



# ASSIST NEWS

FIBA ASSIST NEWSLETTER A BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE FEBRUARY / MARCH 2005



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The FIBA Online Store will soon be up and running. FIBA merchandise, such as bags, shirts, balls, key rings and all publications can all be purchased directly online by using a credit card. The FIBA Store will be online on March 15. [www.fibastore.com](http://www.fibastore.com)

**Tony Parker:**  
"I hope we can qualify for the 2006 FIBA World Championship"

## WHAT'S IN STORE 17 MONTHS TO GO!

Over 200 national teams from all around the world have or will compete to gain a spot in the upcoming continental championships which serve as qualifiers for the 2006 FIBA World Championships. There are only a limited number of spots per continent available and incredible competition is expected in all of the 2005 continental championships which could provide the ticket to Japan or Brazil. All national teams have to bring their best players to battle for the qualification to the greatest basketball championship.

Fans will be able to see their nation's heroes in the fierce battle for the 18 spots. A question remains whether all the stars like Yao Ming, Emanuel Ginobili, Dirk Nowitzki,

Andrew Bogut and Steve Nash will be able to play for their country, although some of them have already expressed commitment. Also a question to be answered will be how USA Basketball will react to the sixth place in Indianapolis and the 3rd place in Athens, and which players and coaches will be selected.

The months of August and September will be packed with basketball action and the following chart should help you not to lose the overview:



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ON THE ROAD TO JAPAN 2006

DATE	EVENT	COUNTRY	CITY/CITIES	QUOTA 2006	PARTICIPANTS	NT
15.08. - 24.08.2005	FIBA Africa Championship	Algeria	Alger, Boufarik	3	ALG, ANG, EGY, NIG, SEN, +7 QUALF	15
24.08. - 04.09.2005	FIBA America Championship	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	4+1	ARG, BRA, CAN, DOM, MEX, PAN, PUR, URU, USA, VEN	20
08.09. - 16.09.2005	FIBA Asia Championship	Quatar	Doha	3+1	CHN, JPN, KOR, QAT, TPE, +1 QUALF	14
16.09. - 25.09.2005	FIBA Europe Championship	Serbia & Montenegro	Podgorica, Vrsac, Novi Sad, Belgrade	6	CRO, BUL, BIH, ESP, FRA, GER, GRE, ITA, LAT, LTU, SCG, SLO, RUS, TUR, UKR, +1 QUALF	37
17.08. - 21.08.2005	FIBA Oceania Championship	New Zealand	Waitakere, Wellington, Dunedin	2	AUS, NZL	2
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>20+4 wildcards</b>		<b>115</b>

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Even with the on-going carnival in February, Brazil is still going strong in its preparations for 2006. The FIBA World Championship for

Women will remain with a 16 team participation from 5 continents. Here the chart from all the action of the qualifiers this summer: ■

ON THE ROAD TO BRAZIL 2006

DATE	EVENT	COUNTRY	CITY/CITIES	QUOTA 2006	PARTICIPANTS	NT
08.11. - 19.11.2005	FIBA Africa Championship for Women	Nigeria	Abuja	2	ANG, MAL, MOZ, NIG, SEN, +7 QUALF	15
14.09. - 18.09.2005	FIBA America Championship for Women	Puerto Rico	Ponce	3+2	CUB, CAN, GUA, PUR, USA, +3 QUALF	20
19.09. - 26.09.2005	FIBA Asia Championship for Women	P.R. of China	Qinwang Dao	3	CHN, JPN, KOR, TPE, +2 QUALF	14
02.09. - 11.09.2005	FIBA Europe Championship for Women	Turkey	Bursa, Izmir, Ankara	5	CZE, ESP, FRA, GER, GRE, LAT, LTU, ROM, RUS, SCG, TUR, +1 QUALF	37
24.08. - 28.08.2005	FIBA Oceania Championship for Women	New Zealand	Palmerston North, Napier, Counties Manakau	1	AUS, NZL	2
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>16</b>		<b>90</b>

**LEGEND**  
**Quota 2006:** No. of teams who will qualify from Zone to 2006 FIBA World Championship  
**NT:** No. of national teams who were playing in Zone to qualify for 2005 Zone Championship

## AMERICAN NEWS DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO HOST 2006 QUALIFIER

The FIBA Americas Championship for Men will be hosted by the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo from August 24 – September 4, 2005. This continental championship will qualify the best five teams for the FIBA World Championship 2006 in Japan. Argentina has an automatic qualification from its gold medal in Athens. The USA with Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela will have to compete to qualify for Japan.



