



# FIBA Assist

02  
2002

FIBA'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - APRIL / MAY 2002

## What's in store?

### Blockbuster

World Championship previews: The World Championships will feature heavily on [fiba.com](http://fiba.com) as of April onwards as we build up to tip-off in August. We'll be providing the low-down on the competition, taking a look at its history and talking to the players and coaches who will participate in Indianapolis. We'll be posting new material on a regular basis so keep your homepage locked on to [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com).



**70 years of FIBA - celebrate good times 1932 to 2002**

The festivities for FIBA's 70th year anniversary are taking shape. Not only has the official logo has been designed (see above) but the various events for the tipoff of the celebrations in Geneva are underway. In co-operation with the city of Geneva and the Geneva Basketball Association, a 3-on-3 streetball tournament will take place on 15th June followed by a gala dinner on 18th June.



### We are moving...

The new address as of 1st June 2002:

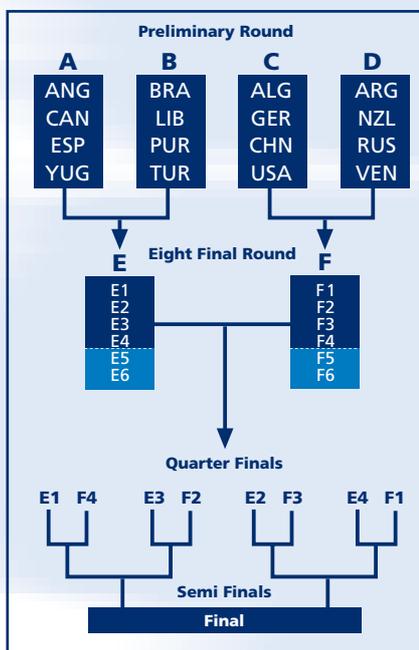
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Web site: [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com)

### Important notice:

Due to our move, the offices will close in Munich on Wednesday, 29th May 2002 and re-open in Geneva on Thursday, 6th June 2002.

## Draw for the World Championship for Men

The draw for the World Championship for Men took place on 5th February, 2002 at Conesco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, USA. The result of the draw was as follows:



With the World Championships for Men and Women around the corner, a combined number of around 2,000 media members are expected to be present in the USA and China to cover both events. Media accreditation application forms for the Men's Championship have been distributed to world media and the deadline for return is June 15th, 2002.

Media members who need a form should contact the FIBA Communications Department. Application forms for the Women's Championship are currently being prepared and will be sent to the worldwide media as soon as they are finalised.

### What's in store?

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## What's in store



**EuroLeague Women - can Bourges retain their title?**



**Girls in training at the Basketball Academy of Izabal in Guatemala. This is one of the most promising and dynamic national federations, where basketball serves as a major social contributor to the country's efforts for a brighter future.**



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

Paul Schulte  
of the Olympic  
bronze medal-  
winning team  
USA



## One Planet One Title

See the world's finest basketball teams challenge for basketball supremacy this autumn, in the World Championships for Men and Women 2002.

[www.fiba.com/oneplanet](http://www.fiba.com/oneplanet)



## What's in store?

### Liga Sudamericana

Pan continental club competition has firmly established itself in the hearts and minds of basketball fans in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Europe led the way with FIBA establishing the first European club competition in 1958 and now contains the most diverse and prestigious competitions.

However, other FIBA Zones recognised the value of this type of competition and FIBA-Asia, FIBA-Africa and Consubasquet (a division of FIBA-Americas) have introduced their own versions in their territories.

Under the auspices of Consubasquet, the Liga Sudamericana has become a top fixture in South America with clubs from the member nations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela all entitled to compete. This was indeed the case this season with all countries being represented in the field of 16.

As with national team competition, Argentina and Brazil have proved to be dominant since the competition's inception in 1996. Clubs from these two basketball superpowers have shared the title between them with Brazilian clubs taking two titles and Argentinean clubs 4 titles.

This year's action tipped off in February with the following clubs split into four groups of four:

**Group A:** Vasco (BRA), Gimnasia, C.R. (ARG), Bigua (URU), Prov Llanquihm (CHI)

**Group B:** Welcome (URU), Libertad S. (ARG), San Jose (PAR), Real Sta. Cruz (BOL)

**Group C:** Estudiantes O (ARG), Dtes Valdivia (CHI), Coc R. Preto (BRA), Regatas Lima (CHI)

**Group D:** Franca (BRA), Cocodrilos (VEN), Mavort (ECU), Piratas (COL)

Round robin was played in the first round with two clubs from each group progressing to the Quarter-Finals which is played in a best of three format.

