

# ASSIST NEWS

FIBA ASSIST NEWSLETTER A BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE FEBRUARY / MARCH 2007



## FIBA

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### FIBA BLOGS

**The Monday International Show** is the newest [fiba.com](http://fiba.com) weekly feature written by George Eddy, a French American TV commentator on Canal Plus. Find out what George has to say about the international players playing in the NBA.

**The Friday Eurovision** presented by Jeff Taylor is a look at what's happening with top players and emerging stars in Europe. Check on leading players and the big prospects that are making headlines. See how internationals are performing ahead of the next FIBA competitions.

More bloggers will be added shortly.



Maria Stepanova has been elected FIBA European Player of the Year

### WHAT'S IN STORE

## INAUGURATION OF FIBA HALL OF FAME

*A place for those who made the game*



On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 the new FIBA Hall of Fame will be inaugurated by the Mayor of the city of Alcobendas, Mr. José Caballero, and in presence of the FIBA President Mr. Bob Elphinston, the FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann, and the complete FIBA Central Board.

The new FIBA Hall of Fame was built with the help of the city of Alcobendas and upon initiative of Pedro Ferrándiz, the legendary coach of Real Madrid and founder of the FIBA Pedro Ferrándiz Foundation. The building is an extension of the Foundation, a museum with the objective to preserve the heritage of international basketball. It has four floors and covers 2.000 square meters.

During the inauguration ceremony the mayor of Alcobendas will hand over the key of the building to FIBA President. In order to mark the 75th anniversary of FIBA, two sculptures and induction plaques will be unveiled that have been created to honor the initial posthumous inductees. There will also be the launch of the FIBA Hall of Fame logo.

The primary goal of the FIBA Hall of Fame is to reflect the history of the sport and its protagonists.

The key criterion for selection for the FIBA Hall of Fame is outstanding achievement at the international level to the development and

status of the sport of basketball.

Inductees into the FIBA Hall of Fame will be divided into four sections:

- Player (must have been retired from international competition for five years).
- Coach
- Technical Official
- Contributor.

Later in summer 2007 FIBA will celebrate the induction of the class of 2007 in Alcobendas in presence of the inductees. The names of the inductees for a new intake will be confidential up to the time of the induction function.

The selection process for the FIBA Hall of Fame foresees that National member federations, Zones, Central Board members, and the FIBA Screening Committee may submit nominations.

The FIBA Screening Committee consisting of Mr. Patrick Baumann and the Central Board members, Mr. Jenaro Marchand (PUR), and Manfred Ströher (GER), carefully assesses all nominations and submits a list of candidates to the FIBA Honours Committee consisting of the FIBA President, Mr. Bob Elphinston (AUS), the FIBA Vice President Mr. George Vassilakopoulos (GRE) and FIBA Secretary General Emeritus Borislav Stankovic (SRB). The Honours Committee assesses the list of nominations from the Screening Committee and makes the final decisions regarding each intake into the FIBA Hall of Fame.



Induction ceremonies will take place every two years starting in 2007.

An updated list of nominees and further information can be found on [www.fiba.com](http://www.fiba.com).

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### ASIA NEWS UAE WIN OVER QATAR IN GULF CUP FINAL

Qatar have the name but the United Arab Emirates had the better game in the final of the Gulf Cup end of January in Dubai. In a thriller at the Al Nasr Club, the United Arab Emirates clinched a 69-64 triumph. It was a stunning turn of events for the UAE, who had failed to even progress from the preliminary round at the Asian Games. The UAE finished with eight points from four wins to capture the gold medal while Qatar won the silver with seven points. Kuwait finished third for the bronze, and Bahrain won the fourth place play-off, defeating Oman 67-47. Oman came in last after falling in all four of their games.

## WHAT'S IN STORE

# FIBA U19 & U21 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

This summer will see the best players of the world in the youth categories U19 and U21. Over 500 talented players will compete for the world titles in Bratislava, Moscow and Novi Sad.



Can China play a more important role in the Slovak Republic?

### FIBA U19 World Championship for Women

The 7th edition of the championship will take place in Bratislava, Slovak Republic from 26th July to 5th August 2007 and 16 teams from five continents will compete. Eligible are all players who are born 1st January 1988 or later.

In an overture to the championship, the draw for the event will take place in the hosting city on 6th March 2007.

On this occasion the teams from Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, P.R. of China, Czech Republic, Ivory Coast, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Mali, Slovak Republic, Spain, Serbia, Sweden, defending champion USA will be divided in four groups of four teams.

