

CONTENTS

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Letter from the President |
| 2 | IAAF Council News |
| 3 | From the General Secretary |
| 4 | Jose Maria Odriozola profile |
| 6 | Forum - Change of Allegiance |
| 8 | Competition News |
| 9 | Elite Athlete Programme |
| 10 | World Athletics Day |
| 11 | Anti-Doping News |
| 12 | Area and Federation News |
| 14 | Whatever happened to - Ulrike Meyfarth? |
| 15 | Paul Tergat goes for glory |
| 16 | Birthdays |



Mr Diack was pleased to award Portugal's President Jorge Sampaio the IAAF Golden Order of Merit on the occasion of the World Indoor Championships in Lisbon.

PhotoAllsport

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Spring is with us and, as well as hoping for a bright future, we can already recall some recent successes for our movement.

The 8th IAAF World Indoor Championships, in Lisbon, was well organised and the Portuguese people offered an enthusiastic audience. Best of all, the athletes responded in kind, creating an exciting spectacle and some excellent performances.

We witnessed some great new talents - like the 20 year-old Russian Yuriy Borzakovskiy - and saw just what willpower means in our sport. In particular, I refer to one of the most moving moments in the Atlantic Pavilion when the home crowd - including the President of the Portuguese Republic Jorge Sampaio - cheered the victory of local favourite Rui Silva in the 1500m.

Talent, willpower and solidarity are three values that are the foundations of progress for individuals and society as a whole and the sport of athletics has always upheld them as symbols.

In this spring of 2001 we can see again how essential they are in our daily work and how they enable athletics to succeed in the difficult, competitive world of modern sport.

Willpower and solidarity, were combined with great professional skill, to enable us to host the 29th edition of the IAAF World Cross Country Championships on 24-25 March.

This annual competition, which brings together nearly a thousand athletes from all over the world, was scheduled to take place in Dublin. But just three weeks before the event, the government of the Irish Republic was obliged to force its cancellation because of the foot and mouth epidemic.

This was when we saw the full extent of the solidarity of the athletics



Lamine Diack presents Belgium's Deputy-Prime Minister Johan Vande Lanotte with an IAAF Plaque in recognition of the exceptional support offered to the IAAF by the Belgian Authorities

movement and how our members will work day and night, sacrificing their personal interests, for the general good. Members of the Belgian Federation, working with the government authorities and the City of Ostend, with the support of the organisers of the Ivo van Damme Memorial Meeting, moved mountains to host our World Championships.

In the end, it was a great competition. In conditions guaranteed to satisfy the cross country "purist" there were some excellent performances. It was a great success for the IAAF, the athletes, and our friends in Belgium. The greatest reward for them came, at the event's climax, when their own champion - Mohammed Mourhit - successfully defended his world title.

We should remember those, in Lisbon and in Ostend, who have been the authors of these magnificent spring rites. This augurs well for the summer months, when we will all meet in Edmonton to celebrate our Congress and the 8th World Championships, the highlight of our sport's calendar.

Lamine Diack

IAAF COUNCIL SELECTS WORLD ATHLETICS SERIES VENUES AT MEETING IN LISBON

IAAF Council met in Lisbon, Portugal, from 11 to 13 March on the occasion of the 8th IAAF World Indoor Championships in Athletics. After its first session it announced the venues of a number of IAAF World Athletics Series events.

The World Cross Country Championships will be staged at the following locations:

2002, Dublin, Republic of Ireland – This decision was taken at the request of the Irish Federation, who were originally scheduled to stage the Championships later this month, but had to desist due to restrictions resulting from the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. The following editions will be:

2003, Lausanne, Switzerland
2004, Brussels, Belgium
2005, Le Mans, France

The 2002 IAAF Grand Prix Final will be staged in the Stade de Charlety, in Paris, which previously

hosted the 1994 edition of this event.

The 2003 World Half Marathon Championships will be held in Vilamoura, Portugal.

The 2003 World Youth Championships will be held in Sherbrooke, Canada. Sherbrooke is a major university city with a population of 200,000 inhabitants, situated 140 kilometres from Montreal. The Championships will be held within the University complex.

In its second session on 12 March, Council heard a presentation from the Organising Committee of the 2001 World Half Marathon Championships (Bristol), Council also discussed a report from the Race Walking Committee and agreed to some rule changes related to the duties of the Chief Judge, the appointment of an assistant to the Chief Judge and communication of warnings to competitors. These rule changes will be enforced at the World

Championships in Edmonton. It was also agreed that the Level III Judges Panel should be reduced in order to increase its efficiency.

The afternoon session of 12 March also included review and discussion of a modernisation programme for the IAAF working structures.

In its Final session, Following the recommendations of the Anti-Doping Commission, Council decided to refer the case of Mihaela Melinte (ROM) to Arbitration. In the case of the British athlete Mark Richardson, Council considered, but did not accept, a request for early reinstatement for Richardson presented by UK Athletics.

Nevertheless, Council welcomed a proposal from UK Athletics for Richardson to carry out a series of educational activities, warning young athletes about the dangers of contaminated food supplements (see page 11), and agreed that it would reconsider the reinstatement request at a later date.

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In addition, Council expressed its dissatisfaction with earlier public announcements made by UK Athletics related to nandrolone analysis which were proved wrong once the investigation of Richardson's case had been finalised.

Council also heard a report from the IAAF Technical Committee, which included a number of technical rule change proposals.

These will be presented to the IAAF Congress in August for consideration. One rule change suggestion is that an athlete in events under 400m in length shall be disqualified for making one false start, rather than two.

It is also proposed that in vertical jumps, athletes shall exit a competition after two consecutive failures at a height rather than three; that in the Pole Vault, the pole vault pegs be reduced from 75mm to 55mm; and that the take-over zone in relays should be, in total, 30 rather than 20 metres long.

It was decided that some of these rule changes will be tested at IAAF Grand Prix II events prior to the Edmonton Congress.

Council agreed that the Decathlon would be introduced as a new event for women, although the Heptathlon would be retained as the official Championship event, and also decided to maintain the 200m at the World Indoor Championships.

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY ...

A lot has happened since the last edition of the IAAF News was published, and I would like to highlight what I believe are the most salient issues.

ABC and ESPN broadcast Athletics

The best news was the announcement of the deal with the US network ABC and the market leader cable company ESPN, which ensures that the most important athletics events of the next three years can be seen by the American public on television.

Helping athletics thrive in the USA, quite understandably, has always been part of the IAAF's strategy. Though America has produced so many great athletes, past and present, organised with great success the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984 and Atlanta in 1996, yet the status and profile of athletics, in terms of fans and sponsors, is still relatively modest. With ABC and ESPN showing Edmonton 2001, being the first World Championships in the North American continent, as well as the Golden League meetings, we hope that our sport will receive an important boost in the United States.

Finances - ISL

Since this major TV agreement was brokered by our marketing partner ISL, it is only right to reiterate the IAAF's position regarding the current financial crisis gripping this long term associate. First of all, the IAAF sincerely hopes that ISL will be able to find a solution to its present difficulties. We have worked for more than 15 years with ISL and there are bonds of loyalty based on long-term relationships. But, of course, we are also watching the situation very closely, and awaiting the ultimate

resolution of judicial proceedings in ISL's native Switzerland.

As a reply to those who expressed concern over the last few weeks, I can reiterate that there are no immediate financial consequences facing our federation. The IAAF will honour all contracted commitments toward our athletes, organisers, broadcasters and official partners. Furthermore, we are also confident that the IAAF's marketing programme will continue to be successful whether the rights are handled by ISL, a new partner, or the IAAF itself.

No false start and other rules

All this comes at a time when the IAAF Offices are busier than ever. We are currently processing the more than two hundred proposals for IAAF Rule changes and will send out the complete collection to our Member Federations by the end of this month. This will allow them time to make a very serious, careful, study of the proposals before the Congress in Edmonton. It is clearly understood that some of these proposals - such as banning false starts for races up to 400m, or having a maximum of two attempts instead of three in vertical jumps- will have a profound effect on the very nature of our sport if they are accepted. We are aware that the proposals are widely discussed not only by athletes, coaches, the media and officials but also by fans showing that the entire athletic community knows how big a responsibility the decision about such change is.

