ASSISTNEWS

FIBA ASSIST NEWSLETTER A BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE APRIL / MAY 2006

FIBA

We Are Basketball

FIBA.COM

LAUNCH OF NEW FIBA.COM IN JULY

FIBA will launch a new version of fiba.com in July 2006. The new version will also feature dedicated event websites for FIBA's two World Championships in Japan and Brazil in 2006. Both events will have extensive coverage with over 500 exclusive stories, interviews and behind the scenes features. Still images from every game will be available as well as live statistics and video highlights of each game.

China star Yao Ming could yet be fit to play for his country at the FIBA World Championship in Japan after injury.

WHAT'S IN STORE

JAPAN 2006 - FANS BUY UP TICKETS

If the FIFA World Cup offers the hottest ticket in town, basketball fans in Japan and around the world have discovered the FIBA World Championship is not much different. The evidence?

The Local Organising Committee in Tokyo announced that the Group Games in Sapporo city, Hokkaido (Group D, participating teams: Senegal, USA, China, Italy, Puerto Rico and Slovenia) were sold out in the first 10 minutes after the online sales (http://www.fiba2006.com/ticket/ticket_e.html) were launched on March 23.

Also, tickets for some Group Games in other cities, and certain types of tickets for game days in the Final Round, have already sold out. The sellouts refer to ticket sales within Japan, but sales outside of Japan are also going very well.

This will come as no surprise with the world's best players like Argentina's Emanuel Ginobili, Team USA's Kobe Bryant, Germany's Dirk Nowitzki, Austrlia's Andrew Bogut, France's Tony Parker and Spain's Pau Gasol among the dozens of superstars headed for the tournament.

Japanese and international fans will have a second chance from Saturday, May 20 until Friday, June 30 for all ticket types at all venues for all game days.

For the first round, a ticket is valid for the complete session of all three games per day. The prices range from 4.000 to 9.000 Yen per ticket.

For the final round in Saitama a ticket is valid for two games and the prices range is from 5.000 to 20.000 Yen per ticket.

For reference: the exchange rate is about 119Yen/US$.

FIBA appoints World Championship Referees

FIBA has announced the appointment of the referees for the FIBA World Championships 2006 in Japan and Brazil. All games will be officiated with 3 referees. 40 FIBA referees coming from all 5 continents will officiate the 80 games.

Game hours for FIBA World Championship

FIBA and the Organising Committee of the FIBA World Championship 2006 in Japan announced the game orders and tip-off times. Games in Group A start on 13:00, 16:00, and 19:00 hours, in Group C and D on 13:30, 16:30 and 19:30 hours Japanese time. The Eighth Final games on 26th and 27th August start on 10:00, 13:00, 17:00 and 20:00 hours, games as of the Quarter Finals start on 16:30 and 19:30 hours Japanese time. For the precise schedule and match up including the starting hours of all games please go to www.fiba.com.

Online Media Accreditation

All media wishing to attend the championship will have to fill in and submit the form via the internet. The application form is available on www.fiba.com/registration and is protected by a password. All application forms must be filled online before the **1st June 2006**.The application form also contains information about media hotels and preferential rates.

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JAPAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FIBA 2006

4 MONTHS TO GO

FIBA ASIA We Are Basketball

ASIA NEWS AL RIYADI BEIRUT WINS WEST ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The 19th edition of the West Asian Club Championship, which was played form April 27 – May 6 in Rabat, Morocco, saw a victorious Al Riyadi Beirut club from Lebanon. Star of the championship was Lebanese player Fadi El Khatib who will also represent his country at the FIBA World Championship 2006 in Japan.

Al Riyadi Beirut won the final against Ittihad Jeddah of Saudi Arabia with 99-75. RCA Casablanca from Morocco took the bronze medal after winning over Al Kuwait Club of Kuwait 77-72.

WHAT'S IN STORE

BWB RETURNS TO FOUR CONTINENTS THIS SUMMER

Basketball without Borders, a global basketball development program, will return to four continents in 2006 and will be staged in Lithuania and Puerto Rico for the first time. The program, a basketball instructional camp for young player 19 years or younger, features international players such as Yao Ming, Zydrunas Ilgauskas, Carlos Arroyo, Dikembe Mutombo, Steve Nash and Marcus Camby.

"Basketball without Borders enters its sixth year of existence and has developed into a major asset in FIBA's effort to further develop the game around the world and to promote young talents," said FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann. "The camp is a success story and has become a reference for youngsters around the world. We hope to see many of the campers again at future FIBA World Championships or Olympic basketball tournaments. We would like to thank our partners and the NBA for their continuous commitment to the program, the FIBA Zones involved and the host countries for their important support."

