

Arete

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*It is a rough road
that leads to the
heights of greatness
Seneca*

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IOAPA 2005 — Don't Miss It! Carlo Farrugia (MLT)

All the IOAPA members have been invited to attend the coming IOAPA conference next August in Olympia. It is very important for all the IOAPA members to attend this conference since the future of the IOAPA will depend on the decisions taken during this conference. In fact the new Executive Board will be elected next August. Various items that were discussed during the 2003 conference will be debated once again and evaluated. Plans for the future of the IOAPA and the representation in each and every country will be established. The marketing of the IOAPA should be tackled. The possibilities of using the IOAPA members and their wide knowledge on a large number of interesting subjects should be explored.

The IOAPA has a lot of experience as well as a vast knowledge of the Olympic movement. This resource should be tapped for the benefit of the Olympic movement. All of the IOAPA members have attended at least one session at the IOA and the knowledge obtained should be shared with those that are less fortunate. We should share our knowledge with other people in our countries as well as in other countries. This is an important subject that needs to be discussed during the conference.

How did the IOAPA contribute to the Olympic Games in Athens 2004? How can the IOAPA be involved once again in the Torino Winter Olympics in 2006 and in the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008? What are the IOAPA members doing in their respective countries? How can we create a network to help each other? Is the IOAPA website serv-

ing its purpose? Do we need to include new items? Do we need more networking? Where do we want to go? What do we want to achieve? How will the IOAPA do this? These are some of the questions that will be addressed during the conference.

So try and come at this year's conference and give your help and suggestions so that all together we will be able to create a larger and better organisation for everybody's benefit. The IOAPA Executive Board has managed to obtain FREE sleeping facilities at the IOA thanks to the IOA President. This has greatly diminished the expenses involved to attend the conference. So join us this summer in Olympia and give us your help to make the IOAPA better.

Conference dates:

11 to 15 August 2005

Deadline:

Applications have to be submitted by the 15 June 2005

Contact person:

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The IOAPA will pay for the bus trips and parties at the IOA. There will be no conference fee and the deposit will be deducted for the amount due for the food at the IOA.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)



Before we know it we will meet once again in Ancient Olympia.

This issue has all the necessary information regarding the session, including dates, topics and registration forms. One year after the Athens Games we will take a look at the experiences of the IOAPA members who attended the Olympics in Greece. We will also plan for the future of the IOAPA, looking ahead to Torino and Beijing and the operation of our organization. We will elect new officers. I hope that many of you will join us and reaffirm your commitment to Olympism and the friends that you have around the globe.

Many National Olympic Academies were held in the past few months. IOAPA members were quite active in these sessions. Now everyone is gearing up for the various sessions in Olympia. Hector Argüelles will be the coordinator at the Post Graduate Seminar and most of the coordinators for the Young Participant's Session are members. We were also well represented at the NOA Director's Session in April.

I will not seek re-election to the IOAPA Executive Board this time and I would like to take this opportunity to say that I have enjoyed all the years of service to this organization. I regret that I could not accomplish more, but I am confident that the new officers will continue with the passion that we share for the Olympic Movement. It has been a sincere pleasure to work for the IOAPA, as the association's first president and filling that post for the past 10 years. It is time to move aside. I will always remember this period of my life as one of the most rewarding and satisfying. I hope to stay involved and see many of you in the years to come. Thank you for all of your help, encouragement and friendship.

Always in Olympism,

Laurel Brassey Iversen

Website News

Héctor Argüelles
(ESP)



Dear friends,

The IOAPA website continues being extended and updated. During the last months main action has been done over the sections "sessions" and "links". Now our website contains an extensive list with the main Olympic Education sites on the Internet. More information will be added along the next months.

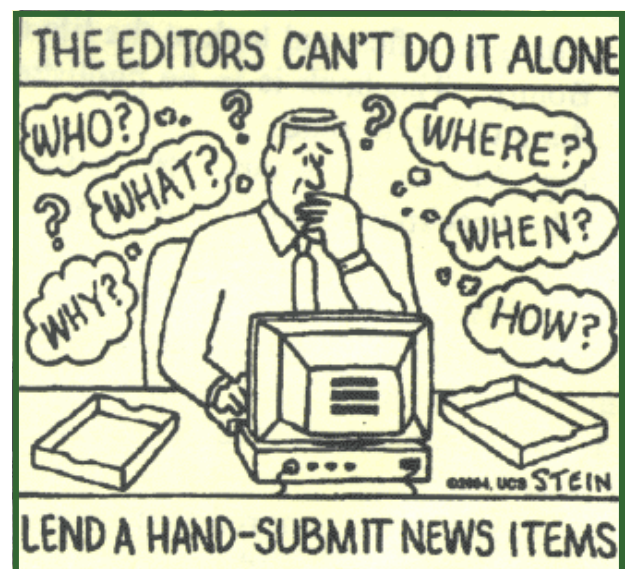
Please check periodically www.ioapa.org

All the best,

Héctor Argüelles - hector@ioapa.org

A Note From the Editor

Cesar R. Torres (ARG)



Keith Sambo (AUS) - In Memoriam



Word has probably traveled around, of the unexpected and unfortunate death of Keith Sambo in January. Those of us who had the blessing of meeting Keith will remember him as a lively, charismatic, and charming person. Keith was definitely a very well respected personality in the Olympic Movement in Australia and beyond. We will greatly miss him. IOAPA would like to honor Keith's memory by sharing with its members the following testimonials.