The teams placed 1st – 3rd in each group will qualify for the next round in two groups of six teams, before the top four placed teams go to the Final Round.

In the previous six editions the USA and the Soviet Union won the gold medal twice, whereas Australia and the Czech Republic could secure the title once.

### FIBA U21 World Championship for Women

The 2nd edition of the world title in this age category will be played in the Moscow region in Russia from 29th June to 8th July 2007. Eligible are all players who are born 1st January 1986 or later.

The 12 competing teams were drawn in two groups of six teams on 8th February 2007 in Moscow. Group A: Belgium, Canada, P.R. of China, France, Mali, and Russia. Group B: Australia, Brazil, Hungary, Japan, Spain, and USA.

The teams placed 1st – 4th in each group will play the Final Round for the places 1 -8- All other teams will play classification games for the positions 9 – 12.

In the first edition in Croatia, the USA clinched the gold medal, Brazil took silver and France won the bronze medal.



Alana Beard starred for the U21 gold medal winners USA in 2003

### Novi Sad to host FIBA U19 World Championship

Serbia and the city of Novi Sad have been awarded the organization of the 8th edition of the FIBA U19 World Championship for Men (12th-22nd July 2007).

The 2007 FIBA U19 World Championship will mark the first time that Serbia hosts a FIBA youth tournament. In 2005 Serbia organized the European Championship for Men (EuroBasket).



The draw that will determine the composition of the four groups of four squads each will take place on Tuesday 27th February in Novi Sad.

The tournament will be played in two arenas of the Sport Center Vojvodina, the second biggest multi-sports complex in the world. Both arenas are fully FIBA certified and have capacities of 8.500 and 2.500 seats.

The championship had to be reallocated after the original host, Vancouver (Canada), pulled out on 15th January 2007. Vancouver was assigned the organization of the event in July 2006.

Bogut's star began to shine when Australia clinched gold in 2003

## WHAT'S IN STORE

# OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

Australia (women) and Spain (men) as well as hosts China have their ticket to the 2008 Olympic Basketball Tournaments for Men and Women in Beijing already in their pocket.

For most of the teams it will remain a long and stony road until they have reached that goal. The first chance will open at the upcoming continental championships in 2007 (see event calendar on last page), whilst FIBA has established for the first time a second chance in special Olympic Qualification Tournaments for Men and Women.

Twelve teams each from throughout the world will participate in the new Women's and Men's FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournaments in summer 2008 to secure one of the final berths for the Beijing Summer Games.

Below is a quick breakdown of the Olympic qualification procedure.



### Olympic Tournament for Women

Directly Qualified:	
The host nation	CHINA
The gold medalist from the 2006 FIBA World Championship	AUSTRALIA
Qualified through the Continental Championships in 2007:	
Africa	1 team
Americas	1 team
Asia	1 team
Europe	1 team
Oceania	1 team
FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament (9th – 15th June 2008, tbc)	
(Africa 2, Americas 3, Asia 2, Europe 4, Oceania 1)	5 teams

### Olympic Tournament for Men

Directly Qualified:	
The host nation	CHINA
The gold medalist from the 2006 FIBA World Championship	SPAIN
Qualified through the Continental Championships in 2007:	
Africa	1 team
Americas	2 teams
Asia	1 team
Europe	2 teams
Oceania	1 team
FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament (7th – 13th July 2008, tbc)	
(Africa 2, Americas 3, Asia 2, Europe 4, Oceania 1)	3 teams

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.



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## AMERICAS NEWS NEW LIGA "DE LAS AMERICAS"

The FIBA Americas executive committee has confirmed the plans to create a new tournament called the Liga de las Americas. The idea is to create a tournament which groups for 16 teams in the region although the United States would not be represented by a NBA franchise.

Horacio Muratore, a FIBA Central Board member and also the Argentinian Basketball Confederation president, told Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo: "The representative of the United States would come from university basketball, the D-League or any other local league."

