



ASSIST NEWS

FIBA ASSIST NEWSLETTER A BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE FEBRUARY / MARCH 2004



FIBA

We Are Basketball

FIBA.COMe and see the official fiba website

FIBA Americas has redesigned its website to provide users better access and information specifically on competitions on the South American continent. The new website went online January 30, 2004 and is available in Spanish and English. Go to www.fibaamerica.com to see the new site.

WHAT'S IN STORE OLYMPIC BASKETBALL SCHEDULE FOR WOMEN ANNOUNCED

Since the conclusion of the draw which took place in Athens, Greece on January 26, 2004, and with the consultation of all parties involved, ATHOC, FIBA and the television broadcasters, the final schedule for the women's basketball tournament has been determined.

Secretary General Patrick Baumann commented, "The Olympic Games is returning to its birthplace, and to a country that has a great passion for our sport. It has only been since 1976 that a women's basketball program has featured in the Olympics. Since then we have witnessed exciting displays of basketball and we believe that Athens 2004 will be even more thrilling."

To purchase tickets please go to www.athens2004.com ■



Group A: Australia, Brazil, Greece, Japan, Nigeria, Russia
Group B: P.R. of China, Czech Republic, Korea, New Zealand, Spain, USA



FIBA Sports Director Lubomir Kotleba draws the home team in Group A.

WHAT'S IN STORE
UPCOMING FIBA EVENTS
PAGE 1/2

FIBA'S WORLD NEWS AND NOTES FROM FIBA BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETING
PAGE 2/3

DON'T GET DISCONNECTED
FIBA DIRECTORY CHANGES
PAGE 4

PEOPLE NAMES AND FACES
PAGE 4

STAY TUNED
FIBA EVENT AND MEETING CALENDARS
PAGE 4

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The Hellenikon Complex will showcase exhilarating basketball this summer



CONSTRUCTION WELL UNDER WAY

The basketball tournaments for men and women will be played in two venues.

The Preliminary Round will be staged in the brand new Hellenikon Indoor Complex and as of the Quarter Finals the basketball family will move to the Olympic Indoor Hall in Maroussi.

The construction on both buildings are progressing well, but the deadlines remain tight. In Maroussi, the venue where FIBA has already organised a European Championship in 1995 and a World Championship in 1998, the contractor started the refurbishing

work beginning of February. The Hellenikon Complex, which has originally been a hangar in the old airport is a brand new sport arena and will be used for the basketball test event on 4th - 6th June 2004

for the first time.

This will be in invitational tournament for women with four national teams including host Greece playing in round robin format. ■



Macatabene Amachee playing at the FIBA Africa Championship for Women, helped Nigeria qualify for Athens 2004.

EUROPEAN NEWS 4 COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN HOSTING 2007 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Spain all expressed interest in hosting the event to FIBA Europe. The countries will receive a bid manual and have until April 30th to submit a formal candidature. All official candidates will be visited by the FIBA Europe Evaluation Commission. Following the report from the Commission and presentations, the Board of FIBA Europe will decide on which candidate will be awarded the 2007 European Championship for Men.



FIBA EUROPE
We Are Basketball

WHAT'S IN STORE

FIBA HALL OF FAME TAKES OFF

On March 4, 2004, 2004, the Mayor of Alcobendas, Spain, Mr. José Caballero Domiguez, will have signed an agreement with Pedro Ferrándiz for the construction of the new building which will host the FIBA Hall of Fame.

Later, on March 23, 2004 the inauguration of the 4th International Biennial of Basketball in the Arts will take place at the Pedro Ferrándiz Foundation. The President of the Madrid Community, Ms. Esperanza Aguirre, will be present for the inauguration. The contest takes place over three months, February, March and April.

Artists from all nationalities and ages submitted work during the contest entry dates. There are two categories, painting and sculpture with the theme being basketball. A committee will judge the works of art and award winners with prizes. The closing ceremony of the event will take place April 30th.

For more information please contact the Pedro Ferrándiz Foundation, www.pferrandiz.org, tel: 91 662 19 13, fax: 91 661 90 99, email: pferrandiz@pferrandiz.org ■

MEDIA GUIDE OFFERED ONLINE

In align with FIBA's new branding, the FIBA Media Guide 2004 will soon be available on www.fiba.com.

