

# ASSISTNEWS

FIBA ASSIST NEWSLETTER A BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2005

**FIBA** 

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#### FIBA'S WEB

In the month of July the traffic on fiba.com was tripled in comparison to the previous months. 600.000 visits were registered from fans who wanted to catch the action from the FIBA Youth competitions. The FIBA Daily, an electronic newsletter service. enjoys now 10.000 daily subscribers from all over the world. The service is free of charge and can be ordered on fiba.com.



Lithuania's Renaldas Seibutis did not only take home the gold medal of the U21 FIBA World's but also the MVP award.

FUROPE

**WHAT'S IN STORE** 

### THE RACE TO JAPAN HAS STARTED

Angola, Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria and Senegal first Qualifiers



With the African and Oceanian Qualifiers for the 2006 FIBA World Championship being concluded, 7 of the 24 teams for Japan are now known. Angola, Senegal and Nigeria will represent the African continent, whereas Australia and New Zealand are the qualified teams from Oceania. Argentina and Japan are directly qualified as Olympic champions and hosts.

#### FIBA Africa Championship

Africa was the first continent to start the race to Japan, with the FIBA Africa Championship taking place in Algeria from 15th - 24th August 2005. The 12 competing teams represented the best nations from the continent.

Defending champion Angola dominated Group A, whereas host Algeria handled the pressure of playing at home very well and finished the preliminary Round on top of Group B. The Central African Republic, Nigeria, Mali, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia were the other teams to reach the Quarter Finals. As almost a replica of the 2003 championship, the teams from Angola, Senegal, Nigeria and Algeria advanced to the Semi-Finals with Angola and Senegal storming into the gold medal game.

Angola, who has won the last three consecutive editions, was able to battle off Senegal in a thrilling Final with 70 - 61.

There was almost more at stake in the Bronze medal game, which determined the remaining third spot for the FIBA World Championship. Powerhouse Nigeria, again coached by NBA legend Sam Vincent, assured the ticket to Japan with a 88 - 76 win against host Algeria.

#### **FIBA Oceania Championship**

The championship was played as a 3-tier between the Australian "Boomers" and the New Zealand "Tall Blacks". When action

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Official Sponsor





12 MONTHS TO GO

#### **EUROPE NEWS EUROPEAN YOUTH COMPETITIONS A HIT**

A total of 12 tournaments in the U20, U18 and U16 categories for men and women were played this summer and have attracted record attention in the media and general public.

The U18 Final for Men in Belgrade was watched by 6.000 fans and all games of the home team were televised reaching a total of 2.5 million viewers. www.fibaeurope.com has also set records with a 40% increase in traffic, including a total of 6.4 million pageviews and 580,000 visits.





took the center stage in Auckland, New Zealand on 17th August, the question was not to see who would qualify, as both teams had a secured place by quota for Japan, but the result would decide on the seeding for the FIBA World Championship draw. And the eternal rivalry between both countries added to the intensity at this series. Australia had lost against their neighbors in 2001, which was one of the biggest upsets in the history of Oceania basketball, and they wanted to make sure that this will never happen again.

This time the Boomers proved to be too strong for the Tall Blacks. They took the series with a clean 3 - 0 sweep (82 - 69, 82 - 71, 91 - 80) and displayed some promising talent such as Brad Newley, who starred a week before in the U21 FIBA World Championship.

Only the second game was on the edge until the very end and Australian coach Brian Gorjian was

relieved: "You're a basket away from game three with a minute-and-a-half to go and I think we would have been in more difficulties than they would," he said. "New Zealand don't get the respect they deserve. They don't back off, they don't let it go. What we got was great plays by great players down the stretch."

Tab Baldwin, head coach of New Zealand saw some deficits in the inside and whishes to have Sean Marks back for the World Championship campaign: "The word from him is that he's retired. The word from us is Sean we appreciate your position, we accept what you say ... but. The door will always be open for Sean; he's a Tall Black."

The coming weeks will see the continental qualifiers in the Americas, Asia and Europe, as well as the qualifiers for the 2006 FIBA World Championship for Women in Brazil. All of the action can be followed on www.fiba.com and the Zone websites.

#### WHAT'S IN STORE

# **2005 WOMEN'S WORLD LEAGUE**

For the second consecutive year, the best women's clubs will compete for the world title. The prelims were played in May in Cuba and Korea. The following teams are gearing up for the final round, to be held on 11th-16th October 2005 in Samara, Russia:

Group A UMMC Ekaterinburg, Russia WKBL Seoul, Korea Basketball Club Habana, Cuba USA Basketball, USA Group B
Unimed de Ourinhos, Brazil
VBM-SGAU, Samara, Russia
WCBA All Stars, P.R of China
Dandenong Jayco Rangers, Australia

The defending champion and host Samara will line up a strong team, but will face fierce competition from a very competitive field. Last year, the elite clubs brought top players such as Lauren Jackson (AUS), Maria Stepanova (RUS) and Janeth Arcain (BRA) only to name a few.





