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## OLYMPIC NEWS NOTES

### OLYMPISM

\*The IOC, through its Cultural Commission, chaired by Zhenliang He, is organizing the first Olympic art and sport competition. It will be in two phases: the first, national phase will be organized by the NOCs between July 1998 and 30th November 1999; the second, international phase will be based in Lausanne in 2000. Entries are welcome from athletes of all ages and art students. All of the NOCs have been asked to help with the competition. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 325, 17 July 1998).

\*This week, delegations from the cities of Helsinki (Finland), Poprad-Tatry (Slovakia), Sion (Switzerland), Turin (Italy) and Zakopane (Poland), officially submitted their candidatures to host the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006 to the IOC. The bid documents, produced in accordance with the established rules, were presented to IOC Vice-President Judge Kéba Mbaye. A delegation from Klagenfurt (Austria) presented the city's candidature last week to IOC Executive Board member, Thomas Bach. The IOC Evaluation Commission, chaired by Executive Board member Chiharu Igaya, will visit each of the candidate cities in October and November. The host city will be elected on 19th June 1999 during the 108th IOC Session in Seoul, Korea. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 332, 4 September 1998).

\*IOC member in Cameroon since 1978, Professor René Essomba died last Sunday at the age of 66. Professor Essomba was president of the Cameroon National Olympic Committee since 1972 and was a member of the Medical Commission. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 332, 4 September 1998).

\*Lieutenant General Dadang Suprayogi, IOC member in Indonesia from 1977 to 1989 and honorary member since

1989, has died. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 335, 25 September 1998).

\*Carlos Ferrer Salat, IOC member and president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, died on Sunday at the age of 67. The Olympic and Spanish flags were flown at half mast for three days, and a minute's silence was observed at the Olympic Museum, in honour of Carlos Ferrer, at the opening of the International Symposium on Television in the Olympic Games on Monday. The IOC President attended the funeral service in Barcelona on 20th October, on behalf of the Olympic Movement. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 339, 24 October 1998).

\*Alexandru Siperco, Doyen of the IOC members, died in Bucharest on Monday at the age of 77. Born in Tataresti, Romania, Alexandru Siperco, became a member of the IOC in 1955, joined the Executive Board in 1979 and was IOC vice president from 1982 to 1986. Alexandru Siperco greatly contributed to the success of the 1994 Centennial Olympic Congress, Congress of Unity, in Paris, France. In Romania he held the position of vice-president of the State Committee for Sport and Physical Education (1949 to 1957) and president of the Romanian National Olympic Committee (NOC), from 1952 to 1959. The IOC President attended the funeral service in Bucharest on 29th October, on behalf of the Olympic Movement. He was received by Romanian Prime Minister Radu Vasile, in the presence of Romanian Sports Minister Crin Antonescu and Romanian NOC president Ion Tiriac. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 340, 30 October 1998).

### NAGANO 1998

\*The Olympic Winter Games in Nagano made a profit of 4.5 billion yen (US\$32.4 million), according to NAOC director general Makato Kobayashi. He attributed this unexpectedly high figure to the weakness of the yen on the foreign

exchange markets, lower expenditures and the extraordinarily high sales of tickets and official Olympic-related products. The organizing committee is to begin discussions on how to use this surplus. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 324, 10 July 1998).

\*The Internet site of the 1998 Nagano Winter Games has been recognized by the "Guinness Book of Records" as setting two world records in Internet traffic: the most popular Internet event ever recorded with 634,716,480 hits over the 16 days of the Games, and the most hits on an Internet site in a single minute, at 11.55 GMT on 20th February, with a total of 110,414 in one minute. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 327, 31 July 1998).

#### SYDNEY 2000

\*The Sydney organizing committee (SOCOG) has launched "Infopoint", a network of touch-screen kiosks providing the public with that latest information on the Games. Infopoint kiosks will be set up at sites such as research centres, libraries and airports. The launch, 800 days before the Games open, marks the start of a new phase in the Olympic preparations. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 324, 10 July 1998).

\*The director general of the Hyatt Regency Coolum resort, Maurice Holland, has been appointed as village operations director. He will be in charge of the three villages built for the Games: the Olympic village, the press village and the technical officials village. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 324, 10 July 1998).

