT: AUTONOMY FOR WOMEN: More than twenty five years after it was first requested, separate trap and skeet events have finally been added to the Olympic programme. For a long time now the UIT has seen a steady increase in both the number and ability of its women participants. The UIT has officially held separate events for men and women since 1981. At the Olympic level, the IOC adopted women’s events for rifle and pistol for the 1984 OG. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* WCF: FOR THE OG 2002: The WCF (World Curling Federation) has proposed to the IOC to increase the number of teams participating in the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City to ten. The qualifying period will cover the 1999, 2000 and 2001 world championships. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* IJF: For the first time, the 10th dan, the highest grade to be awarded by the IJF, has been granted to two outstanding personalities: First to be rewarded was Anton Geesink, who became an IOC member for the Netherlands after winning the first Olympic Gold Medal in the history of Judo in 1964, in front of a shocked Japanese audience in the birth country of the sport. The second to be rewarded was Charles Palmer, former President of the IJF, and past General Treasurer of GAISF. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* IWF: Gottfried Schödl, President of the IWF since 1972, is a passionate and fascinating statistician. Under the title: "Medals and World Records", he has published a new book on weightlifting offering an exhaustive study of the Olympic Games and the World Championships (in A4 format, 368 pp). (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998).

* On 5th and 6th March, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) held a special meeting in Lausanne with a view to modifying the federation's current doping rules. FINA director Cornel Marculescu said that a congress would be held at a later date. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 306, 6th March 1998)

* The FIFA-Board, the supreme body that lays down the rules of football, has decided that a tackle from behind will be punished with a red card and the offending player automatically sent off.

The new rule, which is aimed at avoiding excessive use of force, will become effective in the final phase of the France '98 Football World Cup. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 307, 13 March 1998).

* Ottavio Cinquanta, president of the International Skating Union (ISU) and IOC member, has announced plans to improve the scoring in ice dancing. Responding to criticism that the free dance component merely confirms the result of the preceding compulsory and original dances. Cinquanta said he was confident "that the introduction of new technical rules imposing certain specific elements in the free dance and other technical elements" would resolve the problem. These ideas will be presented to the ISU congress in Stockholm in June this year. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 308, 20 March 1998).

* OLYMPIC RECOGNITION: During its 106th Session, the International Olympic Committee formally recognized three International Sports Federations: IDSF (Sport Dance), IRFB (Rugby) and ISA (Surfing). The IOC specified that this recognition did not mean that these sports were included in the Olympic programme. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998)

* SPORT IN MOURNING: Ivan Yarugin, (RUS, 49 years old) President of the Russian Wrestling Federation and former two-times Olympic champion in 1972 and 1976. (SPORTVISION, Number 121, January 1998)