At the time of going to press, 8 clubs from 6 countries were in the middle of their Quarter-Final series' with the matchups as follows:

San Jose v. Vasco  
Libertad S. v. Bigua  
Mavort v. Estudiantes O.  
Cocodrilos v. Coc R. Preto

The four winners will play a best of three series in the Semi-Final with the two finalists playing best of five to decide the championship. All the action can be followed online via Consubasquet's website [www.consubasquet.com](http://www.consubasquet.com).

### EuroLeague Women and Saporta Cup reach climax



The battles for cup glory are heating up on the club scene in Europe as the EuroLeague Women and Saporta Cup are entering their final phases. The Commission for European Club Competitions decided at their meeting during the 2001 Final Four in Messina, Sicily, that as of 2002, the EuroLeague Women Final Four will take place in a city of one of the participating clubs. A decision will be made after the 28th March when the four clubs are known.

At the time of going to press, the Saporta Cup is in the Quarter-Final Round, with 8 clubs from 8 different countries still in the hunt for the trophy. The Final will take place on the 30th April, 2002 at the Palais des Sports in Lyon, France.

#### LOC Contact Information

Saporta Cup Final  
Fédération Française de Basketball  
117, Rue du Château des Rentiers  
F-75013 Paris  
Tel: (33+1) 53 94 25 00  
Fax: 53 94 26 80  
E-Mail: [info@basketfrance.com](mailto:info@basketfrance.com)  
Web site: [www.basketfrance.com](http://www.basketfrance.com)



## FIBA's world

### OLYMPAFRICA visits FIBA

The Olympafrica International Foundation is a Dakar based non-governmental organisation (NGO). Olympafrica set up on June, 1993 in Lausanne under the aegis of the International Olympic Committee with the goal of establishing education centres throughout Africa, has recently signed a collaboration accord with FIBA.



**Anicet Lavodrama (right) and Mamadou M. Sambe at the FIBA office**

Its development officer Mamadou Mansour Sambe visited the FIBA offices on 28th February 2002 to complete the final points of the collaboration. FIBA will supply the existing 21 centres in 11 countries with equipment (balls, whistles and hand-clocks) and teaching aids (educational, print material) necessary for the development of and promotion of basketball. FIBA will provide the expertise in aiding local production/development of backboards, courts and other equipment. FIBA will also co-operate in special clinics tentatively scheduled for June in the fight against AIDS, and a basketball summer camp in August.

FIBA strongly adheres to the 4 mottoes by which the OLYMPAFRICA Foundation works: "Olympism", "Education", "Youth" and "Development". Olympafrica was created to enable the National Olympic Committees of the most underprivileged countries to fully enjoy the beneficial effects of olympism, a humanistic philosophy which postulates, beyond the cult of excellence conveyed through its watchword, the raising of behavioural standards, in stadiums as well as everyday life.



### +++ Myanmar hosts first international tournament for 22 years

The Basketball Federation of Myanmar was the host of a basketball goodwill competition in March, aimed at extending cooperation between sports among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). As well as the home side, teams from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Singapore were also represented in men and women's competition. Play was completed on 7th March with Singapore winning the men's category and Malaysia coming up trumps in the women's. This was the first international basketball competition to take place in Myanmar since 1969, and the final was attended by Asian Basketball Confederation Secretary General, Dato Yeoh Choo Hock. +++

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## Gold Cup final line-up taking shape

Elite wheelchair basketball players continue to strive to qualify their teams for the Gold Cup. Five nations qualified men's teams for the 2002 Kitakyushu Gold Cup during IWBF's European Zone Championship scheduled from 18 - 24 February in Amsterdam. They are, in order of finish, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain and Israel. In addition, three women's teams from EuroZone have qualified for the Gold Cup. They are Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands. The men's teams join Australia, Japan, Korea and South Africa. The women's teams that qualify will join Australia and Japan in the competition. During April 20 - 28, teams from IWBF's Americas Zone will clash in Vitoria, Brazil. The men and women's teams will vie for each of the three remaining berths. IWBF will conduct the all-important Gold Cup draw following the men's championship game of the Americas tournament.

IWBF and the Kitakyushu local organising committee are busily preparing for the Gold Cup as well as the IWBF's World Forum and World Congress that will be held during the Gold Cup. The forum will convene on 27 and 28 August while IWBF has scheduled the Congress for 29 August. IWBF President Phil Craven, recently elected to the International Paralympic Committee presidency will retire from his IWBF position in Kitakyushu after serving as IWBF President for 14 years. Also retiring are IWBF Vice-President, former Technical Commission President and IWBF Gold Badge Classifier Armand Thiboutot, who also created the IWBF's newsletter and served as its editor since 1988, as well as Development Commission President and IWBF Gold Badge Classifier Kathy Curtis.

