

# OLYMPIC NEWS NOTES

(Contributions from Ian Buchanan, Jean-Pierre Caravan, Karl Lennartz, Wolf Lyberg, and Bill Mallon).

## International Olympic Committee

\* Lausanne has been hosting the 106th IOC Session during the first week in September 1997, during which the current IOC President was re-elected unanimously for a further four-year term, and the city of Athens was chosen to host the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004. (Highlights, Number 280, 6th September 1997).

\* During the 106th Session of the I.O.C. in Lausanne, the session unanimously elected Mrs. Anita DeFrantz (who is an ISOH-member) as the first woman IOC vice-president, in the history of the Olympic Movement and Dr. Un Yong Kim (KOR) as a member of the Executive board. (Highlights, Number 280, 6th September 1997).

\* The vote for Athens was overwhelming!

And here are the results of the voting, from round to round:

	I	II	III	IV
ATHENS	32	38	52	66
ROME	23	28	35	41
CAPE TOWN	16*	22	20	-
STOCKHOLM	20	19	-	-
BUENOS AIRES	16*	-	-	-

Note: Cape Town won the run-off against Buenos Aires by 62 - 44 votes. (OLYMPIANA, Sport Intern)

\* The Olympic Order was presented to the academics who wrote the three-volume work on the history of the IOC under the direction of Raymond Gafner, administrator delegate of the IOC. The authors are: Karl Lennartz (GER), Norbert Müller (GER), Fernand Landry (CAN), Magdeleine Yerles (CAN), Yves Pierre Boulongne (FRA), and Otto Schantz (GER). The Session also paid tribute to Raymond Gafner for directing and publishing this history. (Highlights, Number 281, 12th September 1997).

Note: Messrs. Lennartz, Müller, Landry and Boulongne are all members of the ISOH!

\* In the past year several honorary IOC members died, the IOC-Session honoured their former members with a minute's silence in memory of: Germán Rieckehoff (PUR), Manuel Gonzalez Guerra (CUB), Yu-sun Kim and Ahmed Eldemerdash Touny (EGY). (Highlights, Number 280, 6th September 1997).

\* Hadj Mohammed Benjelloun, IOC member in Morocco, died on 20th September 1997 in Casablanca, Morocco, at the age of 85. He had been an IOC member since 1961. (Highlights, Number 283, 26th September 1997).

\* The "Art and Sport Competition" working group of the IOC Cultural Commission, chaired by Executive Board member Zhenliang He, met in Shanghai (China) from 11th to 13th October to discuss the rules of the international "Art and Sport" competition which will be held in 1999, with the results being announced in Lausanne towards the end of the year. The aim of the competition is to revive the link between art and sport and to encourage artistic creation. The rules will be sent to all the NOC's and IF's in 1998, and the competition will also be open to fine arts students and Olympic athletes. The categories for entries will be painting and sculpture, either realistic or abstract.

The working group members were received by the IOC President, who approved the holding of a Forum immediately after the competition results are announced. The theme for this forum - "Cultural Olympiads in the next Millennium" - was suggested by Ching-Kuo Wu, a member of the IOC and its Cultural Commission, and approved by the IOC President. (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 287, 24 October 1997).

## Olympism

\* On 6th September 1997, the IOC President, IOC vice president Richard W. Pound and the director general of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), Raouf Basti, signed a contract at the IOC headquarters granting exclusive television broadcast rights in the ASBU region for the Games of the Olympiad from 2000 to 2008 for 18,500,000 dollars. The IOC chose the ASBU for the high quality of its programmes and for its dedication to promoting all Olympic sports through non pay-per-view televised coverage. (Highlights, Number 280, 6th September 1997).

\* Executive Board member Zhenliang He has announced that China wishes to submit a bid for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008. The most likely cities are Beijing and Shanghai. A final choice will be made after the national athletics championships this October. (Highlights, Number 280, 6th September 1997).

\* The Coordination Commission for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000, chaired by IOC member Jacques Rogge, has met in Sydney with the organizing committee (SOCOG), presided by Michael Knight, New South Wales Minister for the Olympics.

During the meetings, the Commission expressed its satisfaction with the preparations and confirmed that the Executive Board had approved the addition of women's water polo to the Olympic programme, pending further

negotiations regarding the number of participants. The agreement was approved by the IOC, FINA and SOCOG. The women's water polo competition will involve six teams, one of which will be from Australia, as host country. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 288, 31st October 1997).

\* Thessaloniki shows Olympia-Exposition.

In 1997 Thessaloniki has become the Cultural Capital of Europe. In the framework of the festivities the exposition: "100 Years of Olympic Games - The Modern Greek Origin", assembled by Wolfgang Decker, Georgios Dolianitis and Karl Lennartz was on display in October. The exposition had been staged for the first time in Cologne in May 1996. The catalogue was translated into the Greek language for the visitors in Thessaloniki. (Karl Lennartz, November 1997).

