



OLYMPIC ORDER

NEWS
IN BRIEF

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY

The President of Mongolia, N. Bagabandi has become the first Mongolian to receive the Olympic Order for his "outstanding merit for the development of sport and Olympism". After receiving the order from the IOC member Shagdarjav Magvan, President Bagabandi said proudly that "this honoured award symbolises my hope that Mongolian athletes will become Olympic champions at the 2004 Games in Athens".

One of the first women elected as an IOC member, in 1981, Flor Isava Fonseca was awarded the Order for her work as Founder and President of the Flor Isava Foundation for Education and Sport for Male and Female Prisoners (created in 1990). She joined the IOC Executive Board from 1990 to 1994. After 20 years as an active member, she became an IOC Honorary member in 2002.

She had a sports career at national and international levels being a national champion in horse riding, tennis and golf and a member of the Venezuelan Olympic equestrian team at the 1956 Games in Stockholm. Founder (1947) and President of the Venezuelan Equestrian Federation (1962-1965), then member of the NOC (1964-1968) and president of the Sports Confederation of Venezuela, she was also a sport advisor to the President of Venezuela.

Ashwini Kumar was Deputy Chef de Mission at the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games and head of the Indian hockey delegation at the 1964 and 1968 Olympic Games. Elected as an IOC member in 1973, he became an IOC Vice-President from 1983 to 1987 and an IOC Honorary member in 2000. He has served as a security delegate for all the

Olympic Games since 1980.

The Austrian Olympic Committee, presented the Order to Erwin Lane and Kurt Kucera. A former Austrian Foreign Minister, Lane served as President of the Austrian Handball Federation and President of the International Handball Federation. Kucera was Vice President of the International Judo Federation and President of the European Judo Union from 1984 to 1996. He has been Vice-President of the AOC since 1989.

On behalf of the Ukrainian NOC, IOC Executive Board member Sergey Bubka awarded the Olympic Order to Borys Shakhlin, who won six gold medals in individual gymnastic events and Ukrainian NOC member Mykhailo Baka, who trained nine prominent Ukrainian athletes who became Olympic champions from 1976 through to 1992.

As part of the cooperation agreement which the presidents of the **National Olympic Committees (NOC)** of Guatemala and Colombia, Fernando Beltranena Valladares and Andrés Botero, signed in May 2002, two Guatemalan skating coaches are in Bogota (Colombia) for a month to work with the national skating team. In exchange, the Colombian NOC will be sending two coaches in a sport yet to be decided to Guatemala.

The **European Olympic Committees (EOC)** is seeking a winter sports athlete to be elected as a member of its **Athletes' Commission**. The election of the representative will take place at the 2nd Forum of European athletes, which is being held in Tallinn, Estonia on May 16 and 17.

The **Kenyan NOC** is mourning the loss of Nafatili Temu, the country's first ever Olympic gold medal winner, aged 58 following a long illness. Temu won the 10,000 metres at the 1968 Games in Mexico City and along with Kipchoge Keino, who is interviewed on page 36 of *Olympic Review*, and Charles Asati was a pioneer of athletics in Kenya in the 1960s.

The **Mauritanian NOC** held its annual Olympic Day, which promotes the importance of sport and of sport activities in today's society. The 2002 programme tackled issues such as 'Sport and Education', 'Sport Education in Islamic Thoughts', and 'Sport and Health'.

HONG KONG GALA

ROGGE BACKS USOC

The most prestigious sports event in Hong Kong – the annual Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards 2002 was successfully held on 10 March 2003. Organised by the Olympic Committee of Hong Kong in conjunction with the annual Spring Dinner of the Sports Federation and sponsored by Bonaqua, Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, ESPN STAR Sports, AIA

Foundation, Mainland Headwear Holdings Limited and TAG Heuer, prize money totalling HK\$346,000.00 was awarded to the winners. Apart from the elite athletes and representatives from National Sports Associations, many distinguished guests were also present to honour the happy occasion.

Winners of the Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards, who took home cash awards of HK\$30,000, a trophy and a watch sponsored by TAG Heuer, included billiards player Chan Kwok Ming, squash star Chiu Wing Yin, windsurfer Lee Lai Shan (left), So Wa Wai from Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled and badminton's Wang Chen.

IOC President Jacques Rogge is confident that the USOC will solve its internal problems in the near future. I am not very much concerned," said the President. "I wish them well. I hope it can be solved as soon as possible.

"Given the fact there are no financial problems, there is nothing damaging in letting them review their rules to become more modern and efficient. The key point is that USOC's troubles are not affecting athletes' preparations."

Several USOC officials have resigned in recent months following a series of conflict-of-interest allegations.



South African NOC chief executive Lyndon Barends has warned against unrealistic medal expectations at Athens after their impressive performance at last year's Commonwealth Games.

Research by BMI Sport regarding the views of the average South African about the Olympics found that 70% of the 1,800 respondents in the research project are of the opinion that the South African team could win more than 11 medals in Athens. This expectation is based on the 46 medals South Africa won in Manchester.

"We are all striving to bring more medals home, but one should stay realistic," he said. "The Olympics are much bigger than the Commonwealth Games. Athletes have to contend with superpowers like the USA, Russia, China and Germany."

Nocsa has already collected R70m of their envisaged R100 million for the Athens Olympics. This money will be used to give athletes with medal chances the best possible preparation. These athletes were enrolled in the Operation Excellence programme, which offers them training camps, financial assistance and access to sports psychologists.



