

OLYMPIC NEWS

Olympism

- From 24-27 May 1996, a junior basketball tournament was held in Lausanne, bringing together the teams from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and Switzerland. At the event, President Samaranch noted, "That sport is the universal language, the most important language in the world through which everyone can understand each other." (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 215, 7 June 1996)

International Olympic Committee

- Honorary IOC Member Willi Daume died in München on 20 May 1996. He was instrumental in helping combined German teams to compete in 1956, 1960, and 1964 and was the Head of the 1972 Organizing Committee for the München Olympics. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 213, 24 May 1996).
- VISA has renewed its contract as a world-wide Olympic sponsor via The Olympic Programme (TOP). (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 215, 7 June 1996)
- The IOC and Parke-Davis (a division of Warner-Lambert, a pharmaceutical company) have awarded the first IOC Olympic Prize in Sports Science to Drs. Jeremy N. Morris and Ralph S. Paffenberger for their research into the relationship between physical activity and the prevention of coronary heart disease. The prize, which consists of an award of \$250,000 (US), will be given to the doctors at the opening ceremony of the 105th IOC Session in Atlanta on 14 July. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 218, 28 June 1996)
- The IOC is opening an Olympic Theme Park in München, Germany, sometime in 1998. The park is expected to cost \$50 million (US). IOC Marketing Chief Michael Payne has noted that he expects the park to be a cross between the Olympic Museum in Lausanne and Coca-Cola's Olympic Pavilion in Atlanta. Payne also noted that when it comes to Olympic marketing, "we've only scratched the surface." (*USA Today*, 15 August 1996, p. 9C)
- The 105th IOC Session was conducted shortly prior to the Olympic Games in Atlanta. At this session, ISOH Member Richard Pound (CAN) was again elected as a Vice-President of the Executive Board. Thomas Bach (GER) and Chiharu "Chick" Igaya (JPN) were also elected as Members of the Executive Board. The IOC Executive Board is now composed as follows: President Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP), Vice-President Marc Hodler (SUI), Vice-President Alexandre de Merode (BEL), Vice-President Pál Schmitt (HUN), and Vice-President Pound; Members are Anita DeFrantz (USA), Keba Mbaye (SEN), He Zhenliang (CHN), Kevan Gosper (AUS), Bach and Igaya.
The following replacement IOC Members were named: Guy Drut (FRA), Syed Shahid Ali (PAK), Chang Ung (PRK), Gunilla Lindberg (SWE). Two new IOC Members were

named as follows: Lee Kun-Hee (KOR), Tomas Sithole (ZIM). As proposed by the IOC President, the following International Federation Presidents were elected to IOC Membership: Lu Shengrong (IBF), George Killian (FIBA), Hein Verbruggen (UCI), Ottavio Cinqunta (ISU), and Infanta Doña Pilar de Borbón (FEI).

The Session also approved Article 20, Paragraph 1.3 of the Olympic Charter which reads as follows: “In addition, the President can propose to the Session to elect no more than ten members without distinction of nationality or domicile. However, one member only can be thus elected per country. These elections must be motivated: 1.3.1. by the function of the persons concerned; or 1.3.2. by their particular qualifications. At no time can the number of members so elected exceed ten.”

The Session also amended Article 34.1 of the Olympic Charter, to the effect that, henceforth, the term “country” as applied to the territory of an NOC shall mean an independent State recognized by the international community. This provision does not have retroactive effect. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 221, 19 July 1996; *Sport Intern*, Vol. 28, No. 14, 1 August 1996; *IOC Press Conference Quotes*, 17 July 1996).

- The 106th IOC Session will be held in Lausanne from 3-6 September 1997. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 221, 19 July 1996).
- The IOC has granted the exclusive broadcasting rights for Latin American to OTI for the following Olympic Games, with rights fees following: Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad in Sydney (2000) - \$11 million (US); the 19th Olympic Winter Games (2002) - \$1.25 million (US); Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad (2004) - \$17 million (US); the 20th Olympic Winter Games (2006) - \$1.75 million (US); and Games of the XXIXth Olympiad (2008) - \$27 million (US). (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 222, 26 July 1996).
- In his speech at the Closing Ceremony of the Games of the XXVIth Olympiad, President Juan Antonio Samaranch called for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the bomb at Centennial Olympic Park, but also in memory of those killed by Arab terrorists in the München massacre at the 1972 Olympics. This was the first official recognition of those victims by the IOC since the 1972 Olympics. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 224, 9 August 1996).