## FIBA and ULEB meet in Barcelona

Representatives from FIBA and ULEB met in Barcelona on 5th March, 2002 to discuss the possibility of an agreement that allows the recognition of the Euroleague as a competition integrated within the official competitions of FIBA-Europe. A draft agreement was established in the days following the meeting and received positive feedback at the meeting of the Board of FIBA-Europe on March 8th - 9th, 2002 in

Munich. The Board has given full authority to the President and the Secretary General to conclude the discussions with ULEB and sign the final agreement.

## Development news

Anicet Lavodrama, FIBA's Development Manager was in Africa and the Americas in February visiting Cape Verde, Puerto Rico, Barbados, the U.S. Virgin Islands and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As with all his travels, Anicet met with the basketball federations of each country as well as other sporting and government authorities. In Cape Verde he was graciously welcomed by his Excellency, President Pedro Pires. He also found time for the media, appearing on a radio show in St Vincent and the Grenadines and giving newspaper interviews in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Summing up his trip Anicet commented on his return: "The visits were revealing in discovering how much basketball has progressed and overtaken many other deeply rooted sports such as netball, cricket and football, as the sport of choice for youth. A main obstacle faced in many countries is the lack of communication between the relevant basketball, sports and educational authorities as well as society in general and harsh and volatile climate conditions. There is also general scepticism as to what FIBA actually contributes to the development of basketball in their countries. However, we are beginning to sense some encouraging commitments from the local authorities who are seeing the investment in the sport of basketball as a good investment in their youth and human resources. The visit to Cape Verde gave me a first chance opportunity to see how committed the President is to sports and basketball. With this commitment and a very young population, Cape Verde is one of the most promising affiliated FIBA countries."

"The sport of basketball needs better teachers and better administrators and we are setting these items as a priority in the years to come together with better playing infrastructures. There is a tremendous amount of basketball in many countries; however, the uncontrolled and uncoordinated nature of those activities are bound to be detrimental, physically and mentally to many young basketball players as well as for the long term quality of

### FBP is currently working on

*the World Championship for Men 2002 to be held in Indianapolis (USA) and the World Championship for Women 2002 to be held in China as well as on projects for the enlargement of our family of sponsors for the period 2003-2006.*

*Beside Compaq, Champion, Molten and Mondo, we are proud to announce that Zepter has joined our official sponsors and will be present at the 4 events organised in 2002. Zepter will provide the VIP's with gifts for each competition, in order to introduce their products. Olympus (digital cameras) is a newcomer and will be sponsor of the World Championship for Women in China.*

*Concerning the new sponsorship contracts for 2003-2006, FBP is working on the proposal for globalised marketing, which was accepted by the Central Board in November.*

*Two options are proposed to prospective sponsors.*

**1. Special sponsorship fees for the six World Championships between 2003-2006 (Junior Men and Young Women in 2003, Young Men and Junior Women in 2005 and Men and Women in 2006).**

**2. Sponsorship for all Zone competitions that qualify teams for the World Championships and Olympic Games, with higher sponsorship fees and/or Value in Kind.**

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

basketball within some very promising basketball nations."

"I have a strong feeling that we are developing a strong bond with all of the FIBA affiliated basketball federations allowing for serious partnerships with all involved in the pursuit of a very positive and sustainable development of the sport of basketball."



## + + + Honours continue for New Zealand Basketball

**In the wake of their triumph in the Oceania Championship in 2001, New Zealand is still reaping the benefits from this famous series. This time it was the turn of coach Tab Baldwin, who collected the Sir Murray Halberg Trust Award, the most prestigious award in New Zealand sports. Coach Baldwin collected his prize on national television, becoming the first ever basketball coach to win in the history of the award. + + +**

### FIBA Directory Changes

#### Federación Nacional de Baloncesto de Honduras

New address, telephone and fax:  
Complejo Villa Olímpica, Gimnasio N° 3, Apartado N° 2424  
Tegucigalpa - Honduras; Tel/Fax: (504) 235 54 46

#### FIBA America - COPABA

New web site: [www.fibaamerica.com](http://www.fibaamerica.com)

#### Liberia Basketball Federation

New e-mail: [lbfbasketball@yahoo.com](mailto:lbfbasketball@yahoo.com)

#### Federación Paraguaya de Basquetbol

New address, telephone, fax and e-mail:  
Concordia 232 C/Gral. Santos, Barrio las Mercedes,  
Asuncion - Paraguay; Tel/Fax: (595+21) 20 11 56  
E-mail: [cpbb@telesurf.com.py](mailto:cpbb@telesurf.com.py)

#### The Bahrain Basketball Association

New telephone: Tel: (973) 74 10 10/72 26 33

#### German Basketball Federation

New e-mail: [elke.luczak@basketball-bund.de](mailto:elke.luczak@basketball-bund.de)