FUTURE STARS

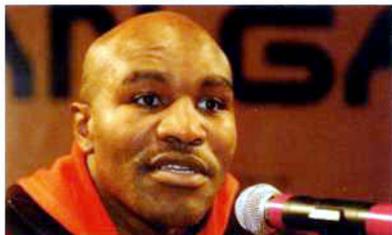
The 6th European Olympic Youth Festival (EYOF) took place at Bled, Slovenia from January 25-31. The festival was opened by IOC President Jacques Rogge, who was the founder of EYOF. Over 800 young athletes from 41 countries competed in seven Winter Games disciplines – Alpine skiing, biathlon, cross country, figure skating, ice hockey, ski jumping and Nordic skiing. The EYOF is a competition which is closely related to principles on which De Coubertin founded the Olympic Movement. The Russian Federation topped the medals table with nine golds, followed by Norway.

USA HOSTS TITAN GAMES

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An array of US Olympians were honoured when the United States Olympic Committee began the 2003 Titan Games at the Titan Games Night of Champions' in San José, ahead of the three-day Titan Games combat sporting event.

The gala honored heavyweight world champion and 1984 Olympic bronze medalist Evander Holyfield and wrestling legend Dan Gable, as well as five other Olympic greats representing the sports competing in the Titan Games.



"I am honoured to be recognised at the first-ever Titan Games international sporting event and to represent the great Olympians in the history of American boxing. The sports featured in this event are by far some of the most physical sports known to man," said Holyfield (above). Gable, 1972 freestyle wrestling Olympic gold medalist and 1971 World Champion, is also a legendary coach in the sport of freestyle wrestling. A true Titan, he is the only wrestler in an Olympic tournament to compete without a point being scored against him.

Also present were six-time Olympian and bronze medalist fencer Peter Westbrook, Tommy Kono, a two-time gold medalist in weightlifting and three-time Olympian Ed Burke, who competed in the hammer throw. The Titan Games saw a 'USA versus the World' format in dual and triangular meets including weightlifting, boxing and fencing, elite boxing, shot putting, wrestling, judo and karate.

Bank of America, which sponsored the event, served as the official bank of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, providing banking services to athletes, media and the international Olympic family and was the first corporate partner of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996. Bank of America's sponsorship of the Titan Games is an extension of its official Olympic sponsorship with the US Olympic Team during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

HUNGARY HONOURS LEGENDARY SWIMMER

The Hungarian NOC has honoured the 125th anniversary of the birth of Alfred Hajós, double Olympic Gold medal swimming winner at the I Olympiad in Athens in 1896. He was also a well-known architect, and at the Paris Games in 1924 received an award for his design of what an Olympic stadium should look like. IOC members Pál Schmitt and Tamás Aján were present.

TEN YEARS ON

The Slovakian NOC celebrated its 10th anniversary with IOC President Jacques Rogge, the guest of honour at a show at the Bratislava Opera. Also present were the IOC Executive Board members Gunilla Lindberg and Sergey Bubka.

BRAZIL NAMES TOP PAIR

Nalbert Bittencourt and Daniele Hypólito were named the best Brazilian athletes for 2002 at a star-studded awards ceremony. Volleyball star Bittencourt, captain of the Brazilian team, and gymnast Hypólito, who captured five gold medals in the South American Games, won after an online vote.

The Austrian NOC invited 40 young people from countries around the world including Mexico, Paraguay, Latvia, Libya and Hong Kong for a week's skiing in Flachau, the home town of the great Herman Maier. For many of it was their first experience of Winter Sports.

AUSTRALIAN STARS WARN YOUNGSTERS AGAINST DRUGS



Some of Australia's leading Olympic athletes have joined the fight against drugs. Cathy Freeman, Jana Pittman, Natalie Cook, Kerri Pottharst, Russell Mark and Brad McGee all feature in a new video, which discourages young Australians from drug-taking. The video, which was shown for the first time at the Australian Youth Festival in Sydney, carries a strong message against the use of drugs in sport as well as the use of recreational drugs in the community.

Sydney 400 metre gold medal winner Freeman (left) said: "For me it is all about the size of my heart and the love of what I do. Success is more about pride, passion and the determination to succeed."

The video will be presented to young athletes in schools, sports institutes and academies throughout Australia as part of the Energy Australia – 'Live Clean Play Clean' Drug Education Program, an initiative of the AOC.

"The vast majority of Australia's elite athletes are vehemently opposed to drugs and the AOC very much appreciates the support of our champion athletes in this campaign," said AOC Secretary General Bob Elphinston. **To see Freeman win gold in Sydney go to www.olympic.org/cathylfreeman**

JAPAN IN MEDAL HAUL

The 5th Winter Asian Games in Aomori took place from February 1-8. The Games were opened by HRH Prince Naruhito, the Crown Prince of Japan. Some 28 Asian NOCs took part in the Games. One of the highlights came

when home favourite Takeshi Honda skated to the gold medal in the men's speedskating singles. The 21-year-old five-time national champion held off a strong challenge from China's defending gold medalist, Li Chengjiang. The host nation

finished off an extremely successful week with a gold medal for the men's ice hockey team in the final event. The 7-2 victory over Kazakhstan brought Japan's 24th gold medal as the hosts easily topped the final medals table.