



# FIBA Assist

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2002

FIBA'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY / MARCH 2002

## What's in store?

One Planet One Title With the World Championships for Men and Women approaching fast, FIBA's blockbuster summer website has been updated to concentrate on the Championships. All of the information from the Zone Championships from 2001 can still be found, but the section will now be dedicated to this year's major FIBA events. Stay tuned for all the news in the build up to the 2002 World Championships.

**fiba.com**  
**AND SEE**  
the official fiba website

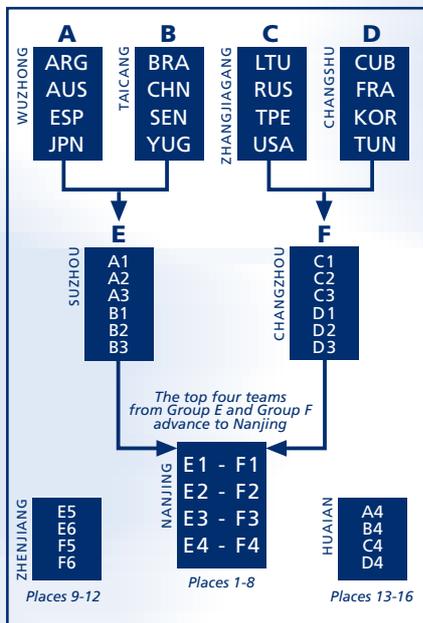


MVP of the Asian Championship for Women, Hu Xiatao of China will play a prominent part in China's medal quest at the World Championship for Women.

## Draw for the 14th World Championship for Women determined



The draw for the above championship was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2002 at the Jiangsu New Century Hotel in Nanjing, People's Republic of China. The Championship will be played from the 14<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 2002 in the cities of Zhangjiagang, Changshu, Taicang, Wuzhong, Changzhou, Suzhou, Huaian, Zhenjiang and Nanjing, People's Republic of China. The result of the draw was as follows:



Mr. Zhou Xu, Vice-President of the Jiangsu Sports Administration revealed the logo and mascot of the competition. He also announced that the official tournament website will be up and running at [www.wwbc2002.com](http://www.wwbc2002.com) at the end of January.

He presented Jiangsu Telecom as an official event sponsor who will provide fibre optic cables to all the arenas to assist the work of journalists and event organisers.

The first day of competition on September 14<sup>th</sup> will see China match up with Brazil, while the USA and Russia will renew their World Championship rivalry which ended in 1998 with USA winning the gold and Russia taking the silver.

## FIBA moves to Geneva

The end of May/beginning of June 2002 will see FIBA World move its offices from Munich, Germany to Geneva, Switzerland. Not only will this move be a new chapter in FIBA's history, it will also see FIBA return to its roots. FIBA was founded in Geneva in 1932 and 2002 is therefore FIBA's 70-year anniversary. Festivities to mark the opening of the new offices and the anniversary are planned for June in Geneva, with further events to take place in Indianapolis during the World Championship. The address of the office will be (telephone numbers and email addresses will be confirmed at a later date): **FIBA, 8A, Chemin de Blandonnet, 1214 Vernier/Geneva, Switzerland.** FIBA-Europe will remain in Munich for an unspecified transitional period.

## Record Number of International Players to participate in NBA All-Star Weekend

It was announced this month by the NBA that the following international players have been selected to play in the Rookie Game during the NBA's All-Star Weekend festivities from 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> February in Philadelphia.



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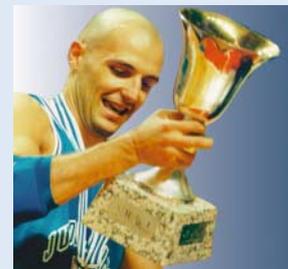
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## What's in store



Aleksandar Djordjevic with the 1998 World Championship trophy. Who will be lifting it this year?



Fans turn out in force for the European Championship for Men 2003 Semi-Final Round.