Africa shows the way

Between April 14 -16, I attended the Congress of the African Amateur Athletics Confederation (AAAC), in Dakar, Senegal. At a well-prepared and well-run Congress, the desire to be a unified Family was evident. One of the



Kenyan President receives the IAAF Golden Order of Merit

Lamine Diack, visited Kenya at the end of February to see the new headquarters of the Kenyan Amateur Athletics Association and visit other facilities as a guest of IAAFCouncil Member Isaiah Kiplagat.

Diack also visited the offices of the President of the Republic of Kenya, Daniel Arap Moi, and awarded him the IAAF Golden Order of Merit in recognition of his country's on-going contribution to the casue of world athletics

In the picture, President Moi accompanied by Noah Katana Ngala, Kenya's Minister for Sport, receives his award from Lamine Diack

ISTVAN GYULAI
continued from page 3

most significant decisions taken by the delegates was to support a resolution put forward by President Diack to drop the word "amateur" from the Confederation's name. The decision of the African athletics movement to change a name that has stood since the organisation's foundation in 1973, is a pioneering step, indeed setting an example for the world to follow.

Another resolution adopted by the Confederation is also ground breaking. From 2005, at least 20% of the positions in decision-making bodies of the AAC must be filled by women, an applaudable sign of the increasing acceptance of women in athletics on the African continent.

The Congress, which was attended for the first time by all national federations, also – unanimously – agreed to support Lamine Diack's candidacy to the Presidency of the IAAF on the occasion of the elections in Edmonton.

I was impressed by the responsible and professional attitude of the participants at this Congress. Under President Lamine Diack's leadership over 28 years, Africa has come of age, not just in terms of the performance of its long-renowned athletes, but also in terms of visionary thinking and professional management of our sport.

A step towards professionalisation

The IAAF itself is also aiming for greater professionalism in its management structure. The IAAF Council recently decided to propose to

Congress that the General Secretary shall be a nominated, ex officio rather than elected Member of the Council with a voice but without a vote.

Being convinced that greater efficiency could be achieved by separating elected and executive functions, I have decided, pending of course Congress approval, to relinquish my elected position on the Council and to contribute instead, "full time", in an executive capacity to the future development of our sport. If Congress approves, an obvious consequence will be the need for an election to fill one more vacant seat on the Council. Member Federations have already been advised of this possibility, with the deadline for candidatures set at 30 April.

Istvan Gyulai

**SPOTLIGHT ON
JOSE MARIA
ODRIOZOLA**

Prof. José María Odriozola is an IAAF Council Member and President of the Royal Spanish Athletics Federation. He is a professor of biochemistry at the University of Madrid. He has been an active athlete since his schooldays and has competed in all age groups from youth to veteran

How did you become involved in athletics?

I began running middle distance races as a schoolboy, in 1954. My first official race was over 2000m. Later, I finished 5th in the National Youth Championships at 600m. Afterwards, I competed as a

junior at 400m, 800m and 1500m. I was part of the Spanish National Team in the early 1960s and became the Spanish University Champion at 800m.

My best times were 49.7, 1:53.0 and 4:04.4. As a veteran (over 40), I started running marathons and have run 30 races. My personal best is 2:34:34, which I achieved in 1983, in Barcelona. In 1979, I finished 5th over 800m at the World Veterans Championships in Hanover.

What do you personally gain from the sport?

Self-confidence, international contacts, a healthy lifestyle and a mental approach which is goal-oriented.

Is there an athlete or a moment in particular that inspired you?

When I was young, I especially admired Peter Snell (triple Olympic Champion 800m/1500m in 1960 and 1964) and Herb Elliot (1960 Olympic Champion at 1500m). Of course, for me, there are also special memories connected to the victories of Spanish athletes such as Fermin Cacho in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Martin Fiz at the 1995 World Championships in Göteborg or Abel Anton at the World Championships in Athens (1997) and Seville (1999).

Have you ever been involved in athletics in a different way, as a coach or official, or been active in other sports?

Before I started running

competitively, I was involved in swimming competitions and had some local success. During my years as a University student in Madrid I also played Rugby and, for several years my club "Cisneros" was champion of Spain.

I was also selected to play for the national team. This sport gave me the opportunity to enjoy myself in the winter while waiting for the athletics season to start in the summer. For years, I was President of an athletic club (Canguro, founded in 1956 and still in existence). This led to my nomination as a Board Member of the Spanish Federation in 1967 where my first post was as Team Leader of the National Teams. I left the Board to work in the USA (Harvard University) after being granted a three year Fellowship in Biochemistry Research. In 1981, I returned as a Board Member and I am still involved today.

Do you have children. Are they active in the sports world?

In 1970, I married Gunilla, who is Swedish, and we have two boys, Pekka and Gorka. They have always been very active in sports, especially in football and tennis. They have also taken part in several road races with the aim of trying to beat me. I must admit that after several attempts they succeeded.

Could you explain more about your work as a Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Madrid?

ODRIOZOLA INTERVIEW

Continued from p4

I studied Biological Sciences in the University of Madrid and after obtaining my degree I entered the field of Lipid Metabolism research which led me to a PhD in Biochemistry.

I went to Cambridge (Mass, USA) to work for three years as a Research Fellow in the Harvard University Chemistry Department before returning to the University of Madrid as an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry. In 1981, I became a Biochemistry Professor in the University of Leon, and in 1984, I was successful in obtaining the same position at my "alma mater", Madrid.

I have taught Metabolic Regulation to students in three Faculties and for many years have been involved in researching related matters with a special emphasis on "Biochemistry and Nutrition in Sport".

What are your hobbies and interests?

In recent years, due to my work at the University and in athletics, I haven't had much time for hobbies. But I have always enjoyed music, the theatre and movies. Taking advantage of any free time during my trips to the many competitions which I am required to attend, my favourite pastime is to walk the streets observing local people, their cultures and architecture.

As President of the RFEA, how would you account for Spain's success in athletics, most particularly in the middle and long distance events?

I was first elected as President in January 1989 and at the fantastic Olympic Games of Barcelona in 1992, Spanish athletics excelled itself, and has continued to improve since then. Our objectives are based on the long term, taking special care in the development of all athletic specialities for athletes of all ages. It's a fact that most of our success has been in middle and long distance events including race walking. Nevertheless, we have also had champions in decathlon, long jump and shot put. It was during this phase that we placed Spanish athletics on the map, with a good programme of economic grants for

athletes, skill improvement for more than 100 Spanish coaches and organising an extensive calendar of indoor, outdoor, cross country and road race competitions.

Looking back to 1999, could you explain the impact that the World Championships had in Seville and throughout Spain?

The World Championships in Seville was a huge success. This was largely due to the fantastic atmosphere throughout the championships created by the good performances and success of the participating Spanish athletes. This event gave athletics in Spain a lot of public attention and recognition, so, our potential with regard to important sponsors, increased. And perhaps the most obvious legacy of the championships is the magnificent stadium of Seville where the annual Grand Prix II Meetings is now held.

The question of national allegiance is currently a major topic of discussion. What is your opinion on the subject? And how do you explain why so many athletes are changing allegiance in favour of some countries (Spain, France, United States)? (Linguistic similarities, financial support, training support and facilities...)

In a "global" world, it's normal for people to move from one country to another, in search of a better life, new and challenging work opportunities or simply for a change. In my field, many biochemists travel to the USA to work for a number of years. Some even remain there and become US citizens, like Severo Ochoa, Nobel Prize winner.