\*New research conducted by SOCOG has revealed that women's sports receive much higher coverage during the Olympic Games than during regular broadcasting. In 1992 at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, 44.4% of Australian broadcast highlights were devoted to women, compared with 2% at other times. It was also found that the US broadcaster NBC had changed its Games coverage to satisfy viewer demand for more women's sports. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 326, 24 July 1998).

\*Waldi, the first Olympic mascot, was a great success at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. His latest successors, Syd, Olly and Millie, are expected to generate A\$150 million through sales of everything from pens to bed linen. SOCOG plans to approach producers for film and television adaptations, live theater, the Internet and a CD-ROM. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 326, 24 July 1998).

\*The Velodrome that will be hosting the track cycling competitions at the 2000 Games will be named after Dunc Gray, one of Australia's most famous Olympic cyclists. He won the country's first cycling gold medal at the Games of the Xth Olympiad in 1932, in Los Angeles. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 326, 24 July 1998).

\*Three 12-metre steel statues were erected this month at the top of Centrepoint Tower, one of Sydney's tallest landmarks

at 300 metres. The statues, weighing 4 tonnes apiece, represent a gymnast in the handstand position, a paralympic basketball player and a sprinter. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 327, 31 July 1998).

\*Twenty-eight specialists with previous experience in drug testing are to undergo two days of training with a view to assisting in the doping controls conducted during the 2000 Games in Sydney. Further training will be taking place in other major Australian cities during August and September. In all, the Games organizing committee (SOCOG) is aiming to recruit some 400 volunteer doping control specialists. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 327, 31 July 1998).

\*The Sydney International Archery Park was opened at Homebush Bay on 31 July. Construction began in February and was completed by June. Michael Knight, New South Wales Minister for the Olympic Games and SOCOG president, officially handed over the centre to the Archery Society of New South Wales. The society will manage the park as a permanent venue for competition, training and sports development. The 6.5-hectare venue was purpose-built by the Olympic Co-ordination Authority (OCA) and will be run by SOCOG during the 2000 Games. Jim Easton, International Archery Federation (FITA) president and IOC member, released a statement announcing that the facility would be left as an Olympic legacy of the Sydney Games. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 328, 7 August 1998).

\*The first of the 110,000 seats planned for the Olympic Stadium at Homebush Bay was installed this week. 30,000 of these seats - all due to be installed in the next four months - will be housed in the temporary stands, built purely for the Olympic Games. Seating in the permanent stands will be attached to sliding rails which will allow for seating density to be varied according to demand. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 330, 21 August 1998).

\*The Sydney Games will be the first to be wholly digitally documented. Fuji Xerox has recently opened a "d-Print Centre" at the SOCOG headquarters. This centre provides an on-line and on-demand print service for all SOCOG's in-house publishing requirements through the latest printing technology. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 330, 21 August 1998).

\*The Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) launched its ticket programme this week for the 9.6 million tickets allotted to the 2000 Games. Tickets will go on sale in mid-1999 at prices ranging from approximately US\$5.80 to \$800; 70% percent of tickets will be sold for less than US\$35. Five million tickets will be on sale through a mail-order offer, and 1.5 million tickets at under US\$11 have been set aside for children and disadvantaged groups. Some 750,000 tickets will be allocated to foreign NOCs as SOCOG is not authorized to sell tickets overseas. There will be 10,000 and 5,000 tickets respectively for the opening and closing ceremonies available at US\$61. (The

Weeks Olympic News, Number 331, 28 August 1998).

\*The first Aboriginal athlete to win an Olympic gold medal has been named the first runner to carry the torch in Australia for the Sydney Games. Nova Peris-Kneebone was a member of the Australian women's field hockey team at the Atlanta Games in 1996. The 100-day torch relay, scheduled to start in June 2000, will visit every state and territory in Australia and feature some 10,000 runners. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 331, 28 August 1998).

\*The symbolic gift of an olive tree, donated by the Athens Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (ATHOC) for the 2000 Games, is to be planted in the Sydney Olympic Village. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 331, 28 August 1998).