## Tall Blacks make "Sports Stories of the Year"

In a poll conducted among sports journalists in New Zealand, the New Zealand national basketball team's victory over Australia in the Oceania Championship and subsequent qualification to the 2002 World Championship has been voted as one of the top stories of 2001. 28 sports journalists took part in the poll in which the Tall Black's achievement was voted as the 3<sup>rd</sup> top sports story of the year in New Zealand. New Zealand defeated Australia in the 3 game series 2 games to 1 to win the title of Oceanian Champion. The win was all the more remarkable as New Zealand had defeated Australia just once in 35 previous Oceanian Championships.





# What's in store?

The game pits this year's top NBA rookies against last year's. Pau Gasol (ESP), Tony Parker (FRA), Andrei Kirilenko (RUS) and Zeljko Rebraca (YUG) will all play for the Rookie Team, while Hidayet Turkoglu (TUR) has been selected for the Sophomore team. Steve Nash (CAN) and Peja Stojakovic (YUG) will also be in Philadelphia as participants in the three-point shootout. By the time you read this newsletter the All-Star teams will have been selected. Prospective international candidates are Steve Nash (CAN), Peja Stojakovic (YUG), Dikembe Mutombo (COD), Dirk Nowitzki (GER), Vlade Divac (YUG) and Tim Duncan (ISV).

## "Year of Youth" - Junior competitions dominate calendar in 2002

2002 sees the World Championships for Men and Women loom large in the FIBA calendar. They are the top competitions in the FIBA calendar and happen once every four years, making them understandably the most anticipated tournaments for basketball fans across the globe. However, apart from these two tournaments, there seems to be a noticeable lack of senior team competitions in 2002.

There will be qualification games for various Zone Championships, but no Final Round tournaments will take place. However, fear not, as 2002 may just give us a glimpse into the future of basketball over the next 10 years.

The reason is that every single FIBA zone is hosting competitions at youth levels in male and female categories. Please find below the list of dates of all the FIBA tournaments. For more information closer to the time and results and statistics, check [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com).



## World Championship Tickets still available

With 6 months to go before the World's top national team tournament, tickets for Indianapolis are still available to purchase at all levels. There are three methods of buying tickets for the Championship. You can phone Ticketmaster on the following toll free number (within the USA) +1-866 849 4922 or order via their website [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com). Tickets can also be ordered online at the official Championship website [www.2002worldbasketball.com](http://www.2002worldbasketball.com) or by mail at 2002 World Basketball Championship, 1000 Corporate Landing, Charleston, WV 25311, USA. There are various packages available based on multi-session and all-session tickets and a full list of packages and prices can be found on the official website. Single session tickets will also be put on sale as of February 9<sup>th</sup>. Any questions with regards to ticket should be directed towards the Local Organising Committee at [info@2002worldbasketball.com](mailto:info@2002worldbasketball.com) or tel: +1-317 237 2002.

DATE	COMPETITION	HOST
April	South American Championship for Young Women	Chile
April	African Championship for Young Men	
May	African Championship for Junior Women	
June	South American Championship for Junior Men	Uruguay
June	Centro Basket Championship for Junior Men	Dominican Republic
June	Centro Basket Championship for Junior Women	Guatemala
July 12th - 21st	European Championship for Junior Women	Slovenia
July 12th - 21st	European Championship for Junior Men	Germany
July 14th - 22nd	Asian Championship for Junior Women	China
July 21st - August 4th	Panamerican Championship for Junior Men	Venezuela
July 26th August 4th	European Championship for Young Men	Lithuania
July 26th - August 4th	European Championship for Young Women	Croatia
August	Oceanian Championship for Junior Men	
August	Oceanian Championship for Young Men	
August	Oceanian Championship for Young Women	
August	African Championship for Junior Men	South Africa
September	Oceanian Tournament for Young Men	Tonga
September	Oceanian Tournament for Young Women	Tonga
November	African Championship for Young Women	Tunisia
December 10th - 20th	Asian Championship for Junior Men	Kuwait

# FIBA's world

## Behind the scenes with the FIBA Referees

Referees are without a doubt the unsung heroes of the basketball world. Officiating any sport can often be a thankless task and referees seem to receive far more criticism than they do credit. However, the simple fact remains that without them, it would not be possible to play. Referees rarely seek or receive attention and as the old saying goes, "the best referees are the ones that you never notice".