#### International Olympic Academy

\* The 37th Session of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) was staged in Olympia, Greece from 7-22 July 1997. The idea of the Academy goes back to a joint proposal of Carl Diem and Ioannis Ketseas in the year 1938. It was not until 1961 that both succeeded in realizing their venture to stage a summer academy for students in Olympia.

As quite a few countries cannot send sport students as such, the event is nowadays termed "Session for Young Participants". The responsibility is vested in the Ephoria of the IOA of the Hellenic Olympic Committee. It is assisted by the Committee for Olympic Education of the IOC. The IOA's president is IOC-member Nikolaos Filaretos; Kostas Georgiadis is the IOA's dean.

This year's Session was staged under the theme "The Olympic Movement today following the Centennial Olympic Games". Approximately a dozen speakers, experts in their fields, were invited to lecture on the topic of the specific year.

The following experts were present in 1997: Nikolaos Filaretos (GRE), Nikolaos Yalouris (GRE), Kostas Niarchos (GRE), Michael Payne (GBR), Claude Jaccard (SUI), Anita DeFrantz (USA), Franco Ascani (ITA), Lamartine Dacosta (BRA), Luc Silance (BEL), David J. Goldberg (USA), Ric Birch (AUS), Miguel de Moragas i Spá (ESP), Myriam Gross-Traverso (SUI), Robert Prince (GBR), Charles Battle (USA), Harold Connolly (USA).

This year 189 young participants, 95 women and 94 men from 83 countries took part in the event. Traditionally the Academy began in Athens on 8 July with a visit of the Acropolis, the National Museum and the Panathenic Stadium. The official opening was celebrated on the Pnyx in the presence of many honorary guests of the Greek State.

On 9 July the participants went to Olympia by bus and took quarters in the Academy which is situated in an adjoining valley close to the ancient Stadium. In a park-like

setting there are lecture rooms, a library, a refectory and many sport facilities.

In Olympia the 37th Session started with a festive hour in front of the steles of Coubertin, Diem and Ketseas. There were 3 to 4 papers given every day followed by discussion groups and sporting activities of the participants. This seminar work was interrupted by visits to the excavation sites, to the two Museums in Olympia and to the beach close by. The Academy was terminated on 19 July with a sporting event and a festive hour on 20 July. On the way back to Athens the excavation sites in Delphi were visited as well. The work and the success of the Academy has been affected from the very beginning by the different states of knowledge of its participants. Some nations are sending specially prepared sport students who had intensively dealt with the Olympic Movement for months before. In Olympia other participants learn for the first time that the Olympic Movement is more than merely a great sport spectacle staged every four years. Ever and again organizers and speakers have to face the problem how to meet the expectations of these two different groups. (Karl Lennartz).

#### 5th SESSION OF THE IOAPA IN OLYMPIA

50 members of the International Olympic Academy Alumni Association (IOAAA) met for the 5th Session in Olympia, 23 to 28 July 1997. In 1985 participants of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) had the idea to inaugurate this Association. A first Session was held in 1989. It is the aim of this organisation to collaborate with the IOA, to keep contacts with former IOA participants and - first of all - to further the Olympic Idea and Olympic Education in their countries. At present the organisation has 450 members; it regularly publishes a Newspaper. Upon recommendation of IOC-member Nikolaos Filaretos it changed its name to International Olympic Academy Participants Association (IOAPA). At the 5th Session participants reported on activities in their countries illustrated by video's. Karl Lennartz gave a paper on "History of Olympic Victory Prizes" and donated an Ernst-Curtius-Medal to Kostas Georgiadis, Dean of the IOA, at the closing ceremony. In the elections for the Board Laurel Brassy-Iversen (USA) and Lone Jakobson (DEN) were re-elected as President and Secretary. (Karl Lennartz).

#### NAGANO 1998

\* As of 5th September 1997, 83 NOCs had entered to take part in the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano. (Highlights, Number 282, 19th September 1997).

\*The opening match of the men's curling competition at the Winter Games in Nagano next year will be played between a team from the host country Japan and the Canadian team, on 7th February. On the same day, the first match in the

women's tournament will feature the world champions, Canada, and the United States.

\* The Coordination Commission for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, chaired by IOC member Marc Hodler, met on the 21st and 22nd September in Nagano with the organizing committee (NAOC), which is presided over by Eishiro Saito.

During the visit the International Ski Federation (FIS) proposed various solutions for raising the starting point of the men's downhill. (Highlights, Number 283, 26th September 1997).

#### SYDNEY 2000

\* Work began on building the village which will accommodate the 15,300 athletes and officials taking part in the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. Construction will cost some 470 million Australian dollars. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 276, 8th August 1997).