\*Michael Knight, president of the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) and New South Wales Minister for the Olympic Games, officially opened the Homebush hockey stadium where the Olympic matches will be staged. The renovations and extensions to the venue have won it international acclaim. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 332, 4 September 1998).

\*The Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) released budget figures this week, indicating a further 128 million Australian dollars' foreseen expenditure for the Games, this brings the total cost of the Games to 2.6 billion Australian dollars'. (1.53 billion US dollars). The adjustment is the result of an extensive review of facilities and services needed for the organization of the Games and the new figures have been approved by Minister for the Olympics, Michael Knight and New South Wales State Treasurer, Michael Egan. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 336, 2 October 1998).

\*The torch which will light the flame at the Sydney Games will begin its 100-day journey round Australia from Uluru, the country's symbolic centre near Ayer's Rock. It will arrive by plane from Papua New Guinea on 8th June 2000 and Australian Olympic medallist Nova Peris-Kneebone will launch the 10,000-strong relay across Australia. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 338, 16th October 1998).

\*New South Wales Olympics Minister Michael Knight has dedicated avenues at the Homebush Bay site to three of Australia's Olympic champions: Herb Elliott (Rome 1960, athlete); Murray Rose (Melbourne 1956, swimmer); and Shane Gould (Munich 1972, swimmer). (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 338, 16 October 1998).

Note: Also see Harry Gordon's article on the subject in Volume 6, number 2, Summer 1998: titled: "Olympic Legends Honoured at Sydney's Games Sites."

#### SALT LAKE CITY

\*Bruce Dworshak, who worked for the organizing committees of both the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles and the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, has been appointed

Director of Press Operations by the organizing committee of the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. (SLOC). (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 325, 17 July 1998).

\*Utah will benefit financially from the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, state Olympic officer John Fowler told the Legislature's Sports Advisory Committee last week. In his first annual report, Fowler estimated that the Games would cost the state more than US\$28 million for everything from new roads to economic development promotions. But Utah is expected to collect more than US\$47 million from increased economic activity related to the Games. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 326, 24 July 1998).

\*SLOC has appointed Jeff Chumas project manager for freestyle skiing, and Alan Johnson has been tabbed as project manager for ski jumping and Nordic combined. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 326, 24 July 1998).

\*Since the Nagano Winter Games, the SLOC web site has averaged more than one million hits per month. (The weeks Olympic News, Number 327, 31 July 1998).

\*Construction began in July at the Utah Winter Sports Park. Over 350,000 cubic yards of earth will be excavated for the ski jump facilities alone, then moved and used to create the base for a spectator stadium and support functions. The Winter Sports Park will be the site of four Olympic disciplines: ski jumping, Nordic combined, bobsleigh and luge. Competitions in these disciplines will take place over 16 days, with a total of 10 medal events. SLOC anticipate that there will be 360 athletes, 22,000 spectators for jumping and 14,000 spectators for the bobsleigh and luge. Construction is scheduled to be completed by November 2000 in time to coincide with pre-Olympic ski jumping events. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 328, 7 August 1998).

\*The Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SLOC) presented a balanced budget of \$1.4 billion for staging the Olympic Games to its Board of Trustees on Thursday. Approval of the budget is on the agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on 8th October. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 335, 25 September 1998).

\*SLOC has appointed Olympic medallist Cathy Priestner Allinger as managing director of sports. Her responsibilities will include overseeing the sports programme and running the sports competitions; the Winter Games are scheduled to offer 70 events in 14 disciplines, the largest sports programme ever. Cathy Priestner Allinger was Canada's first woman to win an Olympic medal in speed skating, at the 1976 Winter Games in Innsbruck. She joined SLOC in August 1997 as Director of Ice Sports. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 335, 25 September 1998).

\*SLOC has named Bill Wagner managing director of operations. Marv Smally, who served as US Department of Defense liaison for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, has been named SLOC deputy director of security. David Busser has been named SLOC managing director of infor-

mation systems. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 340, 30 October 1998).

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

\*The Japan Hockey Association revealed that Osaka will be the venue for the final men's hockey qualification tournament for the 2000 Games in Sydney. Twelve countries will compete in the 10-day tournament at Osaka in March 2000; the top five will join Australia and the winners of the Continental qualifiers in Sydney. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 328, 7 August 1998).