**FIBA Referee Romualdas Brazauskas in action during the 2001 European Championship for Men.**

What is not in doubt is the high standard that all FIBA referees have to adhere to. We went behind the scenes a little bit to look at the process of becoming an international referee and talked to the President of the World Technical Commission, Valdu Suurkask. FIBA referee candidates have to be nominated by their national federation, who pick nominees from their best national referees. The candidates then take part in an international referees candidates' clinic where they take a theoretical, practical and physical examination established by the FIBA Technical Commission. Those who pass receive an international referee licence issued by the FIBA Secretary General and are eligible to referee all games of main official competitions, cups and tournaments of FIBA.



## +++ Academica received by Mozambique General Assembly

Academica's win in the 9<sup>th</sup> African Champions Cup for Women was not only celebrated by basketball fans in Mozambique, but by the government which invited the team to parliament for a personal audience with President of the General Assembly Eduardo Molémbwé. The team were congratulated on their victory, and took the opportunity to ask for further support from the government to promote and invest in basketball in Mozambique.



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Corner**

It is Valdu Suurkask's role as the President of the World Technical Commission to oversee the appointment and maintenance of FIBA referees. A native of Estonia, he played for the Estonian national team for 10 years winning a silver medal at the Soviet Union Championship in 1967, as well as 7 Estonian Championships. He became a FIBA referee in 1975, a FIBA Commissioner in 1991 and has held administrative posts as Vice President of the Estonian Basketball Association, a national referee instructor and of course President of the FIBA World Technical Commission. He lives in Tallinn, Estonia where he is an Associated Professor at the Tallinn Technical University. We asked him for a few more details on the role of the FIBA World Technical Commission.

**What is the role of the World Technical Commission with regards to referees?**

*The main duty of the World Technical Commission is drafting, continuous updating and amending of the Basketball Rules, to make them compatible with a dynamically developing basketball game. It is our job to ensure that referees take training courses based on common principles and that rules are interpreted uniformly.*

**Can you tell us a little bit more about what happens at the referee clinics?**

*FIBA clinics are conducted for two groups of referees, those applying to be FIBA international referees, and those who are already FIBA referees. The main focus of the clinics is the Basketball Rules, their interpretation, referee mechanics and officiating techniques, philosophy of the game and psychological aspects of officiating.*

**How do you ensure that FIBA referees maintain their high standards?**

*There are a large number of FIBA referees and only co-operation between the Technical Commission, the FIBA Competitions department and the national federations can ensure a good overview of referee development. All FIBA referees have to pass twice-yearly clinics with Rule knowledge and fitness tests in their countries and the local National Instructors inform FIBA of the results.*

**Are you happy with the quality of the FIBA referees?**

*I would say – Yes. There are a number of very good referees in all the FIBA zones. However, there is always room for improvement and this is the job of the World Technical Commission. Openly or not referees have often been blamed by the majority of players and coaches as well as team followers for the failures they experienced. This is inevitable no matter how good or bad referees are. That is why words of praise addressed to referees are irrelevant, and it is not my intention, since I am convinced that there are good, bad and average both among players and referees, and referees can also have good or bad days.*

**What is your personal view on three-man officiating?**

*For practical and logistical reasons, the 3-man system has not been implemented yet in all FIBA competitions, but we are aware of its advantages. The unanimous opinion of the World Technical Commission is that three-man officiating would be beneficial for the basketball game. It is proved by the experience of numerous countries and competitions where this principle has been applied. The last edition of the "Rules 2000" authorises the use of three officials. I believe that the major benefit is that of psychological nature. Both players and coaches assume that the game is then under a better control and they would trust referees more.*

A full version of this interview can be found on [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com).