Since the inaugural camp in 2001, Basketball without Borders has featured more than 120 players, coaches and team personnel from 29 different teams as camp coaches for the more than 700 young athletes from nearly 100 different countries and territories.
Led by native son Yao Ming, star center for the Houston Rockets, the second **Basketball without Borders Asia** will take place in Shanghai, People's Republic of China June 8-11.

Basketball without Borders Europe will take place for the first time in Vilnius, Lithuania at the Sarunas Marciulionis Basketball Academy June 30-July 3.

Carlos Arroyo of the Orlando Magic will return home to San Juan, Puerto Rico with a group of players, for **Basketball without Borders Americas** at Roberto Clemente Arena July 17-20.

For the fourth consecutive year, Congo native Dikembe Mutombo of the Houston Rockets will lead a group of players, including Steve Nash (Canada), Marcus Camby and Luol Deng (Sudan), to Johannesburg, South Africa for **Basketball without Borders Africa** Sept. 6-10.

Each Basketball without Borders camp will unite the top young basketball players (ages 19 & under) from across each region to take part in basketball instruction and competition. The camp's participants are selected by FIBA and participating basketball federations based on their basketball skills, leadership abilities and dedication to the sport of basketball.

WHAT'S IN STORE

BRAZIL 2006

Under the slogan "One World - One Title" the FIBA World Championship for Women is played every 4 years and determines the world's best nation in women's basketball. Its first edition was played in 1953 in Santiago de Chile and has been has been organized 14 times since then. The 2006 edition will be played from 12th – 23rd September in SaoPaulo.
Only three countries were able to clinch the gold medal so far with the USA leading the role of honor (7 gold medals) followed by the Soviet Union (6 gold medals) and Brazil (1 gold medal). The 2002 FIBA World Championship for Women was played in China, where USA won gold, Russia silver and Australia bronze.

Record number of female referees

25 FIBA referees coming from 5 continents will officiate the 62 games of the FIBA Women's World Championship 2006 from 12 - 23 September 2006 in Brazil.

The list of referees includes a record nine female referees, which represents 36% of the overall referee contingent for the tournament. This is almost double the number of female referees used at the 2004 Olympic Basketball Tournaments in Athens.

FIBA Sports Director Lubomir Kotleba sees the improved quality of female referees as the main reason for that, "The officiating quality of female referees is constantly improving and these are more and more up to the standards of top FIBA events. This is a consequence of our Zones and National Federations paying more attention to the formation and training of female referees, but also to the fact that more and more women are interested in a referee's career."

Media Accreditation online

All media wishing to attend the championship will have to fill in and submit the form via the internet. The application form is available on www.fiba2006brazil.com/registration and is protected by a password. Deadline for registration: **1st July 2006.**

FIBA'S WORLD

FIBA CENTRAL BOARD IN HONG KONG

The FIBA Central Board met On 31st March and 1st April in Hong Kong. In the the following you will find the major decisions.

AMERICAS NEWS USA HOSTS U18 FIBA AMERICAS CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Basketball announced on March 1 that they will host the 2006 FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Men in San Antonio, Texas from June 28-July 2. The zone tournament will qualify four teams for the 2007 FIBA U19 World Championship (July 7-22, 2007, site tbd). USA Basketball also announced on April 18 that it had been named host for the 2006 FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Women that will be held at the United States Olympic Training Center (USOTC) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, from June 28-July 2. The top four finishing teams will earn qualifying berths for the 2007 FIBA U19 World Championship that is slated to be held July 7-22 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Video proof for last second shots

The use of television images for verification of last-second shots was accepted.

The precise text in the new FIBA rules, which will be valid as of October 2006, reads: "The referee may use technical equipment to determine on a last shot made at the end of each period or extra period, whether the ball has or has not left the player's hand(s) within the playing time."

It is the first time that FIBA allows the use of television images to give the referees the option to verify their decision whether last second shots have been made within regular playing time.

Olympic Qualifying Tournaments

The Board has taken note of the approval by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of FIBA's new qualification system for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games introducing World Olympic Qualifying Tournaments for Men and Women.