The interactive media guide will have similar contents to the print version. The FIBA National Federations and First Division Clubs section and the Media Directory, will remain up to date unlike the print version. Another new option of the online media guide in the above mentioned sections will be a search tool. The search tool will enable the user to sort by country, club, contact person, media category etc.

The National Federations and First Division Clubs section and the Media Directory will be available to download and print.

Stay tuned to www.fiba.com for the release of the first online media guide later this year. ■

FIBA'S WORLD

RECORD NUMBER OF 7 COUNTRIES BID FOR FIBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

FIBA invited all of its 212 member federations to bid for the 2010 FIBA World Championship. The headquarters in Geneva received a record number of 7 bids for the most prestigious FIBA event.

The following 7 national federations have submitted a letter of intent to host the event: Australia, France, Italy, Puerto Rico, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Turkey. The candidates will receive the complete bid manual shortly.

A formal candidature from each interested country must reach FIBA before the 31st July 2004.

A FIBA evaluation commission will then visit the bidding countries between 1st September and 31st October 2004. A report from the visits by the FIBA evaluation commission will be given to the Central Board, which will take a final decision in November 2004.

The FIBA World Championship is the most prestigious basketball

event on the globe, with a rich history. It was first played in 1950 and takes place every four years. Former Yugoslavia (now Serbia & Montenegro) is the current champion and is leading in the medal table with 5 gold medals, followed by the United States and the former Soviet Union with 3 gold medals.

The number of participating teams has been increased from 16 to 24, as a reaction by FIBA to the improved global level of play and the fact that basketball is the most widespread indoor team sport in the world. Most countries will qualify through the 5 continental championships in summer 2009, but 4 countries will receive a wild card. ■

FIBA'S WORLD

JAPAN 2006

Preparations are well on the way for the world's most prestigious basketball event in 2006. FIBA's Sports Director, Lubomir Kotleba, did a site visit to Japan and met with representatives of the Local Organizing Committee on 9 – 12 January.

During the site visit Mr. Kotleba inspected all possible venues for the games in the cities of Tokyo, Sapporo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Hamamatsu and Sendai. All visited venues meet the high standard requirements of FIBA with a minimum seating capacity from 6.000 – 7.500.

The Preliminary Round of the championship will be played in four groups of 6 teams in four different cities before going to the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals in the Saitama Super Arena with a seating capacity of 23,000 seats. FIBA has agreed with the Japan Basketball Association that the final deadline for the decision on the venues will be no later than

March 31st 2004.

During the Asian Championship for Women, Secretary General Patrick Baumann also took the opportunity to meet with the LOC, including meeting the Governor of Saitama, Mr. Kiyoshi Ueda.

On the drawing board is the logo and the mascot for the event, both FIBA and LOC are currently discussing and reviewing the proposed artwork. The logo and mascot will be launched this summer.

While the 12 teams which qualified for Athens 2004 are gearing up for this summer, many countries have already developed their strategy to gain a spot of the 24 tickets to Japan. ■



FIBA
AFRICA
We Are Basketball

AFRICAN NEWS 2004 FIBA-AFRICA COMPETITIONS PROGRAM

Following the FIBA-Africa Central Board that was held in Maputo before the African Championship for Women, the 2004 FIBA Africa calendar of events was announced. The calendar contains a variety of national team and club events over the whole year 2004, and allows a long time planning for organizers and national federations. For further details on the program go to www.fiba-africa.com.

FIBA FORMALLY ACCEPTS WADA CODE

FIBA formally accepted the World Anti-doping Code on January 29, 2004. FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann personally delivered the letter of acceptance to WADA Chairman, Richard W. Pound on the occasion of a WADA Symposium in Lausanne, Switzerland.

After the FIBA Central Board meeting in November 2003 FIBA has adopted its Internal Regulations governing doping controls in order to comply with the WADA code. This was done in close cooperation between the President of the FIBA Medical Council, Dr. Jacques Huguet, and FIBA's legal expert together with WADA's legal and medical experts.

FIBA MET WITH IRAQI BASKETBALL FEDERATION

Accomplishing a good deed isn't always easy. This is what a group of FIBA experts had to learn on a trip with the purpose to meet with the new Iraqi Basketball Federation in Baghdad and to provide them with material and expertise.