**200,000 spectators support national teams in Europe**

A total of 200,000 basketball fans went to support their national teams in November during the Semi-Final Round of the 2003 European Championships for Men and Women.

30 national teams are currently battling it out for the 14 available places in the Final Round of the European Championship for Men which will take place from 5<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September, 2003 in Borås, Luleå, Norrköping, Södertälje and Stockholm, Sweden. The first block of three games was completed in November. In the Women's tournament, 20 teams are competing for

**FBP to market the World Championships for Men and Women in 2002**

*The conditions for the 2002 World Basketball Championships for Men and Women are perfect. The men's competitions will be played in the USA where basketball is more popular than ever and the experienced Local Organising Committee (LOC) is well prepared to stage an unforgettable event.*

*However, it will be a big challenge for the organisers of the women's event. The championship will be played in nine first-category venues in the Shanghai (CHI) region, all within a radius of less than 200 kilometres.*

*These days FBP is actively working on sponsorship for both events. Leading companies of different brands have already entered into concrete negotiations for a successfully developed marketing concept for the two events.*

*In addition to the four main FIBA sponsors, Champion, Molten, Compaq and Mondo, several well-known applicants are excited about supporting the event and the athletes, and making the Championships something really special.*

**New Sponsor Packages**

*FBP is currently working on developing a new system of sponsorship to be available for future events. Further information will be presented in future editions of FIBA Assist.*

FIBA Basketball Promotion GmbH is a subsidiary of FIBA. FBP consists of three departments: Marketing, Events and Study Centre & Research.

the 10 places on offer in the Final Round of the European Championship which will take place from 19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2003 in Athens, Greece. For a full rundown of all the spectator numbers as well as results, statistics, rosters and schedule of the European Championships for Men and Women Semi-Final Rounds, please visit [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com).

**+ + + South American Club League to tip off in February**

The host cities for the preliminary round of the South American Club League have been selected by tournament organisers Consubasquet. Four groups will be played in four cities with clubs from Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia all participating. Group A will be played in Montevideo, Uruguay (20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> February), Group B in Asuncion, Paraguay (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March), Group C in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil (28<sup>th</sup> Feb-2<sup>nd</sup> March) and Group D in Quito, Ecuador (23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February).



# don't get disconnected

## FIBA Directory Changes

**Aruba Basketball Bond**  
 New address:  
 Aruba Basketball Bond  
 Rondweg 93  
 Oranjestad, Aruba

### Basketball Federation of Armenia

New address, telephone and fax:  
 Basketball Federation of Armenia  
 22 Shahamiryanner str.  
 37506 Yerevan, Republic of Armenia  
 Tel: (3741) 44 43 72, Fax: (3741) 44 47 55

### Georgian Basketball Federation

New e-mail:  
 basket@gol.ge

### Fédération Tunisienne de Basketball

New address, telephone and fax:  
 Fédération Tunisienne de Basketball  
 Maison des Fédérations, Immeuble B - 2e Etage  
 Centre Urbain du Nord  
 2035 - La Charguia I, Tunis  
 Tel: (216+71) 75 49 25; 23 62 88; 23 76 37  
 Fax: (216+71) 75 35 00

### British Virgin Amateur Basketball Federation

New address:  
 British Virgin Amateur Basketball Federation  
 Mr. Elvis Harigan, President BVIABA  
 P.O. Box 3111  
 Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands

### Federación Mexicana de Basquetbol

New dialling code and fax:  
 Code: (52+72)  
 Fax: (52+72) 78 58 09



## +++ Philip Craven elected as President of the International Paralympic Committee

Philip Craven (ENG) the President of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) was elected as the second President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2001. Craven is a five-time Paralympian (1972 - 1988) in swimming and wheelchair basketball. He based his run for the presidency on a platform fighting injustice, unlocking the skills and knowledge of the athletes in the Paralympic movement, managing change, building mutual respect and trust and teamwork. Unfortunately for the IWBF, his election means that he will not stand again for the IWBF Presidency while holding the IPC office.