At the top level, athletics is a profession, therefore it's normal for athletes to try and improve their earning potential or to achieve better athletic results. In the Spanish Athletic Federation, we are not in favour of "importing" athletes just to improve our position. In the past decade or so, we have only had three well known cases (Sandra Myers, Yousef El Nasri and Niurka Montalvo). In reality, we receive many requests from Spanish speaking athletes and those coming from North Africa but we don't try and speed up the normal procedures. There are laws and several

years of residence are necessary before a person can become a Spanish citizen. However, we do feel that if a person is looking for a better chance to train or develop a successful athletic career which is not possible in another country, then they should have the right to change. Furthermore, if the law is respected and an athlete becomes a citizen of another country, he/she should have the right to compete in the respective national team.

Spain has organised many IAAF competitions in recent years, culminating in the 1999 World Championships in Seville. Is bidding for major events still a part of the Spanish federation's strategy?

During the 1990s, the Spanish Federation organised more IAAF/EAA main athletic events than any other Federation in the world. However, there are still a few events which we have never organised, like the European Championships or the World Junior Championships. We feel that organising major events is positive for the continuing well-being and popularity of sport in Spain and our aim is to continue with this philosophy. Presently, we are candidates for the 2006 European Championships (Barcelona) and the 2002 IAAF World Cup (Madrid). My hope is to obtain them both.

You have been outspoken in your views on anti-doping in sport. What do you think the IAAF needs to change in its anti-doping policy?

For me, as a member of the Spanish National Anti Doping Commission and also as member of the IAAF Council, the fight against doping is fundamental. We need to maintain the ethics and good health of our sport. The IAAF remains a front runner amongst other sport federations regarding this matter.

However, I also think we must improve the effectiveness of our out-of-competition programme. The co-operation of all National Federations is fundamental in this respect.

I hope that this will be possible and that the IAAF continues to serve as an example to other Federations in the effective fight against doping.

IAAF FORUM

The question of athletes changing allegiance has raised some controversy in recent years. The IAAF asked a number of experts the following question ...

“Do you agree that an athlete, who has already competed at senior international level for his country of birth, should be permitted to compete for another nation? Or should the IAAF consider adopting the rules of football, where such transfers of allegiance are not possible?”

**Kareem Streete-Thompson (CAY)
Olympic athlete who represented Cayman Islands, then the USA and is now back with Cayman Islands**

I agree the rule that an athlete can change allegiance, but has to wait three years.

I don't think that an athlete should be limited to a country just because they represented that country internationally. There are many complications that can lead to an athlete representing a country that he or she may not want to.

I was born in the US, but I spent my first 18 years in the Cayman Islands, so it was only natural that I represented them internationally. My decision to represent the US came at a time where I felt like I needed that extra challenge to take me to the elite level of track and field. On a financial level, I felt like I would become more marketable if I represented the US.

The shoe companies seemed to be more receptive to the idea of me as a US athlete, so it made the decision much easier. During this period, I never felt any emotional ties to the

US since I never grew up there. My allegiance to the US was based on the support that the USA Track and Field federation gave me while I was competing for them. Thanks to their help, I was able to establish myself as one of the premier athletes in the world. My heart was always with the Cayman Islands, so when the opportunity to go return to them came up in 1999, I jumped at it. Now, I am truly happy because I can finish my career there, and hopefully bring Cayman their first Olympic medal.

**Driss Maazouzi (FRA)
Olympic athlete, who formerly represented Morocco**

I do not agree with the three years waiting period. I believe this goes against the athlete. When one decided to change nationality, there are valuable reasons. Sometime, there is no choice and stopping competing for three years is too long. One does not know after all if it's worth it.

The football rule is even worse than the IAAF's. Too many things go through the athletes mind and this does not lead to anything good.

I have reached the level I have today thanks to France's support. I left Morocco 11 years ago and it is in France that I really improved my running and my performances.

My family lives in France. Back in Morocco I had some problems with the Technical director of the Federation, I didn't agree with him and didn't want to do what he asked me to. I contacted Philippe Lamblin, the President of the French Federation and here I am.

But three years is really too much.

**Ibrahima Wade (FRA)
Olympic athlete who formerly represented Senegal**

I have been living in France since 1995 and got married in France. I wanted to contribute to the development of this country and represent the nation where I live.

Mine was a personal choice, I have always maintained good relations with my country of origin and never encountered any problem with my

Federation. That's just how life goes.

Jose Maria Odriozola. IAAF Council Member and President of the Spanish Athletics Federation

Football is a team sport, based around the professional club system, and the players who change nationality are able to play for new clubs without problems. National teams are less important, economically and also when it comes to winning titles.

Athletics is an individual sport but for the most important competitions (Olympics, World and Continental Championships), the athletes must represent a National Team.

I feel that we should allow athletes, who have been living in another country for an agreed amount of time, to change their nationality and to compete in the major championships for their new country. If not, it would be unfair and we risk losing important stars from our major competitions.

Jean Poczbout, IAAF Council Member and former President of the French Athletics Federation

The right to change nationality, and therefore represent another country at an international level of competition seems to me totally justifiable for an athlete, regardless of whether he or she has already competed for his country of origin.

However, I find it justifiable on condition that the athlete finds advantages to his social status (professional opportunities, political refuge of family ties). I do on the other hand find it shocking that athletes are pressured by their host countries, whether it with regards to mental issues or financial propositions.

I know this problem well, as France is a country that is fairly open to foreigners. I can honestly say that I have never proposed to an athlete to change nationality, despite the fact that they had may have been a member of a FFA training group for many years.

The choice to change nationality is a right that belongs to the athlete and to the athlete alone, and should be taken without any intervention from his/her sporting environment.

The football rule is linked to the fact that, in that sport, the players are subject to commercial transactions between clubs from different countries which can lead to the problems we are currently witnessing in the news with the cases of fake passports.

Luckily, we are sheltered from this type of negotiating in athletics...and I hope we will never see the day when our athletes are considered as goods for sale!

Hansjorg Wirz, IAAF Council Member and EAA President

I am personally not against athletes changing nationality, and feel the point to clarify here is that team and individual sports cannot be compared.

I do, however, feel that we should implement clearer rules regarding the change of allegiance. For the moment we rely only on the rules of citizenship, and we need a solution to harmonise the situation and make

the change of allegiance the same for everybody. Of course this rule would need certain criteria to be fulfilled. This is an important issue and can project a bad impression of the sport.

For instance in skiing, one of the best cross country skiers at the moment, Muhlegg, changed nationality from Germany to Spain, which generated a lot of negative publicity, another changed from Austria to Luxembourg, and the reasons the athletes generally give are that they have a bad relationship with their original national federations.

This is also an issue at the Olympic level where discussions are being held to discuss a possible rule change - change of allegiance in under three years (except for exceptional circumstances like refugees). We must have a rule which is the same for everybody, providing harmony, but not as extreme as that of football.

Bent Erik Bengtsson, Head of Nordic Office at FIS (International Ski Federation)

In skiing there are actually relatively few examples of athletes

changing nationality. The case of Mr Muhlegg (as mentioned in Mr Wirz's statement above) was an extremely lengthy and complicated case, and in fact, the athlete in question still lives and trains in Germany, although he has an address in Spain.

If the athlete's initial federation does not agree with the change, we apply the rule whereby the athlete should wait one year after obtaining citizenship before competing at a major event.

In the world we live in today, people move around all the time from country to country and if they wish to change nationality why not? We should remember that to change allegiance is a very lengthy process, which can take sometimes up to three or four years.

So if an athlete wants to change and accepts the break in the middle of their career because of that, they understand the consequences and obviously deem it necessary, who are we to try and stop them?

This topic will soon be opened on the IAAF Forums at www.iaaf.org



Bucharest street named after the late President

The widow of the late IAAF President Primo Nebiolo, Giovanna, travelled to Romania on 17 March for an unveiling ceremony of a street which has been named after her husband.

In the presence of Romanian sports stars like Iolanda Balas, Nadia Comaneci and Maricia Puica, Mrs Nebiolo was delighted to note that "number 2" on this street is the Headquarters of the Romanian Athletics Federation - one of the world's most successful nations in athletics, particularly in women's disciplines.