FIBA AMERICAS  
We Are Basketball

# OPEN CIRCULATION OR QUOTA?

**The discussion is as old as club basketball – can clubs and leagues use any player, no matter which nationality - or should they be restricted by certain quota for certain nationalities? Will open circulation guarantee the best basketball at the best price or does it destroy the formation of young players of a given country?**

The discussion has global relevance and is currently witnessing a renaissance, specifically in three of the major leagues in Europe – in Spain, Italy and Germany. The media covers the arguments from all stakeholders which, to a great extent, diverge according to their interest. The National Federations are interested in a strong national team, and therefore have to do everything to support the development of potential national team players. Clubs and leagues run a business which operates in a very competitive field under market rules, which are not much different from the consumer industry: marketing and quality are equally important. The players unions protect the interest of their members, which are in the case of the above mentioned leagues only players from that given country. On the other hand, players from all around the world are looking for opportunities to make their living as professional basketball players.

FIBA has always viewed national team competition as the expression of the basketball talent and development of a given country, whereas club competition has much more flexible boundaries.

The FIBA Regulations governing the national status of players in club teams states the following in article 3.4: *“For the international club competitions of FIBA, the composition of the teams is not subject to any limitation concerning the legal nationality of the players. However, each national federation and FIBA Zone may*

*establish more restrictive regulations.”* For the national team the rules are much stricter: only players can play who have the legal citizenship of that country and have never competed for another country in a senior category. Also naturalized players can play if they fulfill certain criteria.

## The Positions

- Free movement of workforce on a global and regional scale is an economic and political trend.
- National teams are the flag bearers of a sport and their impact on the promotion of a sport on a national and international level is recognized.
- The model for the development of young players is significantly different between North America and the rest of the world: colleges and high schools on the one side – clubs and National Federations on the other side
- Professional management of clubs is dependent of the legal framework of the country and region the club is acting in.
- Only players who obtain minutes on the court and have a chance to play in the best national competition will develop their skills.
- The quality of a competition is the primary goal, only the best players should play, no matter which nationality they have.

## Current Status in Europe

According to the current situation in European basketball you can divide the players in five categories - national players, naturalized players (players who have obtained legal citizenship of a country), EU players (players from the European Union countries), EU II players (players coming from the 77 countries who are associated with the EU but do not have full membership rights) and “rest of the world” players.

Player	Spain	Italy	Germany
National	91 (45%)	84 (38%)	82 (38%)
Naturalized	11 (5%)	25 (11%)	7 (3%)
EU	40 (20%)	54 (25%)	59 (27%)
EU II	25 (12%)	4 (2%)	13 (6%)
Rest of World	36 (18%)	52 (24%)	57 (26%)
Total	203	219	218

(status 20th February 2005)

The table above gives an overview over the current situation in the three chosen countries.

“Within these countries the current regulations for clubs in the professional league are as follows:

### Germany “BBL”:

In a game a club can have on the score sheet an unlimited number of EU and EU II and a maximum of 2 “rest of the world” players. There is no minimum number for German players.

### Italy, “Lega A”:

In a game a club must have on the score sheet a minimum of 5 Italian players (national and naturalized). He can have a maximum of 3 “rest of the world” players, and 1 EU II player. The rest could be filled with EU players.

### Spain, “ACB”:

In a game an ACB club has two options:

a) Must have on the score sheet a minimum of 5 Spanish players (national and naturalized), a maximum of 2 “rest of the world” or EU II players, and the rest could be filled with EU players.

b) Must have on the score sheet a minimum of 6 Spanish players (national and naturalized), a maximum of 2 “rest of the world” players, four EU players or three EU players + 1 EU II players.

## Current trends

### Germany:

The German Basketball Federation opts for a quota for German players. This position is supported by the player union and some coa-



## OCEANIA NEWS LUBOMIR KOTLEBA VISITS OCEANIA

**FIBA Sports Director, Lubomir Kotleba was on a whirl wind tour of Oceania. This included clinics and meetings in Tahiti, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Coffs Harbour and Sydney. The goal of the trip was the help raise the level of refereeing and officiating in many areas in Oceania and to have the opportunity to meet directly with local basketball individuals.**

ches. The clubs and the league would opt for a complete open circulation.