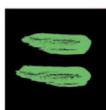
The group of experts consisted of high ranked FIBA officials including Mr. Dato Yeoh Choo Hock, FIBA Vice President, Mr. Lubomir Kotleba, FIBA Sports Director and Mr. Hagop Khajirian, FIBA Asia Deputy Secretary General. On their way to Baghdad the



A first step towards rebuilding: FIBA Experts and Iraqi Secretary General in Damascus, Syria

group stopped over in Beirut, Lebanon and Damascus, Syria to meet with the respective representatives from these national federations.

According to plan, the group left early morning on 12th February with two vehicles including a truck containing 150 basketballs, 3 portable scoreboards and 10 complete sets of player uniforms for national basketball teams. Unfortunately, the Syrian/Iraqi border was closed and despite desperate attempts



WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY

play true

These new regulations have been sent to all 212 FIBA national member federations on February 6, 2004, for implementation.

Patrick Baumann stated, "FIBA has always been at the forefront of the fight against doping. Therefore, we are very satisfied to have concluded this process which gives us the basis for a harmonized and global fight against doping together with WADA and all other stakeholders in the Olympic movement."

Richard W. Pound added, "We are delighted to share this occasion with one of the most important sports in the world and we look forward to continuing our cooperative work with FIBA. ■

to get in telephone contact with officials in Baghdad the group could not cross the border and had to return to Damascus with the material. The Secretary General of the new Iraqi Basketball Federation, Mr. Khaled Abdallah, managed to meet the FIBA delegation in Damascus on the next day and was handed the basketball equipment. Mr. Abdallah left Damascus with a truck direction Baghdad and according to FIBA's information he reached Baghdad with the material.

The visit was planned as an effort by FIBA to improve the overall condition of basketball in Iraq. The Federation had organized on 12th February a basketball camp with over 1.000 youngsters and 70 referees who were supposed to listen to a lecture by Mr. Kotleba. It was also the date for the opening game of the National League which drew a lot a local media attention as well as coverage by the pan Arab channel Al Jazeera.

Although the trip did not succeed as planned, the FIBA delegation and all Iraqi officials expressed their confidence that basketball in Iraq will be able to return to its previous position, namely to be the top basketball address in Asia in general and in West Asia in particular.

In times where countries like Iraq may have other priorities than sports, FIBA strongly believes that In times where countries like Iraq may have other priorities than sports, FIBA strongly believes that it can make a small contribution to the socio-economic stability in the country and give hope to the younger generations through sports.

FIBA is also planning on sending experts to Afghanistan, East Timor and Solomon Islands in the near future. ■

FIBA AND ADECCO TEAM UP

FIBA and Adecco SA, the world leading company in HR services, announced in January that they have entered into a global partnership agreement for the period 2004 - 2007.

The partnership includes a program for professional athletes who will be trained and assisted to achieve success in their professional life after their sports career has ended. Further details of the co-operation and the program will be released at a press conference at FIBA's headquarters in March.

Patrick Baumann, FIBA's Secretary General stated, "We are delighted about the new partnership and the opportunities it offers our athletes to make the transition from a professional sporting career into the wider workplace. We look forward to working with the world's most renowned company in the field of Employment Services."

Jérôme Caille, Adecco's CEO noted, "With this new partnership, Adecco once again demonstrates not only its commitment to helping people succeed in their professional life, but also its involvement in the world of sports. Basketball is one of the world's most popular sports and together with FIBA we aim to use this partnership to demonstrate the growing importance of lifelong career management for everyone."

Adecco SA is the worldwide Human Resources Services leader with a network of 28,000 employees and 6,000 offices in 68 territories around the world. Each year, more than 3 million people find a job through Adecco, helping 250,000 companies achieve their business goals.

Adecco has become FIBA's fifth global partner after, Champion, Molten, Mondo and Zepter. ■

AMERICAN NEWS SOUTH AMERICAN LEAGUE

Ribeirao Preto COC from Brazil recently won the last Group B game in the South American League first stage, completing the draw for the Quarter-Finals. Ribeirao Preto COC will now play Boca Juniors from Argentina in the Quarter-Finals while Libertad Sanchales from Argentina will face Universidad Catolica from Chile. Unit-Uberlandia will be playing against Mina Tennis Club from Brazil and Atenas Cordoba from Argentina vs Marinors Oriente from Venezuela. The quarter of final start in March, the play-off series will be the best of 3 games.