Photo courtesy of the Romanian Athletics Federation

IAAF delegation visits site of 2005 World Championships

An IAAF delegation, led by President Lamine Diack, visited the London site of the 2005 World Championships on 26 March.

President Diack, speaking after a meeting with the Secretary of State for Media, Culture and Sport Chris Smith, declared that he was "Reassured, and confident that there will be great edition of the World Championships in 2005. I came over with some concerns following newspaper reports which rumoured that there were problems both with the site and the funding. Now, I have been there and have seen that this is a green area, with a lake and reservoir near where the stadium will be built. I also saw the plans - which are excellent - particularly because after the World Championships the stadium will be used for smaller events and will incorporate an indoor High Performance training centre. This does not exist at the moment in

the south of the England, where there are so many young talents. This stadium will be good for British - and world - athletics in the long run.

Diack and his delegation, which included the IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai, the General Director Pierre Weiss and the Honorary Treasurer Robert Stinson, was accompanied to Pickett's Lock by the Chief Executive of UK Athletics David Moorcroft, who was able to demonstrate plans and a scale model of the proposed facility - which will seat 43,000 at full capacity and up to 20,000 for smaller events. "This has been a marvellous opportunity to bring the President completely up to date with our plans for Lee Valley," said Moorcroft. "All that remains now is for UK Athletics and the IAAF to sign the contract for the Championships."

Following the visit and the meeting at the Department of Media, Culture and Sport, the IAAF Delegation were invited to dine at the House of Commons by Kate Hoey, Britain's Minister for Sport.



David Moorcroft and Chris Smith were happy to show the IAAF delegates a model of the planned facility at Lee Valley, north east London



Colton makes headlines in athletics again

Terry Colton has been appointed Director of the 2003 IAAF World Indoor Championships, which will be held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham - 32 years after he first made headlines in athletics. On 10 January 1969, Terry clocked a World age best of 3:58.9 for 1500m, racing against Seniors at the National Indoor Championships at Cosford.

Later in his athletics career he represented England at Cross Country and achieved a marathon best of 2:14. Now aged 48, Terry is an experienced sports executive. He started work with a sports promotions company and co-ordinated the team that set up the "Race Against Time" that raised millions of pounds for Sport Aid in the 1980s.

He then moved to work at the National Exhibition Centre Events Division in Birmingham as Arenas Manager - NEC Group. There he was involved in the organisation of a multitude of major events including sporting events such as skating, gymnastics and judo.

The new appointment follows the successful bid by UK Athletics, working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, to host the IAAF World Indoor Championships 2003.

Delighted to be involved in the organisation of a global event in his favourite sport, Terry says: "As a company and a city, we are extremely experienced in dealing with major events. We have many staff - promotional, technical, catering - who understand exactly what it is going to mean. But there is no getting away from the fact that the IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championships will be one of the biggest and most high profile sporting events we have hosted.

"We are all determined to make it a success. We are all very conscious that the outdoor IAAF World Championships will follow in London in 2005. The opportunity to give athletics the highest profile, is there, as never before - and we are determined the chance will be taken with both hands."

IAAF ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAMME

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE SPORT

As part of a new, long-term strategy, the IAAF aims to attract more fans to athletics by making our sport's top stars more attractive and visible to the general public and Media.

The IAAF's "Elite Athlete Programme" will provide promotional activities tailored to provide good Internet, Photographic and TV News opportunities.

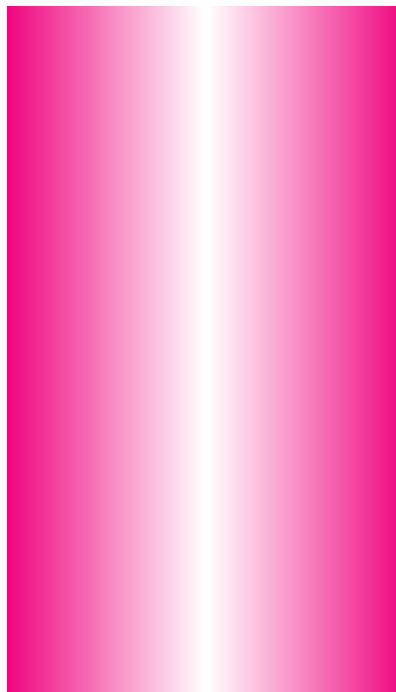
All activities will be carefully co-ordinated by IAAF and planned well in advance to respect schedules of athletes and meetings.

In recent weeks, the IAAF has approached a number of Managers, whose reaction has been universally positive, and is already receiving completed questionnaires from athletes, designed to reveal the personalities behind the performers.

During 2001 - which will serve as a trial period - the programme will focus on the Top 10 Men and Women according to the IAAF World Rankings (Overall), but notable "wild cards" have also expressed a willingness to be involved.

The media have been one of the main targets of the EAP as the goal is to maximise and direct the access of the top athletes to the media to ensure as much positive exposure as possible.

In order to improve access and avoid excessive demands on the athletes, the IAAF EAP Team will also be working closely with individual meeting as well as Championship Organising Committee staff.



Part of a recent letter from IAAF President Lamine Diack to top Managers regarding the Elite Athlete Programme ...

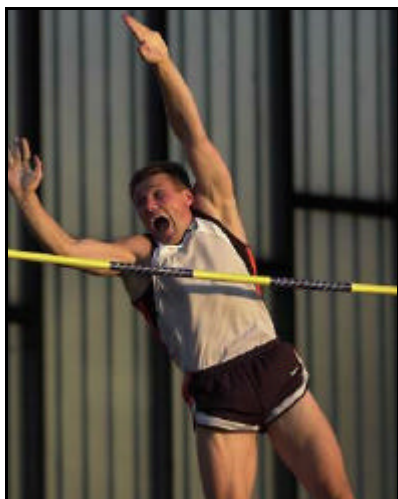
"The IAAF, as the World Governing body, has a responsibility to ensure continued development of our sport. Our athletes are the protagonists of the sport and the people who interest the public and media. Athletics cannot continue to thrive without public interest.

"I am confident that the IAAF and the sport's top athletes share the same basic goal - to promote athletics by raising its profile with the general public and Media. We want to work with you to create more heroes - to develop the personalities behind the performers. I sincerely believe that by working together, in a spirit of trust and mutual benefit, we can achieve great results. "

JUST SOME OF THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES!

Major interviews with Media - especially non-specific
 Star Diaries
 Social event attendance
 Meetings with stars from outside athletics
 Mentoring of Charities
 Hobby based projects
 Visits to hospitals, schools and sports camps
 Visits to tourist sites
 Visits to schools
 "Other" sport challenges including "extreme" leisure activities
 DJ guesting at clubs
 City centre promotions
 Offshore boating
 Watersports
 Go-kart racing
 Video clip
 CD compilation
 Video games
 Fashion pictures
 Cat-walk shows
 On-line chats and competitions
 Photo Sessions
 Autograph signing sessions

All activities will be based on personal preferences of EAP Athletes ...



Sergey Bubka and Seb Coe will be among the guests at the Legends Dinner

EDMONTON 2001 UPDATE

Golden Legends to attend Edmonton Gala Dinner

Gold medal winners from every Olympic Games from London in 1948 to Atlanta in 1996, together with a sprinkling of World and Commonwealth champions will be honoured at a unique Edmonton dinner during this summer's World Championships in Athletics.

No fewer than 24 gold medallists from around the world will be the very special guests at the "Legends of Gold" Dinner, to be held on the Monday evening of the World Championships (6 August). Between them, these "Legends" have won no less than 60 individual gold medals - not even counting relay events.

Barney Baker, organiser of the event, said: "We have 24 of the greatest athletes of the last 50 years - real superstars - coming as our guests to be celebrated as a "Legend of Gold."