#### Italy:

CONI (the Italian Olympic Committee) and GIBA (National Player Association) on one side, the clubs and the professional league "Lega A" on the other side have quite controversial positions. CONI and GIBA plead for a quota of 50 % of Italian player on each club's roster (5 or 6 players). The League argues that this could increase player's salaries and weaken the economic situation of the clubs.

Recently, it looks as if Lega A is accepting the proposal for 50 % Italians (6 players) on the score sheet, of which 2 must have Italian citizenship by birth and 4 could be naturalized. As of 2009 there should be 3 Italians by birth and 3 naturalized. The remaining six players could have any nationality.

#### Spain:

The Spanish Basketball Federation (FEB) and the Players Union (ABP) are in discussion with the league (ACB) for an agreement for the future. FEB and ABP are proposing two solutions:

a) A minimum of 5 Spanish players and a maximum of 3 EU/EU II players and a maximum of 2 "rest of the world" players

b) A minimum of 6 Spanish players and a maximum of 4 EU players (which can include a maximum of 1 EU II player) and a maximum of 2 "rest of the world" players

#### Euroleague:

ULEB has recently announced the intent to move towards free movement of players as of the 2005-06 season. This was initiated by the Hamilton case, which allowed a player from the USA, who is married to an EU citizen but has no EU citizenship, to fill a spot for a EU citizen in the ULEB Cup, thus creating an imbalance between the eligibility options for clubs inside and outside the EU.

## Voices & Arguments

(taken from various newspaper articles)

**Gianni Petrucci**, President of CONI: *"I do not want an Italian Basketball Championship played by foreigners."*

**Enrico Prandi**, President of Lega A: *"We have to apply a ruling for a four year cycle, and not only for two years as it was in the past. And we should not change that ruling within these four years. Young players from abroad who played in our championships could obtain Italian citizenship after two years, and that made it very difficult to regulate the naturalized and national player quota."*

**Fausto Maifredi**, President of the Italian Federation: *"We should not make a commitment now, but continue to work with the league for the most applicable solution until 2006 and apply the proposal from CONI on a minimum of 50 % of Italian players on each club roster."*

**Roland Geggus**, President of the German Basketball Federation: *"We need a positive quota for German players in the League, each club should have at least 5 players on its roster. The example is the German Ice Hockey League which has drastically reduced the number of foreign players in the past years. However, our goal is to have a common strategy together with the League."*

**Otto Reintjes**, Commissioner of the German League: *"It is impossible that professional sports fight the trends and legislations of politics. Formation of the players is important, but it is for clubs an "investment with no return" and should not be linked to the question of player quota. Our clubs would opt for a complete open circulation, under the condition that international rules from FIBA Europe and ULEB would not put our clubs in a disadvantage."*

**José Luis Saéz**, President of the Spanish Basketball Federation: *"We should not speak of a "quota"*

## BUSINESS CORNER TV DEAL & MEETING

The FIBA Television Department has signed a three year agreement with the Solar Sports television channel for the territory of the Philippines. In order to promote a range of World and Continental Championships the 2005-2007 package of events includes:

- 2005 FIBA Asian Championship (Qatar)
- 2005 FIBA Americas Championship (Dominican Republic)
- 2005 FIBA European Championship (Serbia & Montenegro)
- 2006 FIBA World Championship (Japan)
- 2007 FIBA Asian Championship (TBC)
- 2007 FIBA Americas Championship (TBC)
- 2007 FIBA European Championship (Spain)

This agreement now means that the very best of international basketball will be shown in the Philippines which is one of the most passionate basketball countries in the world.

The FIBA Research and Study Centre organised his 10th Annual Partners and Decisional Board Meeting in Bologna on February 24 - 25, 2005. Various plans for 2005 were discussed, among them the publication of a new outdoor basketball guide, the FSB Cologne exhibition and the tsunami relief project. ■



on foreign players, but rather of the "promotion" of the presence of Spanish players in the top league. There are not 2 fronts but 3 parties (the league, the players and the federation) who have to resolve their problems together."