\* Australia's famous Bondi beach will be the venue for the beach volleyball events at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. The beach volleyball competition will comprise 84 athletes (48 men and 36 women). (The Weeks Olympic News, Number 277, 15th August 1997).

\* The IOC Executive Board approved the proposal to include slalom canoe and trampolining on the sports programme of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000, while the inclusion of women's waterpolo is still pending discussions between the IOC and the International Swimming Federation (FINA). (Highlights, Number 280, 6th September 1997).

\* The International Broadcast Centre (IBC) for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney 2000 will be located at the Myers Grace Bros. site in Homebush, and will be the biggest in Olympic Games history. Situated to the west of the Olympic Stadium, the IBC will cover 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> and provide pictures and sound from every Olympic Games venue. It will operate 24 hours a day. (Highlights, Number 282, 19th September 1997).

\* September saw the start of the Festival of Dreaming, the first of the cultural events for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad, held on the steps of the Sydney Opera house in the presence of Olympics Minister and SOCOG President Michael Knight. This festival will feature more than 300 events performed by some 400 artists, with the central theme of indigenous Australian culture. (Highlights, Number 282, 19th September 1997).

\* According to an announcement by Australia's prime minister John Howard, the Olympic flame for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney will pass through all the Oceanic countries which have an NOC, on its way from Greece to Australia.

American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji,

Guam, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa will all be visited by the torch, which leaves Olympia (Greece) in May 2000 for a five-month journey before lighting the cauldron in Sydney's Olympic Stadium on 15th September. Kevan Gosper, IOC Executive Board member and president of the Oceanic National Olympic Committees (ONOC), said that Australia owes this gesture to its Pacific neighbours. (Highlights, Number 283, 26th September 1997).

\* Football is the only Olympic sport that will be played outside Sydney during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

SOCOG has agreed to the FIFA's request to start the first round preliminary matches early. This will occur only in the interstate cities and will result in matches played on the Wednesday and Thursday (13 and 14 September 2000), two days before the Opening Ceremony in Sydney. This allows a greater period between matches for players to rest, recovery and where necessary travel between cities. This decision also reaffirms Sydney's commitment to the athletes Games.

The Olympic football tournament involve sixteen men's teams and eight women's teams, allocated throughout the four interstate cities: Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra and Melbourne. Teams are drawn into groups of four and play each other once, with the top two teams from each group progressing through to the quarterfinals. With only eight teams in the women's tournament, the top two progress straight to the semifinals.

From this point on, the knockout system applies, as does the golden-goal rule (in the case of a drawn game), where the first team to score in extra-time is declared the winner.

Most matches will be played in the interstate cities but eight sessions, including all medal round matches, will be played in Sydney. The men's final will be played on Saturday 30 September 2000 at the Olympic Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park.

The men's Olympic tournament is limited to players under 23-years old, with the exception of three over-age players.

Football is likely to be the highest attended sport at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The large capacity of the various stadiums and the number of games to be played will result in almost 1.5 million tickets available for sale. (SYDNEY SPIRIT, Number 1, September 1997)

#### Salt Lake City 2002

\*Support for the 2002 Winter Games is at its lowest ever following a spate of resignations and closed-door sessions by organizers to choose a new president and chairman.

The Deseret News Poll, showed just 53 percent of the 404 Utah residents interviewed said they now support the state's Olympic efforts.

Governor Mike Leavitt and Salt Lake Mayor Deedee Corradini jointly announced that Bob Garff, a car dealer

and former Utah House Speaker, would be the SLOC's new chairman.

Garff, chief executive of Garff Enterprises and its 17 Utah auto dealerships, replaced Frank Joklik, the longtime chairman. Joklik was chosen to replace Tom Welch as SLOC president and chief executive in August. Garff, whose position is unpaid, said he intended to make sure the Games' expenses do not exceed the revenues. (Associated Press, 2nd October 1997).

#### NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

\* Benjamin T. Wright (ISOH-member) of the United States has been elected to the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame. (Olympic Beat, July 1997, Volume 12, Number 6).

\* During the IOC session in Lausanne, it was decided to suspend the Ecuadorian Olympic Committee with immediate effect, in application of Rule 25, paragraph 1.1.3b of the Olympic Charter. This decision was made in the interests of the sports movement and the athletes of the country, who will still be able to take part in all competitions. (Highlights, Number 280, 6th September 1997).

\* The IOC has informed the NOC's that the procedure for submitting candidatures to host the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006 has begun, in accordance with Rule 37 of the Olympic Charter. The NOC's will have until 1st February 1998 to present bids.

\* Ludwig Maibohm, famous radio reporter and sports journalist, who reported most of the famous German boxer Max Schmeling's fights (the one against Joe Louis among others) and the German football-matches in many European and World Championships, died in Munich on 21st October 1997. He was 83 years old and had been ill for a long time.