**Action from the Final Greece - Lithuania** 

**FIBA'S WORLD** 

# OUTSTANDING TALENT AT U19 AND U21 FIBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - USA AND LITHUANIA TAKE GOLD

A phenomenon in professional team sports is that young but mature players miss out on playing experience due to the fact that they receive limited court time at their clubs. The pressure for quick success often puts at a disadvantage those who could develop their talent with more game experience.

This is one of the reasons why FIBA promotes World Championships in the Youth categories. It resulted in Tunisia and Argentina with stunning basketball played by young athletes, who had a chance to prove their skills in proper conditions.

**U21 FIBA World Championship in Argentina** 

The popularity of basketball in Argentina has never been better. "Manu" Ginobili, Luis Scola, Fabricio Oberto and the other "golden boys" from Athens raised the profile of

the game in the soccer crazy country even further. The Argentinean Basketball Federation was able to take advantage of this popularity - all Argentinean games were shown live on television and more than 300 journalists ensured prime coverage.

The preliminary round was played in the cities of Cordoba and Mar del Plata. Both venues belong to the best indoor arenas in the country and are normally used as the home courts of strong local teams. Basketball expertise was guaranteed amongst the spectators and created a nice ambiance.

The teams paid tribute to the wonderful atmosphere and created a real showcase of global basketball talent. Australia and USA were the only teams who survived the group



#### OCEANIA NEWS BASKETBALL FOR THE FIRST TIME AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Basketball will be included for the first time in the Commonwealth Games that will take place on 15 - 26 March 2006 in Melbourne, Australia. Having Basketball in the Commonwealth Games creates a new avenue for teams to play international basketball. The organisers have recently released the basketball competition schedule for the eight nations competing in both the men's and women's events. For further information please go to www.melbourne2006.com.au.

play without being defeated and were joined by Argentina, Canada, Greece, Lithuania, Puerto Rico and Slovenia for the Final Round. The biggest sensation of the Quarter Finals came with a 93 - 90 win for Canada over favorites USA, and the defending champion had to burry its medal hopes.

Lithuania won the gold medal after defeating Greece 65-63 in a thriller, with neither team taking more than 5 points lead during the entire game. The Final was not decided until the last second, when Lithuania was awarded free throws. MVP of the tournament, Renaldas Seibutis from Lithuania, stayed cool despite a very noisy crowd which was pushing for an over time, and sank both free throws to offer Lithuania the gold medal.

Canada was the surprise bronze medal winner in a game against Australia (79 - 74)
Coaches and media voted for the following players in the Tournament All-Star 5: Renaldas Seibutis (LTU), Yotam Halperin (ISR), Konstantinos Vasileiadis (GRE), Levon Kendall

# U19 FIBA World Championship for Women in Tunisia

(CAN) and Loukas Mavrokefalidis (GRE).

The perfectly organised event was played in Nabeul and Tunis, in cities situated on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea which attracts tourists from all over the world. The players though did not have much time to enjoy the sun and the pool.

In a fierce competition the group play was dominated by USA and Australia who entered the Quarter Finals in top position of their group. China, Hungary, Korea, Serbia & Montenegro, Spain and Russia were the other teams who entered the round of the best 8. After wins against Hungary, China and a surprise finalist from Serbia & Montenegro, the USA clinched the Gold Medal and remained as the only undefeated team in the tournament.

US head coach Gail Goestenkors: "It has been such a privilege, honor and joy to coach this team. They were all high school or college stars, but willing to sacrifice for a common goal. The goal was gold but the journey was about much more. This was a journey of learning and growing as coaches, players and people. We grew together and now share a bond and memories that will stay with us forever."

China could secure the Bronze Medal against Russia and proved again that they belong to one of the countries with the richest pool of talent in the world.

American centre Crystal Langhorn was nominated the tournament MVP and member of the All-Star team along with guard Renae Camino (AUS), guard Candice Wiggins (USA), forward Jelena Dubljevic (SCG) and forward Dan Liu (Chn).

See you in 2007 in the Slovak Republic for another display of the world's outstanding basketball talents!

For complete results and full coverage of the U19 and U21 FIBA World Championships please go to the event section of www.fiba.com.

# FIBA VILLAGE AT FSB

The International Trade Fair for Amenity Areas, Sports and Pool Facilities (FSB) will take place in Cologne, Germany, from October 26 to 28, 2005.