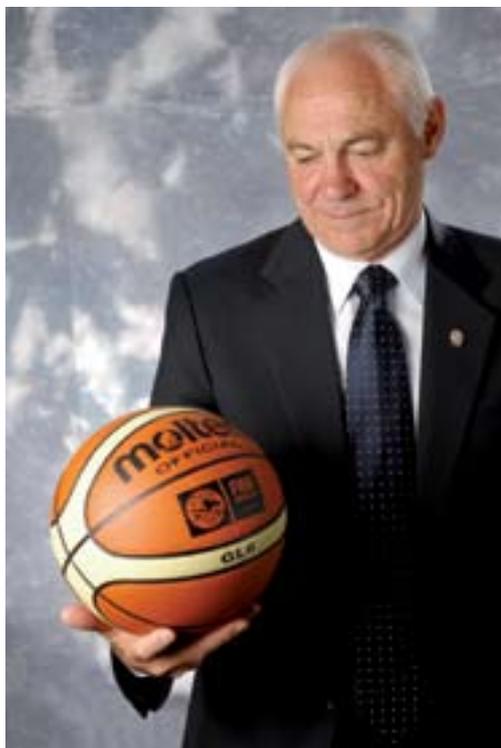
Eduardo Dagnino, general secretary of the South American Basketball Confederation (Consugasquet), added: "Teams from the United States, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil have already expressed their willingness to take part in the tournament. "We need TV to take part too. We need a continental station, like ESPN or Fox."

Negotiations will take place in February in Las Vegas during the week of the NBA All-Star Game.

## FIBA'S WORLD

# FIBA MET WITH IOC PRESIDENT

FIBA President Bob Elphinston (pictured), Secretary General Patrick Baumann and Secretary General Emeritus and Honorary IOC member Borislav Stankovic met on 11th December 2006 with IOC President Dr. Jacques Rogge in Lausanne.



FIBA took this opportunity to formally introduce Bob Elphinston in his new capacity as President with FIBA to the IOC President and to discuss a number of matters that ranged from Olympic Solidarity to WADA and the British Basketball Review for London 2012.

Also FIBA's renewed request for 16 teams in the men's Olympic tournament as of 2012 was discussed during the meeting as well as outstanding matters with some national federations and their respective National Olympic Committees.

## FIBA ORGANIZER AVAILABLE AT NO COST

FIBA and SportingPulse have signed an agreement which allows providing the FIBA ORGANIZER software to an unlimited number of basketball organizations worldwide at no cost. The tool incorporates all facets of basketball administration such as competition management (schedules, results, and

standings) and membership database (clubs, players, coaches, and referees). The product, which also includes a build-in website, is downloadable for free on [fiba.com](http://fiba.com) and since November 2006 hundreds of downloads were registered from all over the world.

The integration with the Internet delivers turn-key solution web sites to all users, which can display competition and player results and build a community portal accessible to basketball fans everywhere.

During the rollout of the project within the 213 National Federations FIBA realized that there is huge interest in the software on the grassroots level. This will open the chance to build the biggest global database of players in 213 countries, and create one of the world's most robust and scalable whole-of-sport membership and competition management solutions.

This global agreement is thought to be the first time any sport's worldwide governing body has commissioned the development of a communication hub capable of unifying its entire community.

"FIBA are committed to developing our sport of basketball and creating the best possible conditions on-court and off-court for players, fans, coaches, and everyone involved in the game," said FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann. "We are delighted to announce this exciting new initiative for the basketball world. With the help of SportingPulse's award-winning software we are connecting basketball players around the world, creating a vibrant and active online community and making it easier to communicate and share information locally and globally."

SportingPulse CEO Nick Maywald added: "This contract with FIBA will transform the management of basketball. It means local administrators in over 200 playing nations will be able to dramatically improve the way they communicate with their members and make it easy for them to design and run their own association and club web sites, publish fixtures, schedules, results."



## BUSINESS CORNER

# FIBA TV SHOW A FULL SUCCESS



"FIBA World Basketball", FIBA's weekly television show has just entered its second season after the 26-minute programme was aired 52 times in 2006.

The first season of the show, which regularly promotes the best of international basketball to fans around the world has been very successful.

The programme is now distributed to over 120 countries around the world. A detailed distribution list will be available on [fiba.com](http://fiba.com).

"FIBA World Basketball" features news and reactions from regional and local leagues around the world as well as action from the Continental and World Championships and footage from the FIBA Archive. In addition there is a special feature with exclusive interviews and behind the scene stories. The latest features were on Italian shooting star Andrea Bargnani and Argentinean sensation Luis Scola.

Excerpts of the FIBA World Basketball interviews and action will soon be available on [fiba.com](http://fiba.com).

FIBA World Basketball is the only international basketball programme in the world that reports the game on a global basis and is a must for basketball fans who want to know what is happening around the basketball world.

For further information check out [FIBA.com](http://FIBA.com).