International Federations

- The World Taekwondo Federation has announced preliminary figures for participation in the taekwondo competitions at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. There will be four men’s and four women’s classes, and 100 total competitors will take part. (*SporTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1, No. 5, March 1996, p. 31)
- The International Rowing Federation (FISA) has announced a new Rowing World Cup, which will begin in 1997 and consist of a cumulative series of regattas leading up to a World Cup Finals. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 215, 7 June 1996)
- The International Skating Union (ISU) has announced that it will raise the minimum age for figure skaters in international competition from 14 to 15. The rule will begin with the 1996-1997 season and will be in effect at Nagano in 1998. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 219, 5 July 1996)

National Olympic Committees

- The Lithuanian NOC and the Czech Olympic Committee have entered into a cooperation agreement which was signed at the Lithuanian NOC headquarters on 29 May 1996. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 215, 7 June 1996)
- Australia opened its first Centre for Olympic Studies on 21 May at the University of New South Wales. Its activities will include coordinating and publicizing research and teaching on the Olympic Games and assessing the role in which UNSW can contribute to the 2000 Olympics. (*Highlight's of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 215, 7 June 1996)

1996 Olympic Games

- The following doping violations were announced at the Atlanta Olympic Games:
 - Estella Rodriguez Villanueva (CUB-JUF) tested positive for Lasix (furosemide) after winning silver in the judo unlimited class. Despite this the IOC gave her only a reprimand and allowed the medal to stand.
 - Zafar Guliyev, bronze medalist in Greco-Roman wrestling, 48kg. class tested positive for bromantan. Andrey Korneyev, bronze medal in swimming 200 metre breaststroke tested positive for bromantan. Rita Razmaite, 13th place in track cycling match sprint, tested positive for bromantan. Nina Zhivanevskaya of Russia, who finished 8th in the women's 200 metre backstroke swimming, tested positive for bromantan. Marina Trandenkova (RUS), after finishing 5th in 100 metre final for women, tested positive for bromantan.
 - Lithuanian cycling officials (one coach [Boris Vasilyez] and one physician [Vitaly Slionssarenko]) were also initially expelled from the Olympics because of offenses involving performance-enhancing drugs, namely bromantan.
 - At the end of the Olympic Games, the above five athletes, and the Lithuanian coach and physician, were reinstated after a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. This ruling was effected because bromantan had only recently (5 July 1996) been added to the list of proscribed substances.
 - Irish 5K runner Marie McMahon, who finished 14th in heat two, round one, and was found to have taken phenylpropranolamine which was contained in an OTC cold remedy. She was given only a warning because of extenuating circumstances.
 - Natalya Shekhodanova (BUL), 7th in women's 100 metre hurdles, disqualified for a positive doping test for steroids.
 - Iva Prankdheva (BUL), 4th in women's triple jump, disqualified for a positive doping test for steroids. (IOC Press Releases at Atlanta)

1998 Olympic Winter Games

- Japanese television rights for Nagano have been awarded and announced for several regions. Japanese rights were bought by a "pool" of Japanese networks for \$37.5 millions (US). Australian rights sold to Channel 7 for \$9.25 million (US). South African rights sold to SABC for \$1.25 million. Latin American rights sold to OTI for \$958,000 (US). (*SportTime: The Official Magazine of GAISF/Sportel/Sportec*, Vol. 1, No. 5, March 1996, p. 59)

- Nagahisa Ono, head of the Japanese Skating Federation, has announced that the International Skating Union (ISU) will raise the minimum age for figure skaters competing at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano from 14 to 15. The new rule will be enforced starting with the 1996-1997 season. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 219, 5 July 1996)
- The IOC and the Nagano Organizing Committee have signed a contract for \$72 million (US) with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) for the European television rights to the Games. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 222, 26 July 1996)

2000 Olympic Games

- The New South Wales government has revised the budget for Olympic-related construction, increasing the numbers to \$1.914 billion (Aus) from the original \$1.544 billion (Aus). (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 213, 24 May 1996)

2004 Olympic Games

- On 15 August 1996, 11 cities (a record) made official bids by submitting their bid packages to the IOC for the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad. The cities submitting bids were: Athens, Greece; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; Lille, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome, Italy; St. Petersburg, Russia; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Seville, Spain; and Stockholm, Sweden. The evaluation commission for the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad in 2004, chaired by IOC Executive Board Member Thomas Bach, will be visiting the 11 bid cities in the following order: 16-20 September: St Petersburg (Russia); 20-24 September: Stockholm (Sweden); 24-28 September: Lille (France); 12-16 October: Seville (Spain); 16-20 October: Rome (Italy); 20-24 October: Istanbul (Turkey); 24-28 October: Athens (Greece); 16-20 November: San Juan (Puerto Rico); 21-25 November: Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); 25-29 November: Buenos Aires (Argentina); and 6-10 December: Cape Town (South Africa). (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 226, 23 August 1996).

2006 Olympic Winter Games

- The Tyrolean capital, Innsbruck, is hoping to organize its third Olympic Winter Games in 2006, and has just set up a committee to promote this candidature. The group includes former skiing champion Toni Sailer, Austrian Olympic Committee vice president Arnold Koller, architect Josef Lackner, university professor Elmar Kornexl and leading businessmen. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 226, 23 August 1996).

2008 Olympic Games

- The members of the provincial assembly of Osaka have given unanimous approval for a bid by that city to host the 2008 Olympic Games. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 215, 7 June 1996)