"What's more, these Legends will be sitting at different tables throughout the entire banqueting hall of the Shaw Conference Centre, so everyone will be sitting close to one of these world stars.

The event will also be a fund-

raiser. The recipients from this event will be the "Friends of 2001" and athletic scholarships at the University of Alberta. A sell-out for the event would generate \$100,000 for each of the two recipients.

For the dinner, each of the "Legends" will sit at a table sponsored by companies or organisations. In return for the table sponsorship of \$7,500, the selected "Legend" has agreed to spend one-to-two hours the following morning at a private reception at the home or business of the sponsor.

Legends of Gold

Donovan Bailey
Filbert Bayi
Joan Benoit Samuelson
Valery Borzov
Ralph Boston
Debbie Brill
Sergey Bubka
Sebastian Coe
Eamonn Coghlan
Harrison Dillard
Herb Elliott
Dick Fosbury
Bruce Jenner
Diane Jones Konihowski
Kip Keino
Mark McKoy
Edwin Moses
Parry O'Brien
Al Oerter
Donald Quarrie
Frank Shorter
Michael Smith
Peter Snell
Wyomia Tyus

WORLD ATHLETICS DAY 2001

World Athletics Day 2001, planned for 5 May, can count on the support of 152 Member Federations who have confirmed their participation in the sixth edition of this special event. Since its creation in 1996, World Athletics Day has successfully promoted Junior Athletics on a world-wide basis with hard-fought competitions and a subsequent trip to a major championships for some lucky winners.

In brief, each participating Member Federation must organise an athletics competition in accordance with IAAF Rules for Junior Athletes. The winners of specified events - a maximum of six boys and six girls from each federation - will then be entered by the IAAF in the World Athletics Day Draw. Only athletes aged 18 & 19 will be entered in this draw.

The athletes drawn, two boys and two girls from each IAAF Continental Area, will receive an invitation to attend the next IAAF World Championships in Athletics, which takes place in Edmonton, Canada from 3-12 August. The IAAF will cover all travel, accommodation and meal expenses as well as providing stadium tickets.

The World Athletics Day Draw will take place in Edmonton at the end of May 2001.

The winners of World Athletics Day 2000 were drawn just before Christmas. The following young athletes will make the trip to Edmonton together with the 2001 winners.

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----|--------|
| F | Kathryn Mitchell | AUS | JT |
| M | Darren Clarke | CAN | 200m |
| M | Cristian Labra | CHI | 110m H |
| M | Haozhi Wang | CHN | 110m H |
| F | Brigith Merlano | COL | 100m H |
| F | Keniesha Kiffin | JAM | 800m |
| F | L. Razafinjanahary | MAD | 100m |
| F | Sanda Htwe | MYA | 10km W |
| F | Liliana Marta | POR | HJ |
| M | Emmanuel Unayezu | RWA | 400m |
| M | Volodymyr Obcharov | UKR | 110m H |
| M | Henricks Tari | VAN | LJ |

Mark Richardson warns athletes of dangers of contaminated food supplements

Mark Richardson, Britain's 400 metres Commonwealth silver medallist, who is currently serving a suspension following a doping offence, has issued an impassioned warning to fellow athletes to avoid using nutritional supplements.

Richardson tested positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolone after a routine, out-of-competition drug test in October 1999.

He has always maintained he never knowingly took any banned drugs but recently accepted the evidence that his regular nutritional supplements may have been somehow contaminated.

After originally fighting his ban, Richardson, 28, accepted his suspension according to IAAF rules last December. (See page 2)

In an article in the latest edition

of the newsletter published by UK Athletics, Richardson warns that avoiding all supplements is "the only course of action for all athletes if they wish to be spared the nightmare that I had to endure.

"You must beware. You must not be caught out like I was."

"At present the supplement industry is not strictly controlled or regulated, which in basic terms means that you do not always know quite what you are putting in your body."

Richardson writes that many athletes use supplements in an attempt to give themselves a "magical edge".

He said that using supplements helped him to avoid colds and other nagging illnesses.

"Since October 1999 I have not

dared take anything and I can honestly say that I do not feel any different and in fact I have been training even better than before," Richardson said

"I feel stronger and better without them and that feeling I wish to keep."

BEST WISHES ARNE!

Professor Arne Ljungqvist, Senior Vice-President of the IAAF and Chairman of the IAAF Medical and Anti-Doping Commissions, celebrates his 70th birthday on 23 April.

To celebrate the occasion, Arne's relatives, friends and colleagues have organised a reception at the Swedish Institute for Sport in Boson, Lidingsö. Instead of flowers and gifts, Arne has requested that

donations be made to a new foundation for scientific study into the use and abuse of medical methods of treatment in sport.

Gabriel Dolle, the IAAF's Anti-Doping Officer, took part in meetings of the Council of Europe's Anti-Doping Convention and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in his native city of Strasbourg from 28 to 30 March.

Positive cases in athletics, sanctioned definitively,

According to information received by the IAAF as at 13 April 2001

| | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| LIU | Shixiang | CHN | National | 1999 | 2 years |
| RICHARDSON | Mark | GBR | National OOC | 27.10.99 | 2 years |
| TIETZ | Michael | GBR | National OOC | 03.12.99 | 2 years |
| JAROS | Alicia | POL | National | 2000 | P. Warning |
| BAGACH | Alexander | UKR | IAAF OOC | 12.02.00 | Life Ban |
| YANG | Chunlei | CHN | National OOC | 27.04.00 | 2 years |
| ZHOU | Wei | CHN | National GP Final | 07.06.00 | 2 years |
| MELINTE | Mihaela | ROM | Notturmo di Milano | 07.06.00 | Pending Arbitration |
| HUNTER | Cottrel | USA | Exxon Bissett Games 2000 | 28.07.00 | 2 years |
| LEGNANTE | Assunta | ITA | Campionato Italiano Assoluto | 06.09.00 | P.Warning |
| CHABRAN | Nathalie | FRA | Chp de France des 10Km Alès (FRA) | 17.09.00 | P.Warning |
| MIKLOS | Arthur | ROM | Marathon Intl. de La Rochelle (FRA) | 26.11.00 | 3 months |
| DJEMADI | Abdelrahmane | FRA | Refusal | 21.01.01 | 2 years |
| SKEETE | John | GBR | AAA Indoor Trials | 27.01.01 | 2 years |

This list represents the athletes who have been sanctioned for a doping offence by their Federation since the last issue of the IAAF News

A Public Warning also entails disqualification from the competition in which the positive sample was provided.

Dates correspond to the positive doping control test and not the beginning of the ineligibility period.

BOOK REVIEW

By OTTAVIO CASTELLINI

"It is a book about one man's sporting life, but I have no compunction about using that overworked word unique in describing Artur Takac. He has a wealth of valuable experience that touches the pulse of international sport and specifically the Olympic Games. He has been closely involved in the vast changes that have taken place across the sixty years covered by the book; that is why I have had a compelling interest in delving into his

archives and memories to compile a record for all students of the Olympic Movement".

These are the words with which John Rodda ends his presentation of "Sixty Olympic Years", the book by Arthur Takac, a man who, I believe, needs no introduction.

The same can be said of his book which, also in my opinion, is unique, for it is a story of sport. It is not simply one of the many statistical compilations which invade libraries after an Olympic year.

It is not an updated copy of previously published books. Instead Artur Takac offers a portrait of his life inside sport. "Arturo", as he was called by his many friends because of the time he spent in Italy, tells us about

his personal life and his close involvement with many major sport events. It is a tale that spans many decades and many continents.

Over the last three or four years, almost every week, I have received a call from Arturo. And with his typical kindness he would ask me to confirm such or such a result, date or situation. The result is a book which will be more useful to supporters of the Olympic movement than any other Olympic publication.

Artur Takac - "Sixty Olympic Years". Please contact the IAAF for more information about this book.