The FIBA Study Centre will be present with a "FIBA Village" of about 1200 square meters including a basketball court with daily basketball activities. More than 20 FIBA Study Centre Partners and Sponsors will have their own booth within the village. Among them, Bertelè s.n.c, Bodet Champion, Daplast, Fox 40, Gramet Sport, Haro Sports, Limonta, Molten, Mondo SpA, New Deal Srl, Oiko Service Srl, Philips, Porter Athletic Equipment Co., Robbins, Schelde International, Seicom, Sport System and Zepter.



FSB offers an important business platform. One may discover ideas and innovations for different surroundings and settings. The FIBA village will feature new trends, momentum and inspiration for basketball equipment, and give support to the planning and building of basketball facilities.

FIBA Study Centre Director Aldo Vitale: "The FSB is the most important market place for sports equipment and sports facilities. We want to offer with our partners the optimum basketball expertise in all areas."

For additional queries, please feel free to contact us at studycentre@fiba.com.



OCEANIA NEWS CHINA, KOREA AND CHINESE TAIPEI QUALIFIED FOR BRAZIL 2006

China's women made it clear that they want to make an impact at the 2006 FIBA World Championship for Women in Brazil next year. Under their new head coach Tom Maher, they won at the end of June, the FIBA Asia Championship in Quinhuandao with a 73-67 win over Korea. Chinese Taipei secured the third Asian spot with a 73-62 triumph over Japan.





DON'T GET DISCONNECTED

## **FIBA DIRECTORY CHANGES**

#### **Algerian Basketball Federation**

New email address: office\_fabb@yahoo.fr

#### **Lesotho Basketball Association**

New Address: Setsoto Stadium Private Bag A452 Maseru 100 Lesotho

Tel: +266 22 321292 Mobile: +266 58 778090 Fax: +266 22 310 494

Email: lesothoba@hotmail.com

#### **Yemen Basketball Association**

New Address: Al-Zuari ST. P.O.Box 19374 Sana'a

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN Tel: + 967 (1) 472815 Fax: +967 (1) 472814

E-mail: info@yemenbasketball.com.ye; y.basketball@y.net.ye

Website: www.yemenbasketball.com.ye

#### Langhorn named MVP



American centre Crystal Langhorn was named the MVP of the U19 World Championship for Women 2005. Langhorn played a key role as the USA cruised to the gold medal. "This means a lot, I feel honored.

There were so many great players in this tournament and on our team, to be named MVP is overwhelming," said Langhorne.

#### **IOC appoints Patrick Baumann**

IOC President Jacques Rogge appointed on 23rd August 2005 FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann as a member of the Coordination Commission for the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London, in 2012. The 15 members of the Commission



comprise sports leaders from five continents and will work under Chairman Denis Oswald, IOC Executive Board member and President of the International Rowing Federation (FISA).

#### Order of Merit for Tunisian President

Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received the 'FIBA Order of Merit'

during the course of the U19 FIBA World Championship for Women in Tunis. Tunisia. The award is given to people in recognition to outstanding contributions to the sport and world of baskethall



#### Sir Edmund Hillary a basketball fan

He was the first man to climb Mount Everest, the highest point on earth. But

Sir Edmund Hillary is also an avid basketball fan who was spotted in the stands at the second game of the FIBA Oceania Championship, in his hometown. Auckland.

The "Kiwis" lost but he fully enjoyed a

real thriller which was only decided in the last minute of the game.

#### **STAY TUNED**

# **EVENT CALENDER**

SEPTEMBER	
00/00/000	

FIBA Europe Championship for Women in Ankara, Bursa, Izmir, Turkey 11/09/2005

08/09/2005

FIBA Asia Championship in Doha, Qatar

16/09/2005 14/09/2005

18/09/2005

FIBA Americas Championship for Women

in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

15/09/2005 25/09/2005 FIBA Europe Championship in Vrsac, Podgorica, Novi Sad, Belgrade, Serbia &

**OCTOBER** 11/10/2005 16/10/2005

FIBA Women's World League Final Round in Samara, Russia

29/10/2005 06/11/2005 East Asian Games in Macao, P.R. of China

#### **STAY TUNED**

# **MEETING CALENDER**

OCTOBER

Commission for Legal Matters in Geneva, 10/10/2005 11/10/2005

15/10/2005 16/10/2005

Commission for Women's Basketball in Samara, Russia

31/10/2005 01/11/2005

Commission for Youth Basketball in Geneva, Switzerland

NOVEMBER

02/11/2005 03/11/2005

in Geneva, Switzerland

25/11/2005

26/11/2005 27/11/2005 Commission for International Competitions

Meeting of the FIBA Secretary Generals in Rome, Italy

Central Board of FIBA in Rome, Italy

#### 04 2005

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