\* A conference on promoting women in sport was held in Dublin, Ireland, on 17th and 18th October. Hosted by the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI), the conference was opened by Patrick Hickey, president of the OCI and IOC member. The main speaker was IOC vice-president Anita DeFrantz, who delivered lectures on 'The importance of women in sport' and 'An overview of female Olympic participation'. Other speakers included Michelle de Bruin, triple Olympic champion at the 1996 Games in Atlanta, and the women's pentathlon gold medallist from the Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich, Mary Peters. The event was attended by 200 delegates representing all the major national sports bodies and women's organizations in Ireland. (The Week's Olympic News, Number 288, 31st October 1997).

#### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

\* The International Dance Sport Federation, International Rugby Football Board and the International Surfing Association were granted outright recognition by the 106th IOC Session, held in Lausanne from 3rd to 6th September.

This recognition does not mean that they will become part of the Olympic programme, however. (Highlights, Number 281, 12th September 1997).

\* A total of 100 athletes (50 men and 50 women) will take part in the triathlon competition at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in 2000, according to information given by the International Triathlon Union (ITU).

\* The International Judo Federation (IJF), headed by Yong Sung Park, during its Congress in Paris, modified its weight categories as follows (old categories in brackets):

MEN: 60 kg, 66 kg(65), 73 kg(71), 81 kg(78), 90 kg(86), -100 kg(-95), +100 kg(+95).

WOMEN: 48 kg, 52 kg, 57 kg(56), 63 kg(61), 70 kg(66), -78 kg(-72), +78 kg(+72).

(The Weeks Olympic News, Number 285, 10th October 1997).

#### OLYMPIC SECURITY

WARNING WENT UNHEEDED - BALANCING SECURITY, PUBLIC ACCESS STILL THE KEY ISSUE!

A crude bomb of nails and screws exploded in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park a year ago, killing one, injuring 111 others and shattering the boast of organizers that the 1996 games would be "the safest place on the planet". Law enforcement officials still are struggling to learn who planted the bomb and why, and whether the attack on July 27, 1996, was a lone act of terror or part of a wider conspiracy by some unknown group.

But why was a terrorist able to plant the device in Centennial Park in the first place? With three more Olympics scheduled over the next five years - each a potential terrorist target - the answer to that question may have the most serious implications of all.

A USA-Today examination of the Olympic bombing finds that top officials of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games knew of a danger as early as the summer of 1994.

Interviews and documents obtained by the newspaper show that organizers were warned by a half-dozen of their advisers and law enforcement representatives that the Centennial Park could be a prime target for terror and needed more protection.

Officials decided instead to leave the 21-acre park, the public core of the Olympic complex, relatively open to the public, without the metal detectors in use almost everywhere else at the games. Officials calculated that movement of crowds outweighed the danger, and that surveillance by security forces could prevent an assault on the 5.3 million visitors to the park over the two Olympic weeks.

In one analysis, the Olympic Stadium, the Olympic Village for athletes, and the park were named as the three sites that would be the most attractive to a terrorist looking to disrupt the games. During the games, the stadium and

village were protected by metal detectors. The park was not.

Officials acknowledge that recommendations were made to install metal detectors at the park. But the same officials dispute suggestions that anyone strongly advocated such safeguards. They also said that, even in retrospect, their decision on minimal security was the correct one.

In an interview with USA TODAY, Rathburn, the security director for the Olympic committee, acknowledged that increased security might have deterred the threat. But he said metal detectors would have slowed the flow of people using the park. That “would have just pushed (the attack) out to Peachtree and Techworld (streets near the park), where the crowd would have been”, he said.

Any discussion of security at the 1996 Olympics has the obvious advantage of hindsight. But the factors that led to the Atlanta decision are being studied carefully by those planning security for the Olympics scheduled for Nagano, Japan, in 1998; Sydney, Australia, in 2000, and Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2002.

Richard Palfreyman, a spokesman for the Sydney Organizing Committee, said the explosion “for the first time concentrated our attention on public spaces. We now have real questions on what we have to do for our public spaces.” Because of the Centennial Park bombing, the committee has decided to use metal detectors and conduct bag searches of people entering the two public gathering areas planned for the Sydney Olympics, Palfreyman said.

Mike Corologos, a spokesman for the Salt Lake Olympic Committee, said the Olympic bombing galvanized his committee to realize “you can never get enough” security.

“We certainly will be more diligent in our security efforts as we lay out the venues,” Corologos said.

The Salt Lake committee wants to present medals to athletes in a nightly ceremony, “a big free celebration, with fireworks and national anthems” in an open, public area, Corologos said. The explosion jolted planners into realizing much more security is needed, he said.

(USA TODAY, July 24, 1997)

International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport (ISHPES)

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