\*The European Table Tennis Union has chosen the Netherlands to host the forthcoming men's and women's doubles tournament. This tournament, which counts as the qualifying competition for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in 2000 in Sydney, will take place in Rotterdam from 17th to 19th December. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 338, 16th October 1998).

#### NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

\*Louis Hostin, who won gold medals in weightlifting at the 1932 Games in Los Angeles and the 1936 Games in Berlin, after a silver at the 1928 Games in Amsterdam, has died at the age of 90. (The Weeks Olympic News, number 324, 10 July 1998)

\*The Yugoslav Olympic Committee has announced the deaths of two Olympians, Zlatko Cajkovski (silver medalist at the London Games in 1948 and Helsinki Games in 1952) and Sava Antic (silver medallist at the Melbourne Games in 1956), both members of the Yugoslav football team. (The week's Olympic News, Number 328, 7 August 1998).

\*Two Polish athletes, Wladyslaw Komar (shot put) and Tadeusz Slusarski (pole vault) died in a road accident this week. Both athletes were Olympic champions in their discipline at the 1972 and 1976 Games respectively. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 330, 21 August 1998).

\*Florence Griffith-Joyner, the American athlete who won three gold medals at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 - in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay - died this week at the age of 38. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 335, 25 September 1998).

\*Frederick Alderman, the oldest Olympic champion in track and field in the United States, has died at the age of 93. Mr. Alderman helped the US 4x400m relay team set a world record at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 335, 25 September 1998)

OLYMPIC SYMPOSIUM. Elizabeth A. Hanley, Associate Professor of Kinesiology at Penn State University, visited Bob Barney's Olympic Symposium in London, Ontario. She wrote the following account for the Journal: "Riefenstahl riesling . . . Samaranch savignon . . . What a creative approach to wine labels at an International Symposium for

Olympic Research and the opening reception! But that should not be surprising to anyone who knows Dr. Robert K. Barney (also known as Bob or B2), Professor Emeritus and Director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies at The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. "Bob and his boys" have become masters at hosting international gatherings in recent years; the ambience they and their cadre of co-workers create is impressive. As one who has had the opportunity to attend the Third International Symposium for Olympic Research in 1996, as well as the most recent Symposium in October 1998, I can attest to the level of excellence woven into the presentations, informal gatherings, and opening/closing ceremonies. Presenters, presiders, and attendees at the Fourth International Symposium for Olympic Research comprised a truly international group, representing Australia, Germany, Greece, Japan, USA, and the host country, Canada. "Global and Cultural Critique: Problematizing the Olympic Games" was the overall theme. Topics were diverse, academic, and interesting; boredom was never a factor. Lively discussion ensued after each presentation and, quite naturally, continued at a coffee break or at a meal. A veteran presenter and a consummate speaker, Arnd Kruger of Georg August University in Gottingen (GER) enlightened the audience with his topic, "The Ministry of Propaganda and the Nazi Olympics of 1936." John Slater from Western Carolina College (USA) tackled the subject of "Changing Partners: The Relationship Between the Mass Media and the Olympic Games," while Nikolaos Yalouris of the International Olympic Academy (GRE) delighted us with his keynote address, "The Sport and Cultural Legacy of Elis in the Ancient Olympic World." Perhaps the most popular topics were addressed by a select group of Sydney 2000 speakers, whose topics ranged from controversial environmental issues to the inspirational Olympic flame torch relay. It was refreshing to note that young, aspiring scholars were integrated within the established group of presenters. Holger Preuss (GER) introduced research on "Problematizing the Arguments of Opponents of Olympic Games," and Scott Martyn (CAN) chose to delve into "an Uncomfortable Circle of Knowledge: an Examination of the Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol." Although it is not practical to mention every presentation in this brief account, all were well prepared and relevant topics. I have no doubt that there will be a "waiting list" for the Fifth International Symposium for Olympic Research in the year 2000.

Note: Our final banquet was held at the Mykonos Restaurant - a fitting way to end the symposium in fine Greek style: wine, food, music and song! A little girl in Ireland once wrote: "God must listen to the prayers of Americans real close because He's given them so much to be thankful for".

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