**Eduardo Portela**, President of the Spanish League ACB: *"It is already a fact that "quotas" create inflation in player's salaries. There are some players' contracts to be renewed, and they're already asking for 30 % more of the real value. And there is still no agreement between the parties! There are not too many foreigners in the league. The quality Spanish player will be even more competitive when he has more quality player competing with him. Fran Vazquez and Gasol are prime examples." ■*

## AFRICAN NEWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET IN CAIRO

The FIBA Africa Executive Committee met at the FIBA Africa headquarters in Cairo, Egypt on February 19 - 20, 2005. The Committee assigned the 2005 FIBA Africa Championship to Algeria. The championship originally was to be played in the Ivory Coast, however, the federation withdrew. The qualifier for the FIBA World Championship 2006 will be played within the period of 19th August to 3rd September in Alger.



## DON'T GET DISCONNECTED FIBA DIRECTORY CHANGES

**Hungarian Basketball Federation**  
New Address:  
1146 Budapest, Istvánmezei út 1-3  
New Telephone: +36 (1) 4606825

### Oscar for Vassilakopoulos and Portela

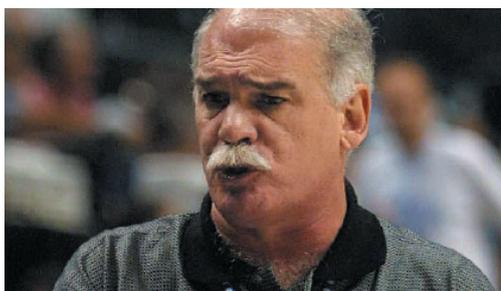
FIBA Europe President George Vassilakopoulos and ULEB President Eduardo Portela received on February 21, 2005 the prestigious "Oscar del Basketball" in Quattro Castella, Italy. The award was given as a special recognition for their efforts in reaching an agreement over the management of European Club competitions as of next season. ■



## PEOPLE NAMES AND FACES

### Bogut to the NBA?

Rising star Andrew Bogut from Australia could find himself highly ranked in the NBA draft 2005. The MVP of the FIBA U19 World Championship in 2003 has currently an impressive college season with Utah and scouts from around are on his heels. He also moved into the starting line up of the Olympic team of Australia at the Olympic Games in Athens. This summer watch for him at the FIBA U21 World Championship in Argentina. ■



### Mission: Japan and Brazil 2006

Some national teams have already selected their coaches to help guarantee a ticket to the FIBA World Championship in Japan and Brazil. The coaches selected for the men are: David Blatt (ISR), Brian Goorjian (AUS), Mario Palma (ANG), Mario Pesquera (ESP), Leo Rautins (CAN), Tiit Sökk (EST) and for the women: Jan Stirling (AUS). ■



### Ilgauskas at Eurobasket?

Zydrunas Ilgauskas is one of the best big men in the world. The 2m21 (7ft3) centre from Lithuania averages this season 17.3 ppg, 8.2 rebounds and 1.92 blocks for the Cleveland Cavaliers and was recently selected to play in the NBA All Star game. The question remains if Ilgauskas would follow the call of his native country to represent Lithuania in the upcoming 2005 Eurobasket which qualifies for the 2006 FIBA World Championship in Japan. He, together with his teammates Songalia and Jasikevicius would make up a strong defender of the European title. ■

### Tunisia 2005

The logo for the FIBA U19 World Championship for Women has been launched recently. The draw for the event will take place on 18th March in Tunis. ■



### STAY TUNED

## EVENT CALENDER

#### MARCH 2005

10/03/05 Draw for the FIBA U21 World Championship for Men in Buenos Aires, Argentina

18/03/05 Draw for the FIBA U19 FIBA World Championship for Women in Tunis, Tunisia

#### APRIL 2005

02/04/05 - 04/04/05 NCAA Final Four in St. Louis, MO. USA

03/04/05 - 04/04/05 NCAA Final Four for Women in Indianapolis, IN. USA

22/04/05 - 24/04/05 FIBA Euroleague Women Final Four

27/04/05 - 28/04/05 FIBA Europe League Final Four

#### MAY 2005

06/05/05 - 08/05/05 Euroleague Final Four in Moscow, Russia

### STAY TUNED

## MEETING CALENDER

#### MARCH 2005

11/03/05 - 13/03/05 Board of FIBA-Europe in Budapest, Hungary

#### APRIL 2005

03/04/05 FIBA Americas Executive Board in San Juan, Puerto Rico

#### MAY 2005

17/05/05 FIBA Secretaries General Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland

18/05/05 - 19/05/05 Central Board of FIBA in Geneva, Switzerland

19/05/05 - 22/05/05 General Assembly of FIBA Europe in Portorose, Slovenia

### 01 2005

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