## +++ FIBA mourns the passing of Mirza Delibasic

There was sad news in the basketball world in December with the passing of former Yugoslav legend, Mirza Delibasic at the age of 47 after a long illness. Born in Tuzla (Bosnia Herzegovina) in 1954, Delibasic had a long and illustrious career in both club and international basketball. He represented Bosna Sarajevo in the 1970's and in tandem with coach Bogdan Tanjevic, the team went onto win the European Cup for Men's Champions Clubs in 1979. Delibasic was also a national team stalwart, appearing in 176 games for the Yugoslav national team. He was pretty successful too, and among his trophy cabinet were two European Championship gold medals, an Olympic gold medal (1980) and a World Championship gold (1978), to go with many others. Recognised in his home country of Bosnia Herzegovina as one of their top athletes of all time, he was voted Bosnian sportsman of the year on four occasions and last year was named as Bosnian sportsman of the century.

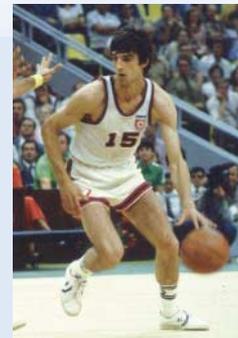


## +++ Wang Zhizhi featured on postage stamps

Chinese basketball star Wang Zhizhi has received the rare privilege of having his image feature on a postage stamp. Wang, who is currently playing for the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA, appears on stamps issued by the government of Liberia as a part of their Legends of Sports series, which is produced by the IGPC, the world's largest postal agency. "It is indeed a great honor," said Wang. "Not everyone is privileged to have a stamp made for them."

Wang made his first major appearance for the Chinese national team during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta at the tender age of 17. Since then he has become a star in China and a national team lynchpin. He helped China to victory in the 2001 Asian Basketball Championship and will feature heavily in China's medal quest at the 2002 World Championship for Men. He was selected by the Dallas Mavericks in the second round of the 1999 NBA draft, making him the first Chinese player to ever play in the NBA.

# People



# Stay tuned

**IMPRINT: Editing:** FIBA Communications Department; **Artwork:** Silke Stein, Bayreuth; **Photos:** FIBA/AFP Archive, Yugoslav Basketball Federation, International Paralympic Committee; **Printer:** Druckerei Ditzten, Bremerhaven

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## EVENT CALENDAR

### MARCH 2002

29/03/02 - 31/03/02 NCAA Women's Final Four in San Antonio, USA

30/03/02 - 01/04/02 NCAA Men's Final Four in Atlanta, USA

### APRIL 2002

10/04/02 and 17/04/02 Final of the Ronchetti Cup

10/04/02 and 17/04/02 Final of the Korac Cup

26/04/02 and 28/04/02 Final Four of the EuroLeague Women (will be played in the venue of one of the participants)

28/04/02 - 05/05/02 Asian Champions Cup for Men in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

30/04/02 Final of the Saporta Cup in Lyon, France

## MEETING CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 2002

26/02/02 European Council for Basketball for Young People in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

### MARCH 2002

08/03/02 - 09/03/02 Board of FIBA-Europe in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

FIBA-Europe Mini-Basketball Conference in London, England

### APRIL 2002

18/04/02 - 20/04/02 Meeting of the FIBA Zone Secretary Generals in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany

### MAY 2002

09/05/02 - 12/05/02 Board and 47th Session of General Assembly of FIBA Europe in Oostende, Belgium

03/05/02 and 04/05/02 FIBA-Asia Central Board and Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### JUNE 2002

17/06/02 - 19/06/02 Central Board of FIBA and 70-year anniversary of FIBA celebration in Geneva, Switzerland

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