Popular youth worker mourned

Dan Koch — January 30, 2005

INDIGENOUS and sporting communities have been were shocked by the death of Education Queensland officer Keith Sambo.

The 36-year-old had been involved in junior sport programs in north Queensland and the Torres Strait for the past eight years, working mostly with Aboriginal children from underprivileged and broken homes.

Mr. Sambo's death this week also cast a shadow over the Brisbane Lions, several AFL players having worked with the popular father of five.

"He was just so fantastic with the kids up there," said player Darryl White.

"I have never seen anyone who could capture and keep their attention like Keith.

"He showed so many of the Aboriginal kids that there is a big world out there beyond the community and they could get there if they wanted."

Mr Sambo had credited a five-year stint as the liaison officer at the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba as changing his life.

"When Keithy worked at Lotus Glen he saw the devastating effects drugs and alcohol were having on our people and he decided then he wanted to do something," said Ray Sambo, Keith's older brother.

"He stopped drinking and started working with indigenous kids across the region and found a passion for helping others."

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After finishing a regular game of touch football on Monday night, Mr Sambo left his friends, saying little. He took his own life soon afterwards.

"Nobody saw this coming. It's crushing," Ray Sambo said.

Keith Sambo's funeral will be held in Cairns on Friday.

Keith Sambo — Cassidy Jackson

**Why d you go Keith, you should have stayed,
It seemed to so many that your life was made.
You were always so enthusiastic, happy, full of life,
You dotted dearly on your kids and your estranged wife.
You were proud of your Aboriginal history and wanted all to know,
That there was something new each day from which we could learn and grow.**

**You were made of success and success followed you,
To think you were so unhappy, nobody even knew.
I know all the people you came across will never forget,
The zestful, charismatic, selfless guy they d met.**

**Always know Keith, deep in out hearts, for you we did care,
Rest in Peace and be free my friend, where ever you are out there.**

Dear IOAPA members:

The first time I meet Keith Sambo was at the Olympic Youth Camp during the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. His friendship was so nice an he was always a happy person.

The second time I saw him was four years later, in 2004, during the 44th International Session for Young Participants of the IOA in Olympia. Once again, he gave me his unique friendship. The nice part is that at the end of the Session I asked everybody, or at least a lot of participants, to sign a commemorative poster of the Athens Olympic Games for me, in which Keith wrote that it is nice to see how you change form being a teenager to became a great young man. When I received the news I read Keith's writing on the poster and started to cry.

All the participants of the 44th International Session for Young Participants of the IOA who receive this email will know that the world has lost a man who worked for aboriginal perople (Keith was so proud of his aboriginal background); he was a devoted volunteer in many good causes. Those who met him please send a prayer to heaven for him, and remember that he will be in our minds, and know he will be a part in everybody's life. Keith gave everything to the world but now the world has lost a very important person.

Keith, take care, and watch us from the sky

Otton Baquerizo

Ecuador

108 Years Waiting To Reach Olympic Glory Douglas Crispín Castellanos (CUB)

The Isle of Youth, is the second most important island of the Cuban archipelago, with about 86.000 inhabitants. In the first years of the twentieth century the people of this territory began to practice sports. However, only few sports, recreational and physical activities were practiced including horsemanship, fishing, tennis, hunting, boxing, baseball, golf, table games, and yachting. Less developed games included volleyball and basketball. In its great majority all these sports were practiced by North Americans living in the island at that moment. This was the picture before 1959. In the first half of the twentieth century people from the so called Isle of Pines did not take part in international competitions. The exception was Tomas Baldomero Minguillon Ortiz, born in Nueva Gerona Isle of Pine, who participated in the Central American Games held in Mexico in 1926. Minguillon Ortiz obtained a gold medal as a member of the Cuban baseball team.

It was not until 1959 that the Isle of Pine (Now name Isle of Youth) inscribed its name among the countries that participated in the modern editions of the Olympic Games. In what follows we will summarize the participation of athletes from the island that have represented Cuba at the Olympic Games. The best of all the athletes from the Isle of Youth was the boxer Alfredo Duvergel Adams. Duvergel Adams successfully competed in multiple national and international competitions.

The best performance of athletes from the Isle of Youth at the Olympic Games came in Atlanta 1996 when we they conquered two Olympic medals, one silver and one Bronze. Four years later in Sydney 2000 athletes from the island obtained two silver medals. However, the Isle Youth then had to wait 108 years to see one of its athletes reach a gold medal at the modern Olympics Games. It was in Athens 2004 that the island reached Olympic glory. This was possible through the success of Michael Enriquez Tamayo who captained the Cuban baseball team. Cuba earned gold defeating the Australian squad.