Therefore, the following qualification system will apply for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing:

Olympic Tournament for Men

- **Directly Qualified:**

The host nation (CHN) 1
The gold medalists from the 2006 FIBA World Championship (tbd) 1

- **Qualified through the Continental Championships (summer and autumn 2007):**

Africa 1
Americas 2
Asia 1
Europe 2
Oceania 1

- **World Olympic Qualifying Tournament (7th – 13th July 2008) 3**

(Africa 2, Americas 3, Asia 2, Europe 4, Oceania 1)

Olympic Tournament for Women

- **Directly Qualified:**

The host nation (CHN) 1
The gold medalists from the 2006 FIBA World Championship (tbd) 1

- **Qualified through the Continental Championships in 2007:**

Africa 1
Americas 1
Asia 1
Europe 1
Oceania 1

- **World Olympic Qualifying Tournament (9th – 15th June 2008) 5**

(Africa 2, Americas 3, Asia 2, Europe 4, Oceania 1)

The World Olympic Qualifying Tournaments will be played with 12 teams each. The best ranked teams at the 2007 Continental Championships that have not qualified will be invited to participate with the quotas per continent as indicated above.

FIBA Hall of Fame

The Board has approved the statues for the FIBA Hall of Fame in Alcobendas, Spain which will be hosted in the extended facilities of the Pedro Ferrandiz Foundation. The FIBA Hall of Fame will be inaugurated in autumn 2006. The Board also decided to make the Pedro Ferrandiz Foundation an integral part of its organisation in recognition its long-standing cooperation in the field of historical research on the cultural heritage of basketball around the globe.

NBL Expansion into Asia

The Board has approved the request presented by the National Federations of Australia and Singapore to allow the National Basketball League in Australia (NBL) to set up an NBL team in Singapore as of the 2006/2007 season.

FIBA'S WORLD

STRONG FIBA PRESENCE AT SPORTACCORD

FIBA had a strong presence at the Sportaccord Conference in Seoul, Korea in the first week of April.

The annual event, which assembles the Olympic family as well as International Sports Federations and event organizers, has developed in its fourth year of existence into one of the most prestigious meetings of the international sports business.

FIBA is the only International Sports Federation which has been present at all previous Sportaccord exhibition areas with a booth. In the 2006 edition, FIBA mainly informed about its upcoming FIBA World Championship in Japan and Brazil, but also about its other business activities such as the FIBA Study Center, a homologation and consulting branch of FIBA, which was created to help the construction of basketball facilities.

During the conference, FIBA first Vice President Bob Elphinston was invited to the "Interview of the Day" on the subject "Radical Observations on a Changing Sports World".

Elphinston, who has been hired by the Organising Committee of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games as external consultant, emphasized in the interview the importance of the needs of the athletes at the preparation of major sports events.

"Everybody speaks about the importance of the needs of the athletes at major sports events, but very few have it in their planning," he said.

"We tend to be concerned about the facilities and the marketing strategy as well as about the treatment of our VIP's and often forget about the real necessities of the protagonists of sport."

BUSINESS CORNER

JAPAN SET FOR RECORD FIBA TV DISTRIBUTION

Whole World to see the 2006 FIBA World Championship

The 2006 FIBA World Championship in Japan will have a record number of broadcasting countries.

The current agreements and ongoing discussions will mean that the event will be seen in over 150 countries giving extensive coverage in all of the five FIBA Zones.

All 80 games of the 2006 FIBA World Championship will be available for broadcast around the world and in addition FIBA TV will be offering an English language feed for the Final round of games.

FIBA TV are in the process of establishing a FIBA World Championship Internet Broadband site where viewers throughout the world can access live and delayed coverage of all 80 games. It is planned that this offering will be accessible wherever possible in conjunction with FIBA's Broadcast Partners in order to maximise the distribution. In addition FIBA TV will be providing content for mobile phone utilisation in selected countries. More details will be available on FIBA.com.

FIBA TV has also produced a FIBA "Road to Japan" DVD which is available for sale on the FIBA.store. This product will also be converted into a 52 minute television programme for broadcast as pre-programming along with World Championship promos for the FIBA Broadcast Partners in the lead-up to the FIBA World Championship.

Both of the FIBA World Championships, the men's in Japan and the women's which take place ten days later in Sao Paulo, Brazil are being regularly promoted in the FIBA World Basketball television programme. This weekly programme is now seen in over 50 countries and this distribution will increase to 100 countries in the lead up to the World Championships. Once again further details will be available on FIBA.com.