#### Hellenic Basketball Federation

New city code: (30+10)

#### Federación Mexicana de Basquetbol

New city code: (52+7222)

#### Basketball Federation of Yugoslavia

New fax: Fax: (381+11) 340 08 24  
Fax: (381+11) 41 13 22 (still in use)

#### National Basketball Federation of Kazakhstan

New address, telephone and fax:  
480012 Nauryzbaibatyra '89 Almaty Kazakhstan  
Tel: (7+3272) 58 19 06; 58 19 66; 63 98 44  
Fax: (7+3272) 58 20 89

#### Antigua & Barbuda Basketball Association

New address, telephone, fax and e-mail:  
The Honourary Secretary Antigua & Barbuda Basketball  
Association, P.O. Box 35 56, St. John's, Antigua  
Tel: (1+268) 462-0302; -5600/1/2,  
Fax: (1+268) 462-4551; -4811/2/988,  
E-mail: [abbaball@yahoo.com](mailto:abbaball@yahoo.com)

#### Basketball New Zealand

New address, telephone and fax:  
Basketball New Zealand, Enterprise House, Level 4,  
3-6 Church Street, Wellington, New Zealand  
Tel: (64+4) 498 59 50, Fax: (64+4) 472 36 73  
(Please note: postal, e-mail and web site remain unchanged!)

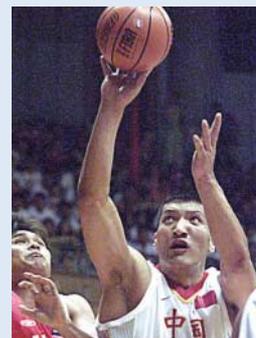


#### +++ Ron Foxcroft

Ron Foxcroft may well be best known for his Fox 40 whistle, but the Canadian had a 30-year career as a top class referee. Foxcroft is pretty modest about his refereeing career, saying in an interview in March 2000, "I was never a great official." A closer look at his CV shows that he worked five NCAA tournaments, an Olympic Final and many other top level international games. Not bad for an "average official." Nonetheless, Foxcroft is most famous for the Fox 40, the pealeless whistle which he began work on in 1984. By 1987 a commercial model was available which Foxcroft took to the 1987 Pan-Am Games in Indianapolis. To say that the whistle was an instant hit would be an understatement, and Foxcroft came back from Indianapolis with 20,000 orders. Since then Fox 40 has sold over 100 million whistles and has customers varying from sports referees to the military and police. Fox 40 is also an Official Technical Partner of the FIBA Research and Study Centre.

#### +++ Menk Batere becomes second Asian player to debut in NBA

Following in the footsteps of national team colleague Whang Zhizhi, Menk Batere has become the second Asian player to play in the NBA, signing with the Denver Nuggets. The 27-year-old Batere participated in the Nuggets' pre-season training camp, but returned to China to play for the national team and his club side, the Beijing Ducks. Batere, along with Whang Zhizhi and Yao Ming, was a member of the much publicised "Great Walking Wall" during the Sydney Olympics. This trio formed the formidable Chinese front line, and earned the nickname thanks to their average height of 2.17. Yao Ming is the only remaining member to still be in China and it is widely expected that he will be a high selection in the 2002 NBA Draft.



#### +++ Portugal national team captain suffers cardiac arrest during club game

In what can only be described as a tragedy, Portuguese basketball star Paulo Gómez Marques Pinto died during a Portuguese league game between Aveiro Basket and Benfica on Sunday 3rd March. Pinto, who was playing for Aveiro, collapsed on the court during a timeout in the first period due to breathing difficulties. He received immediate treatment from both teams' medical staff and was rushed to hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Pinto, 27, represented his country 65 times as well as playing for Porto and Aveiro in the Portuguese League, and Gran Canaria in the Spanish League. FIBA would like to pass on its condolences to the friends and family of Paulo Pinto, as well as the Portuguese Basketball Federation and all basketball fans in Portugal.



## Stay tuned

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## EVENT CALENDAR

### APRIL 2002

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*

### MAY 2002

03/03/02 - 12/03/02 *South American Championship for Young Women 2002 in Chile*

### JUNE 2002

11/06/02 - 15/06/02 *8th European Promotion Cup for Men 2002 in Malta*

18/06/02 - 22/06/02 *7th European Promotion Cup for Women 2002 in Andorra*

26/06/02 - 08/07/02 *Centro Basket Championship for Men and Women 2002 in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*

## MEETING CALENDAR

### 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*

### AUGUST 2002

25/08/02 - 26/08/02 *World Congress of FIBA in Indianapolis, United States of America*

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