Here present a list of the island's athletes that had taken part at Olympic Games up to now. In Tokyo Japan 1964 Alfredo Hernández Barreda participated in rowing. Munich 1972: Edito Gilbert Morejon and Rogelio Chirino Hernández competed in kayak. Moscow 1980: José Luis Marrero Hernández (kayak) was sixth in his event. Atlanta 1996: Joel Garcia Luis (athletics), Neiser Bent Vazquez (swimming) obtained a bronze medal while Alfredo Duvergel Adams (boxing) obtained a silver medal. Sydney 2000. Neiser Bent Vazquez (swimming) and Joel Garcia Luis (athletics) obtained a silver medal. Athens 2004: Ernesto Peña (wrestling) placed fourth in his weight category and Michael Enrique Tamayo (baseball) reached a gold medal. All these athletes are closely related to the work of our Olympic Studies program. Recently we honoured Alfredo Hernández because of the 40th anniversary of his participation in the games of Tokyo 1964, where he became the first athlete of our small Island that took part at the Olympic games. The celebration was held at the local Sport Museum, where we keep pictures, medals and awards of the most outstanding athletes. More than 30 faculty members were present in the ceremony. The University of Sport also gave diplomas to athletes of the island that had competed at the Olympic Games because most of them studied at the university.

If in the Olympic Games of Atlanta 1996 the island had competed as a nation we would have placed 58 in the medal count, tied with Malaysia, Moldavia, Uzbekistan, the three tied; in Sydney 2000 we would have been number 62, tied with Ireland, Uruguay and Vietnam; and in Athens 2004 we would have reached number 54, tied with Ireland, United Arab Emirates, Dominican Republic, and Cameroon. We achieved these results with only 86.000 inhabitants and thanks to the efforts of all Cubans to carry out one of Coubertin's ideal: Sport for All.

Douglas Crispín Castellanos

What Have They Been Doing? News from IOAPA Members

Our good friend **Evelyn Holderbach** (GER) is moving to sunny Spain. After years of enduring chilly Frankfurt she is moving to Valencia where she can really work on her tan and also do some great work for the Alinghi Sailing team, current holders of the America's Cup. They will defend the Cup in Valencia in 2007. Evelyn will be working as part of the team to ensure their success. Please note that from today her email at ZDF is no longer valid and she may be contacted via eholderbach@gmx.de until she updates us further.

Silvia Dalotto (ARG) has recently received several well-deserved honors. Silvia was designated as the FINA delegate for this year's Hernandarias-Paraná Marathon Swimming. This event was part of FINA's Marathon Swimming World Cup 2005. This year, the Hernandarias-Paraná Marathon Swimming (88 kms.) was named "Silvia Dalotto." This was a recognition to Silvia's accomplishments in marathon swimming. Silvia, born in Paraná, Argentina, was twice Marathon Swimming World Championship and competed in the Marathon Swimming World Cup during seven years. This was the XII edition of the Hernandarias-Paraná Marathon Swimming, the event took place on March 6 and it was nationally televised live for the first time. It was very exciting for Silvia to be recognized in her hometown. As you can imagine she was in high demand from the press. In addition, Silvia has been reelected FINA judge for the 2005-2008 period. Congratulations!



Left: logo of the "Silvia Dalotto Hernandarias-Paraná Marathon Swimming." Right: Silvia being interviewed

Laurel Brassey-Iversen (USA) informed us that Jim Parry's (GBR) book, "The Olympic Games Explained" mentions the IOAPA twice. It is great for the organization to finally receive some recognition and publicity for our organization. I have thanked Jim for including this in his book.

Pg. 218. Many reunions of participants at IOA Sessions have been organized, and more recently this has become a biennial meeting of the IOA Participants Assoc, which works to maintain contacts and information exchange in the interest of maintaining and furthering world-wide Olympic education activity.

Pg. 227. The International Olympic Academy Participants Association (IOAPA) has been vigorous in its support and promotion of the work of former participants since 1988. IOAPA holds a biennial session in Olympia and maintains global communication and sharing of information and ideas.

Thanks Jim!

Keep in touch and send us your news and updates!

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Come and give your contribution this year at the IOAPA conference. It is in your interest and in the interest of the Olympic family.

Yours in Olympism,

Carlo Farrugia

Vice President

Did you know?

That the Organizing Committee of the XXVIII Olympiad – Athens 2004 (ATHOC) announced a 7.6 million Euro surplus from its operations?

That the host city of the games of the XXX Olympiad will be elected at the 117th IOC Session in Singapore on 6 July, 2005 through a secret ballot held among all IOC members?

That during the XX Olympic Winter Games to be held in Torino (ITA) from 10-26 February, 2006, 2.500 athletes and 2.500 officials from 85 National Olympic Committees will be housed in three Olympic Villages: Torino, Bardonecchia, and Sestriere?



A view of Sestriere, Turin