Tony Parker – French Champion of the Year French NBA phenomenon Tony Parker has made history as the first basketball player to win the prestigious Champion of Champions Award bestowed by respected French sports daily L'Equipe. Parker won 518 votes, the handball team (508) and Sierra Leone-born Barber (393). ■

Jasikevicius, Lithuania's Sportsman of the Year

After winning titles in 2003 such as the Eurobasket 2003 where he was elected MVP, Sarunas Jasikevicius was nominated as Lithuania's Sportsman of the Year. He is the second basketball player ever to win this prize in Lithuania. It was in 1996 when Arvydas Sabonis received the first honour. 2004 will especially be challenging for Jasikevicius, as he is leading Lithuania to Athens this summer in hopes to complete a mission which he failed to complete in Sydney 2000... ■



Olmert New President

A new President was nominated to the Israeli Basketball Association. Mr. Irmi Olmert took office on February 3, 2004. President Olmert is a member of Maccabi Israel and International Maccabi. He is also a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Israeli Basketball Association since 2002. FIBA would like to congratulate President Olmert on his nomination. ■

PEOPLE

NAMES AND FACES

Yao Ming Earns Top Votes

Yao Ming edged Shaq in this year's voting for West's starting center position at the NBA All-Stars tournament. Yao received 1,484,531 paper ballots in total. He rectified the honour by an impressive 16 point performance in 19 minutes, but Shaq got his revenge with taking the MVP honour. Yao Ming represented China at the FIBA-Asia Championships last Fall, who qualified for Athens 2004. ■



Patrick Baumann met with David Stern

On the occasion of the NBA All-Star game in Los Angeles on February 13 – 15, 2004 FIBA President Carl Men Ky Ching and Secretary General Patrick Baumann met with NBA Commissioner David Stern. On the agenda were many aspects of the cooperation between FIBA and the NBA. Special attention was given to the Athens Olympic Games, which was felt to have a similar positive affect on the global promotion of basketball than the 1992 Olympics. The NBA delegation was completed by Deputy Commissioner Russell T. Granik, NBAE President Adam Silver and Senior Vice President International Andrew Messick. ■



DON'T GET DISCONNECTED
FIBA DIRECTORY CHANGES

Suriname Basketball Association
 New email address:
 skagrie@sr.net; belh@sr.net

Costa Rica Basketball Federation
 Additional Tel/Fax: +506 231 2455

Malawi Basketball Association
 New Telephone and Fax:
 Tel. + 265 1 67 20 17
 Fax. + 265 1 67 20 12

Kenya Basketball Association
 New Fax Numbers:
 +254 20 609215; +254 20 501120

STAY TUNED

EVENT CALENDER

MARCH 2004
 27/03/04 - 28/03/04 FIBA Europe Cup Men 2004 – Final Four

APRIL 2004
 01/04/04 - 30/04/04 U18 South American Championship for Women 2004 in Tarija, Bolivia

03/04/04 - 04/04/04 FIBA Europe Cup Women Final Four

03/04/04 - 05/04/04 NCAA Men's Final Four in San Antonio, USA

04/04/04 - 06/04/04 NCAA Women's Final Four in New Orleans, USA

15/04/04 South American League Final

16/04/04 - 18/04/04 FIBA EuroLeague Women Final Four

23/04/04 - 25/04/04 FIBA Europe League Final Four

MAY 2004
 15/05/04 - 22/05/04 15th Asian Champions Cup for Men 2004 in Dubai, United Arabs Emirates

STAY TUNED

MEETING CALENDER

MARCH 2004
 12/03/04 - 13/03/04 6th Board of FIBA Europe in Russia

APRIL 2004
 19/04/04 - 20/04/04 World Commission for Legal Matters and Eligibility in Geneva, Switzerland

MAY 2004
 03/05/04 - World Council for Basketball for Persons with a Disability in Alcobendas, Spain

05/05/04 - World Finance Council in Geneva, Switzerland

14/05/04 - 7th Board of FIBA Europe in Prague, Czech Republic

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