AREA AND FEDERATION NEWS

AFRICA

Said Guerni marries Olympic fencer

Chafik Boukabes

Olympic 800m bronze medallist Djabir Said Guerni recently married Wassila Rédouane. The couple reportedly met in Sydney where Wassila, who is a fencer, was also competing in the Olympics for Algeria.

Aged 20, Wassila, has been African champion several times in her discipline. She resides in Paris and is a member of the Aubervillier club, in addition to studying economics at the city's University. The happy couple were married in the Algerian capital, Algiers.

Kenya AAA Offices ready for occupancy

Omulo Okoth

An ultra modern office block is now ready for occupancy by the Kenya AAA. The single-storey office block cost \$200,000 to build. Work started last June and has been completed in record time.

The building will house the KAAA headquarters. According to David Okeyo, the KAAA secretary general, full time staff will be employed to run statistics, library, store and other aspects of the sport.

"We are excited at the prospects of running our own office block as it will make work a bit easier for us," said Okeyo.

The Kenya AAA will now be one of the very few African associations to own their own office building. The imposing edifice is close to the city centre at the Nyayo National stadium, overlooking the swimming pool complex.

ASIA

Tei-ichi Nishi passes away

Ken Nakamura

In the early morning of February 3, 2001, Tei-ichi Nishi, the last surviving

member of the Japanese 4x400m relay team which finished fifth in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games, passed away. He was 93 years old.

He was the top long sprinter in Japan in the early 1930s, having won the national championships in 1931 and 1933 at the 400m. In 1933, Nishi set a national record - 21.2 - for the straight 200m. He also advanced to the second round heat of the 200m in the 1932 Olympics.

Nishi helped break the Japanese 4x400m record three times.

His life-long commitment to the sports of track and field continued. Later in his life, he set up the athletics equipment company, Nishi Sports.

One of the world's leading specialists, Nishi Sports manufactures a variety of track & field equipment ranging from spikes to hurdles and throwing implements.

Koji Murofushi is on a roll

Less than a week after he set two national records, Koji Murofushi set another national hammer throw record in Toyota on April 7. He is on a roll, having set three national records with his last twelve throws, which are also his first twelve throws of the year. He started a day with 79.98m, which was his only sub-80m throw of the day. Any of his next three throws - 81.75m, 81.50m, and 81.77m - would have broken the record until a week ago, which stood at 81.08m before his record breaking season started. Then on his fifth throw he improved the national record he set six days previously - 82.23m - by 37cm to 82.60m. It was the thrower's 15th national record. Not only has he broken the record three times in his last twelve throws, but his average of 81.52m for legal throws so far this season is excellent. Here is Murofushi's incredible series in his first two competitions of the year.

Murofushi's series on April 1

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| 82.21m | National Record |
| 81.85m | |
| 80.93m | |
| x | |
| 80.30m | |
| 82.23m | National Record |

Murofushi's series on April 7

| |
|--------------------------|
| 79.98m |
| 81.75m |
| 81.50m |
| 81.77m |
| 82.60m - National Record |
| 81.58m |

EUROPE

Czech Congress re-elects Pilny and colleagues

The Czech Athletic Federation held its election Congress in Prague on 7 April. This Congress (held every four years) approved new constitutional rules and agreed to create 14 official regional athletic associations. In recognition of the development and success of Czech athletics over the past four years (1 Olympic gold, 8 IAAF World titles and 16 golds from Olympic, World and European Championships), the President of the Czech Federation, Karel Pilny, was re-elected together with all the members of the executive board. Two new functions have also been created: Director (formerly General Secretary) and Head Coach.

More interest in Euro U23 Championships

Preliminary entry figures reveal that 48 European Member Federations of the European Athletic Association have already entered 946 athletes (514 male, 432 female) for the EAA U23 Championships, due to take place in Amsterdam on 12-15 July. This is an increase of 5% compared with the last edition in Goteborg in 1999.

OCEANIA

Australia committed to World Youth Champs

Athletics Australia has announced that it will send a 26 person team to the 2nd IAAF World Youth Championships in Debrecen, Hungary, from 12-15 July.

The World Youth Championships are for athletes aged under 18 years in 2001 (as at 31 December 2001).

Following a number of outstanding

performances recently at the Telstra Australian Youth Championships in Bendigo and Telstra Australian Track & Field Championships in Brisbane, the Australian Team is on target to better its 1999 result when it won two golds and one bronze.

Keith Connor new Head Coach of Athletics Australia

Keith Connor, a former Olympic Games Triple Jump medallist and Olympic Team Coach, has been appointed as the new Head Coach of Athletics Australia.

Connor, who won Olympic bronze in 1984 and Commonwealth Games gold in 1982 representing Great Britain, begins his four-year term as Head Coach this month. His principal goal will be to lift Australia to become a top five athletics nation.

In pursuit of this target, Connor will lead a number of Australian Teams, including those travelling to the 2001 and 2003 World Championships, 2002 Commonwealth Games and 2004 Olympic Games.

Connor has been involved in international athletics since 1976. He won a bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, was world number 1 and Commonwealth Games gold medallist in 1982 and set a world indoor record of 17.31m in 1981.

Connor is the personal coach of 2001

World Indoor bronze medallist Andrew Murphy and 1998 Commonwealth long jump champion Peter Burge.

SOUTH AMERICA

Rio GP features relay "re-match"

The medal winning 4x100m teams from the Sydney Games will be a star attraction at the upcoming Caixa IAAF Grand Prix meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

Teams from the USA, Brazil and Cuba, respectively the gold, silver and bronze medallists from Sydney, will contest a "re-match" race in Rio de Janeiro on 6 May. It will be the first time, in its 16 year history, that the 4x100m relay is scheduled at this meeting which takes place in the Celio de Barros stadium in Rio.

The competition consists of 16 events, 12 of which count for the IAAF Grand Prix standings. The meeting will be broadcast live by Globo television.

Brazil's Olympic relay team of Vicente Lenilson de Lima, Edson Luciano Ribeiro, André Domingos de Silva and Claudinei Quirino da Silva, will be tough to beat. The relay race will also feature a B team for Brazil, two teams representing the USA and Cuba and teams from Argentina and Jamaica. Top Brazilian athletes in the individual events include World silver medallists Claudinei da Silva (200m),

Sanderlei Parrela (400m) and the three-time Pan American champion Eronildes de Araujo (400m hurdles).

USA

Boston runners had hi-tech link to spectators

Runners in the 105th B.A.A. Boston Marathon, which took place on April 16, could communicate with spectators throughout the race thanks to a state-of-the-art wireless computer network.

With the use of computer chips that all runners wore on their shoes, the Compaq Athlete Search System transmitted details about each runner's progress to allow family and friends of participants, as well as an international audience, to follow the action from start to finish.

A team of 30 volunteers, equipped with the iPAQ Pocket PC wireless Internet devices, will be stationed along the course at checkpoints located every five kilometers (5K through 40K) and the half-marathon mark.

Spectators on the course are encouraged to approach clearly identified Compaq volunteers who, through the use of the hand-held computer and wireless technology, provided on-location, instant updates about any runner in the race.

IAAF Member Federations - Recently elected...

