

Handball: *Egypt Surprises the World*

World champion and world record: 30,000 spectators for the final. Incredible but true: 30,000 spectators for a handball match - and on top of that for one indoors - for the final of the World Junior Championships which saw the victory of the Egyptians over the Dunes.

SPECTATOR RECORD

This is a new world record. Moreover, 15,000 extra places could have been sold, so great was the interest. In Cairo's main sports complex the Egyptians triumphed by 22 to 19 in a memorable final against Denmark, causing amazement in the world of world class handball and giving the African continent its first world title in the sport.

MORE AND MORE SPECTATORS

The organizers recorded 120,000 visitors for the whole tournament, more than at the Group A World Championships that took place in Sweden in March where Russia won the title by defeating France in the final. On the banks of the Nile, the experts and officials of the International Handball Federation (IHF) discovered the new- image of Egyptian handball, with its enthusiasm and the incredible progress the Egyptians have made on the field. The Egyptian team got through the preliminary matches by winning against Romania and Greece, and defeated Portugal; Argentina and Sweden (by 23-18 in front

of 25,000 spectators) to get to the final.

The victory of the Egyptians marks a transfer of power in junior handball after the reign of the Soviet Union (five titles) and Yugoslavia (three). In Cairo, Russia did not even manage to win a medal, losing the third place play-off against Iceland. Argentina, a newcomer, obtained a remarkable eleventh place against Poland (33-29), thus giving the Pan-American continent an additional place for the Junior World Championships in 1995.

PERFECT ORGANIZATION

As for organization of the championships, the Egyptians also

scored well. *This victory will undoubtedly give a new impulse to African handball.* foresees Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Herrmann, president of the IHF's Promotion and Development Commission, who was "very pleased" with the organisation, the accommodation and the conditions under which the competition took place. Mr Raymond Hahn, IHF President, was also full of praise and even encouraged the Egyptian Federation to submit its candidature for the organization of one of the future Men's Group A World Championships.

Mr Dietrich Späte, member of the IHF's commission for trainers and methodology, spoke of an "historical event" and added: "It is impossible to imagine today what this world title will mean for sport in Egypt and the whole African continent".

The Egyptian team's secret is a game of great virtuosity and brilliant defence work that impressed the specialists and which has earned it a special place in the hearts of the spectators.



Full house for the award ceremony.