OCEANIA NEWS TEAMS FOR THE FIBA OCEANIA YOUTH TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCED

24 entries had been received from 12 men's and 12 women's teams for the 2006 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament. It was agreed that a number of criteria would be used to determine the final 8 men's and 8 women's teams. The following federation teams have been selected to compete:

1. American Samoa - Men & Women 2. Australia - Men & Women 3. Fiji - Men & Women 4. Guam - Men & Women
5. New Caledonia - Men & Women 6. New Zealand - Men & Women 7. PNG - Men & Women 8. Tahiti - Men & Women

FIBA OCEANIA
We Are Basketball

PEOPLE

NAMES AND FACES

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FIBA DIRECTORY CHANGES

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Zambia Basketball Association
New President:
Sam Mukando
New Vice President:
Major.Richard Chilangwa (South)
Tonderai Mutasa (North)
New Secretary General:
Mwembe Kaona

NOWITZKI IMROVES HIS GAME WITH NATIONAL SIDE

Dirk Nowitzki was nominated for the FIBA Europe Player of the Year award, and spoke about the impact of his time with the German national team on that occasion.
"Well really I think every summer I come back better for the next season and the national team is a big part of that", he told fibaeurope.com.
"I work on my game in the summer and then I have a chance to play on a very high level in Europe and kind of work on things and help my country as well. I think if I hadn't have played for Germany all those summers, I wouldn't have come back as a better player. I think playing for my country was big in my development over the years."

JACKSON GRABS COMMONWEALTH GOLD

Australia's Lauren Jackson, arguably the world's best player, could barely hide her delight at winning gold by thrashing New Zealand 77-39 at the Commonwealth Games.
"This is so awesome. To play in front of this crowd is something I will never forget. I never thought I would get the chance to play for my country again in Australia," she said.
The Opals will try to make another shot at a medal at this year's FIBA World Championship for Women in Brazil from 12 – 23 September.

GAMBA INTO HALL

Italy coaching great Sandro Gamba has been elected into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
The former national team boss, a native of Milan, coached in Europe for over 30 years, including Italian Division I professional league teams Simmenthal (1965-73), Ignis (1973-77), Turin (1977-1980) and the Italian national team (1979-1992).

He led four Italian Olympic teams and guided the 1980 squad to a silver medal. Gamba's professional teams won five Italian League championships, a European Championship, a Champions Cup and Cup of Cups title.In addition, he guided the Azzurri to a gold medal at EuroBasket 83.
The Class of 2006 will be enshrined during festivities in Springfield, Massachusetts on September 9.

NOAH JR. IS A WINNER TOO

Father Yannick Noah won the hearts of France with his French Open title win 23 years ago and now the son, Joakim, has won the hearts of basketball fans in America.

Joakim Noah put the finishing touches on a magnificent season by leading the Florida Gators to their first NCAA Tournament crown. He scored 16 points and set a tournament championship record with six blocks en route to being named the Most Outstanding Player as Florida won 73-57 against UCLA.
Young Noah is now targeted by both the French and Swedish national teams, as he holds both citizenships.

STAY TUNED

EVENT CALENDAR

MAY	
19-23/05/2006	FIBA Women's World League, PR Group A, in Shaoxing, P.R. of China
31/05/2006 & 08/06/2006	FIBA Asia Champions Cup for Men in Kuwait
JUNE	
28/06/2006 & 02/07/2006	FIBA Women's World League, PR Group B, in Pecs, Hungary
28/06/2006 & 02/07/2006	FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Men in San Antonio, USA
28/06/2006 & 02/07/2006	FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Women in Colorado Springs, USA
JULY	
04-14/07/2006	Wheelchair World Championship for Men, in Amsterdam, Netherlands
18-27/07/2006	FIBA Europe U18 Championship for Men in Amaliada, Olympia and Argostoli, Greece
21-30/07/2006	FIBA Europe U18 Championship for Women in Tenerife, Spain
AUGUST	
10-15/08/2006	Stankovic Continental Champions Cup in Nanjing, P.R. of China
19/08/2006 & 03/09/2006	**FIBA World Championship for Men in Japan**
SEPTEMBER	
12-23/09/2006	**FIBA World Championship for Women in Brazil**

STAY TUNED

MEETING CALENDAR

MAY	
18-20/05/2006	FIBA-Europe Clinic for International Referee Candidates in Pravetz, Bulgaria
JUNE	
15-18/06/2006	FIBA-Asia Clinic for International Referee Candidates in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan
JULY	
12-14/07/2006	World Congress of IWBF in Amsterdam, Netherlands
11-18/07/2006	FIBA-Asia Clinics for International Referee Candidates in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Dhaka, Bangladesh
AUGUST	
27/08/2006	Central Board of FIBA in Tokyo, Japan
28-29/08/2006	World Congress of FIBA in Tokyo, Japan
31/08/2006	Central Board of FIBA (2006 – 2010 term of office) in Tokyo, Japan
NOVEMBER	
Exact date tbd	Central Board of FIBA in Geneva, Switzerland

02 2006

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