Major General.Mohamed Hilal Al Ka'abi - new President of the United Arab Emirates Athletic Association

Dr Hazem Al-Nahar - new President of the Jordan Amateur Athletic Federation

Bernard Amsalem - new President of the Fédération Française d'Athlétisme

Khakim N. Dimetov - new President of the Athletic Federation of Uzbekistan

Durdy Dyrdiv - new President of the Amateur Athletic Federation of Turkmenistan

Steve Edwards - new President of the Amateur Athletic Association of Barbados

Manuel Hermenegildo Coelho Da Cruz - new President of the Federacao Angolana de Atletismo

Basil Howe - new President of the Swaziland Amateur Athletics Association

Derek James - New President of the Botswana Amateur Athletic Association

Kurban Kadjarov - new General Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Federation of Turkmenistan

Muyard Kihuya Lufuatula - new President of the Fédération d'Athlétisme du Congo

Svetozar Krstic - new President of the Yugoslavia Athletic Federation

Théophile Montcho - new President of the Fédération Béninoise d'Athlétisme Amateur

Karel Pilny - President of Czech Athletics Federation

Marius Rooth - new President of the Norwegian Amateur Athletic Federation

Dr Ibrahim Salem Al Sakkar - New General Secretary of the UAE Athletic Association

Haji Sulaiman Habib - new President of the Uganda Amateur Athletic Federation

*The Amateur Athletic Federation of Turkmenistan has new contact details:
PO Box 201, Krugozor 744000,
Central Post Office,
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
Tel/Fax: +993 12 36 2434*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ULRIKE MEYFARTH

Ulrike Meyfarth (FRG): As a 16 year-old she was a sensational winner of the high jump at the Munich Olympics in 1972; 12 years later she triumphed again, having set a world record of 2.02m in 1982. Ulrike retired from competition in 1984. She is currently a member of the IAAF's Athletes Commission

When and how did you become involved in athletics?

I became involved in athletics through skiing. We used to go on winter holidays with some of my parents' friends, and their daughter, Elvira Possekkel, asked me to come and train with her back at home in our little town. She was (still is!) a few years older than me and later became a silver medallist at the Olympics in Montreal in the 100m relay. We both (still are!) the wizards of sport of our little town Wesseling, which is on the river Rhine near Cologne.

Which moment would you describe as the most thrilling in your athletics career?

Of course this has to be in Munich, at the 1972 Olympics. Even now, people talk about it if they meet me. It was a "home game" for me and there was a tremendous atmosphere. It was during the night following my victory that the assassination attempt on the Israeli athletes began and everybody went into shock. For me those 24 hours belong together. I couldn't sort out my feelings anymore. And yet now - and this corresponds to human nature - people only think back to my Olympic gold. Another thrilling moment was when I came back in 1978 with a result of 1.95m. I was happy about this, and I can't forget



the Olympics in Los Angeles. I'm one of the happy athletes: I finished my career on a high note, although I was only 28 years old when I decided to "retire". There a lot of athletes who have difficulties stopping their competitive career and who are afraid of readjusting to "normal" life.

What is your profession today?

I work for TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen, in the track and field department, and assisting kids in general. My role includes being a "talent scout" for kids at schools, doing some tests, discussing the development of the sport-gymnasium in Leverkusen with our coaches and coaches of the other disciplines of our club (basketball, volleyball, handball, fencing, football, gymnastics...). We are aiming to create a boarding school for athletes and there are a lot of discussions in the government at regional level and in the federations concerning these topics. I'm on the board of trustees of a regional foundation that supports talented athletes and I receive many enquiries from working groups and honorary posts.

Do you have a family, and are they actively involved in sports?

I do have a family: two daughters

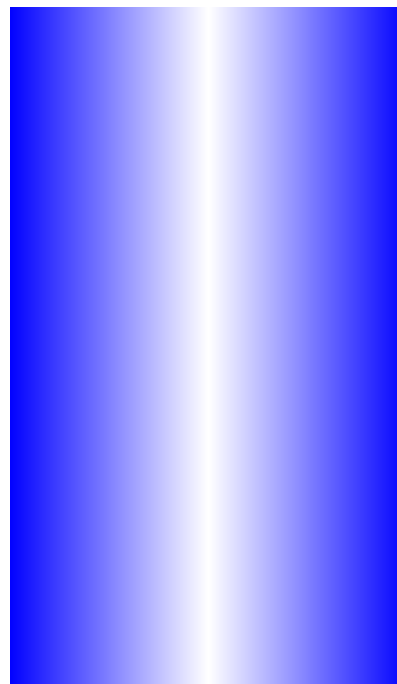
aged 12 and 8. They are keen on sports. The elder already trains for track and field and the younger has decided to start this summer. Mummy must now be the taxi-driver! My husband, a very busy lawyer, was an active handball player in the German League. He is now, in addition to his main responsibilities at work, one of the most well versed specialists in sports law in Germany.

What are your hobbies and interests?

There is not very much time for any other hobbies except that I read. Oh, and I try to play golf, but it is so difficult!

What advice would you give to young athletes starting out in athletics today?

They must have fun, they should go training with their friends, and sometimes they may have to cancel a training session because of a birthday party. Making a career in athletics can be a big adventure for you in life, with many good and also less good experiences, but you cannot force someone to make athletics their purpose in life.



PAUL TERGAT - BORN TO RUN THE MARATHON?

Kenya's distance running legend Paul Tergat makes his long awaited marathon debut in London this month. Paul Gains reports

Paul Tergat is arguably the greatest distance runner never to have won an Olympic gold medal.

Twice he has had the biggest prize in sport within his grasp then lost it to the extraordinary finishing sprint of Haile Gebrselassie. And twice he's held the world 10,000m record only for the Ethiopian to smash it again. But the affable Kenyan doesn't want your sympathy because his best days lie ahead. All those close calls on the track demonstrated his boundless talent, but also pointed him in another direction - to road racing and the marathon in particular.

"The thing is that, personally, I have really loved my career. I have really enjoyed track, cross and road races," says the 31 year-old. "I have got nothing to regret. You see, there have been so many great athletes who have been able to break world records but never actually won medals in their whole career."

"Representing my country is the biggest honour and getting a medal is really fantastic, something I can't really describe. So for me any medal in any championship is like gravy now."

Who can forget the Sydney Olympic 10,000m, which many claim was the greatest distance contest ever? At the time Tergat had already made up his mind that it would be his last championship race on the track.

"I have nothing to regret. I did well in a race I was well prepared for. It was unfortunate that there was less than one second between us at the finish."

The five time world cross country champion has chosen to mark his eagerly awaited marathon debut on 22 April in the Flora London Marathon. Predictably, much is expected of this Kalinjen tribesman. But he is also a pragmatist and knows full well that the marathon is both a demanding and unpredictable affair. On April 1 this year Tergat was forced to accept a rare defeat on his return to the Lisbon Half Marathon when South Africa's Hendrik Ramaala got the better of him to win by a second in 60.26. "I am very, very happy and surprised I ran that fast because I am in very heavy training," said Tergat. "The thing is that since this is my debut I don't want to be put under pressure I just need to have a good race that is what matters to me now," he declares.

After some gentle prompting he finally concedes that he expects to be competitive.

"It is a very strong field. Khannouchi has dropped out but there is the Spanish guy [double world champion Abel Anton] and the Portuguese [defending champion Antonio Pinto] and quite a number of strong Kenyans and Moroccans. I will say it is very important that I run with the best on my debut."

Some are even talking about Tergat attacking Khannouchi's world record of 2:05:42, a time surely within his capability. But he respects the distance. His friend

Moses Tanui once told Tergat that he could not remember his own name after finishing one tortuous race. "You are talking about 42 kilometres at one go," says Tergat. "So I have been training to that end. I have built up very slowly to bigger distances. I have been running around 150 miles a week. The most important thing is to do the training. It's only a question of discipline."

"Honestly, back in Kenya we have so many strong runners who have run rapidly and returned some very good times in the marathon. I have quite a number of experienced friends. They have been talking me for quite some time. I know a little about the marathon now."

Tergat has made plenty of money from athletics, investing much of it in a company he owns in Nairobi called Borborei Freighters. The company imports used Japanese cars and farm equipment. Computer literate, Tergat communicates via e mail with his clients and carries two different mobile phones - one for Europe and one for use when he's at home. It was in the air force that he learned computer programming. In addition to English and Swahili, Tergat is fluent in Italian and other African dialects.

"Business is going very well. In our country things have not been good especially in the tourism sector but everything is going well on my side," says one of Kenya's leading CEOs, "When I am home it depends on my training but I am in my office every day."

The one thing Tergat has not done so much this year is cross country. "I love cross country so much. It is in my blood," he explains, but his marathon training came first. Absent from the field at the most recent World Cross Country Championships in Ostend, Tergat is glad that he has already cemented his claim to be the best of all time. Now, in just a few days, we will know if the 21st edition of the London Marathon also shows him to be a man who can succeed at this new challenge as well.

NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH AND APRIL

| | | | | | |
|--------|------|---------------|-----------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 1 | 1967 | Kemboi | Simon | KEN | 1993 World Championship finalist at 400m |
| Mar 1 | 1979 | Thelamon | Céline | FRA | 1998 World Junior silver at 4x100m relay |
| Mar 1 | 1980 | Singh | N. Gojen | IND | 1996 Asian Junior Champion at 10,000m |
| Mar 2 | 1974 | Visser-Fouche | Maralize | RSA | South African record holder at Heptathlon |
| Mar 2 | 1974 | Niederstatter | Monika | ITA | Italian record holder at 400m hurdles |
| Mar 4 | 1982 | Göbel | Tim | GER | 2001 World Indoor 60m finalist |
| Mar 5 | 1972 | Ramalanirina | Nicole | FRA | 2001 World Indoor bronze at 60m hurdles |
| Mar 5 | 1975 | Ennis-London | Delloreen | JAM | 4th in 2000 Olympics at 100m hurdles |
| Mar 6 | 1967 | Haaf | Dietmar | GER | 1990 European Champion at long jump indoors & out |
| Mar 7 | 1971 | Kaiser | Eric | GER | 1990 World Junior Champion at Decathlon |
| Mar 9 | 1973 | Suttle | Kellie | USA | 2001 World Indoor silver at pole vault |
| Mar 9 | 1983 | Cai | Peng | CHN | 2000 World Junior Champion at long jump |
| Mar 12 | 1982 | Niaré | Gaëlle | FRA | 1999 World Youth bronze at high jump |
| Mar 14 | 1975 | Markov | Dmitriy | AUS | 1999 World silver at pole vault |
| Mar 15 | 1978 | Saïdi-Sief | Ali | ALG | 2000 Olympic 5000m silver |
| Mar 15 | 1979 | Jones | Shakedia | USA | 1998 World Junior Champion at 100m |
| Mar 15 | 1931 | Stinson | Robert | GBR | IAAF Council Member |
| Mar 16 | 1977 | Levorato | Manuela | ITA | Italian record holder at 100m & 200m |
| Mar 16 | 1934 | Watanabe | Taizo | JPN | IAAF Council Member |
| Mar 17 | 1971 | Livingston | Jason | GBR | 1992 European Indoor 60m Champion |
| Mar 17 | 1979 | Vincent | Casey | AUS | 1998 world junior silver at 400m |
| Mar 18 | 1981 | Djhane | Leslie | FRA | 2000 world junior silver at 4x100m |
| Mar 20 | 1979 | Pratt | Julie | GBR | 1998 world junior champion at 100m hurdles |
| Mar 21 | 1943 | Gyulai | Istvan | HUN | IAAF General Secretary/Council Member |
| Mar 21 | 1977 | Mensah | Amewu | GER | 2000 Olympic finalist at high jump |
| Mar 22 | 1945 | Gesta de Melo | Roberto | BRA | IAAF Council Member, South America, Area Group Rep. |
| Mar 24 | 1966 | Heard | Floyd | USA | Broke 20 seconds for 200m in both 1987 and 2000 |
| Mar 24 | 1974 | Klyugin | Sergey | RUS | 2000 Olympic High Jump Champion |
| Mar 27 | 1967 | Starkey | Dean | USA | 1997 World bronze at pole vault |
| Mar 28 | 1972 | Yegorova | Olga | RUS | 2001 World Indoor Champion at 3000m |
| Mar 28 | 1981 | Hernández | Yuniel | CUB | 2000 World Junior Champion at 110 hurdles |
| Mar 28 | 1982 | Sears | Bryan | USA | 1999 world youth silver at 100m and bronze at 200m |
| Mar 29 | 1934 | Moreno Bravo | César | MEX | IAAF Council Member |
| Apr 2 | 1973 | Saber | Ashraf | ITA | Italy's first World Junior Champion, at 400m hurdles, in 1992 |
| Apr 2 | 1977 | Raquil | Marc | FRA | 2000 European Indoor bronze at 400m |
| Apr 3 | 1972 | Hautala | Tiia | FIN | 5th in 1999 World Championships at Heptathlon |
| Apr 3 | 1972 | Kipruto | David | KEN | Member of winning team at 1996 World Road Relay Championships |
| Apr 3 | 1974 | Ellerbe | Dawn | USA | United States record holder at hammer throw |
| Apr 4 | 1974 | El Himer | Driss | FRA | Twice bronze medallist at European Cross Country Championships |
| Apr 4 | 1975 | Walker | Astia | JAM | 1994 World Junior Championships gold at 4x100m relay |
| Apr 4 | 1980 | Manninen | Johanna | FIN | 1997 European Junior Champion at 100m |
| Apr 4 | 1980 | Mekonnen | Hailu | ETH | Holder of world indoor best at 2 miles |
| Apr 4 | 1981 | Koech | Enock | KEN | 2001 World Short Course Country Champion |
| Apr 4 | 1981 | Awazie | Nduka | NGR | 1998 World Junior Champion at 400m |
| Apr 5 | 1974 | Sosimenko | Deborah | AUS | 1998 Commonwealth Games Champion at hammer throw |
| Apr 6 | 1969 | Pyrah | Jason | USA | 2000 Olympic finalist at 1500m |
| Apr 7 | 1969 | Jones | Esther | USA | 1992 Olympic gold at 4x100m relay |
| Apr 7 | 1972 | Williams | Shana | USA | 1999 World Indoor silver at long jump |
| Apr 10 | 1970 | Ottoz | Laurent | ITA | In 1994 replaced his father Eddy to become Italian record holder at 110m hurdles |
| Apr 11 | 1974 | Giacconi | Andrea | ITA | 1999 Italian Champion at 110m hurdles |
| Apr 13 | 1976 | Nsiah | Vida | GHA | Ghanaian record holder at 100m, 200m & 100m hurdles |
| Apr 14 | 1976 | Faustin | Nadine | HAI | Haitian record holder at 100m & 100m hurdles |
| Apr 15 | 1962 | El Moutawakel | Nawal | MAR | Olympic Champion at 400m hurdles (1984) IAAF Council Member, IOC Member |
| Apr 15 | 1977 | Lyons | Robin | CAN | Canadian record holder at hammer throw |
| Apr 17 | 1979 | Combs | Myra | USA | 1998 World Junior gold at 4x100m relay |
| Apr 18 | 1972 | Vaszi | Tünde | HUN | Twice 8th in Olympic finals at long jump |
| Apr 19 | 1975 | Benesová | Hana | CZE | 1994 World Junior bronze at 400m |
| Apr 21 | 1967 | Valle | Emilio | CUB | Inaugural (1986) World Junior Champion at 400m Hurdles |
| Apr 21 | 1973 | Nsenga | Jonathan | BEL | Belgian record holder at 110m hurdles |
| Apr 21 | 1981 | Cilliers | Okkert | RSA | 2000 World Junior bronze at 400m hurdles |
| Apr 22 | 1970 | Abou Hamed | Zid | SYR | 1993 Asian Champion at 400m hurdles |
| Apr 23 | 1931 | Ljungqvist | Arne | SWE | IAAF Senior Vice President, IOC Member |
| Apr 24 | 1971 | Fenner | Mike | GER | Twice European indoor bronze medallist at 60m hurdles |
| Apr 26 | 1973 | Graf | Stephanie | AUT | 2000 Olympic silver at 800m |
| Apr 27 | 1939 | McCook | "Teddy" | JAM | IAAF Council Member, NACAC, Area Group Representative |
| Apr 29 | 1972 | Wentland | Gwen | USA | 1995 United States Indoor Champion at high jump |
| Apr 30 | 1976 | Clarke | Davian | JAM | Olympic, World & Commonwealth Games medallist at 4x400m relay |