## EUROPE NEWS FIBA EUROPE INSURES PLAYERS FOR 50 MILLION EUROS

More than half of FIBA Europe's national federations have signed up to participate in a group insurance scheme which covers senior men's and women's European based national team players during the summer period.

The insurance policy, of which the individual player's clubs are the beneficiaries, covers more than 50 million euros worth of salaries.

If a player is injured whilst playing for the national team, the policy will cover the player's salary with his or her respective club.

Germany is one of the countries that use the policy to cover its men's and women's national team players.

The policy is valid from 15th June to 30th September every year and covers all players in the event of injury or disease. In addition, the policy pays out until the player has fully recovered from any injury and is able to return to the court.



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# PEOPLE NAMES AND FACES

## STEPANOVA AND PAPALOUKAS EUROPEAN PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Maria Stepanova from Russia (pictured on the first page) and Theo Papaloukas from Greece have been elected European Players of the Year in a poll conducted by FIBA Europe.

Stepanova led the poll before Ann Wouters from Belgium whilst Papaloukas was edging out Pau Gasol and the 2005 award winner Dirk Nowitzki in a tight vote.

Stepanova led both CSKA and Russia to the silver medal in the EuroLeague Women and the 2006 FIBA World Championship for Women respectively.



Papaloukas had a winning campaign in 2006, helping Greece to the silver medal at the FIBA World Championship and leading CSKA Moscow to the Russian Cup, and both the Superleague and Euroleague crowns.



## ARROYO LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER WITH NATIONAL TEAM

Carlos Arroyo shot to international fame by leading Puerto Rico to a major upset of the United States in their first game at the 2004 Olympics. The point guard would love to

do the same this summer at the FIBA Americas Championship in Las Vegas. That's where the tiny island nation will attempt to qualify for the Summer Games again in 2008 when they are held in Beijing.

"I think our chances are good and because of that, expectations are high," Arroyo said. "We have a lot of good young players and we're looking forward to playing against those top teams. We're desperate to qualify for the Olympics and we'll do everything we can to achieve that."

## RODRIGUEZ COMMITS TO SPAIN



Sergio Rodriguez has collected a gold medal at the FIBA World Championship in Japan for Spain and looks forward to play for the country again in summer: "Winning the World Championship was the best thing in my life," he said on hoopsworld.com. It was a great moment for all of Spain. I enjoyed it and I want more

titles with Spain."

Especially he is looking forward to EuroBasket in Spain this summer "I can't wait to compete," he said. "In Spain, it was a very big thing to go and win the World Championship. In the NBA, it seems that you mostly look at your own play or if you win the NBA title. In Spain, we look higher than that. Players want to be the best in the world, not just in their own league."

## DON'T GET DISCONNECTED FIBA DIRECTORY CHANGES

### BARBADOS AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

New address:  
EIS -Sheffield, Coleridge Road, Sheffield,  
S9 5DA

New President:  
Terry Inniss

Email: tinniss@gmail.com  
264-3818 (c) / 416-4246 (h)

New Honorary Secretary:  
Natalie Hunte

Email: Natalie\_nabco@sunbeach.net  
826-1018 (c) / 427-2807

### SOMALI BASKETBALL FEDERATION

New Address:  
DHL Mogadishu- Somalia

Tel: +252 1 27 15 50

Fax: +252 1 26 80 66

Email: somalibasketball@hotmail.com  
New President: Adan Haji Yeberow

New Secretary General: Amin Hagi

### BASKETBALL FEDERATION OF MACEDONIA

New Address:  
Boulevard Kuzman Josifovski Pitu, no. 17,  
P.O. Box 318

1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Tel/Fax: +389.2.2461644

e-mail: contact@basketball.org.mk

web: www.basketball.org.mk

## STAY TUNED

# EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE	
03-10/06/2007	FIBA Asia Championship for Women in Incheon, Korea
29/06/2007 08/07/2007	FIBA U21 World Championship for Women in Moscow Region, Russia
JULY	
12-22/07/2007	FIBA U19 World Championship in Novi Sad, Serbia
26/07/2007 05/08/2007	FIBA U19 World Championship for Women in Bratislava, Slovakia
28/07/2007 05/08/2007	FIBA Asia Championship in Tokushima, Japan
AUGUST	
15-26/08/2007	FIBA Africa Championship in Benguela, Cabinda, Huila, Huambo, and Luanda, Angola
22/08/2007 02/09/2007	FIBA Americas Championship in Las Vegas, USA
SEPTEMBER	
03-16/09/2007	FIBA Europe Championship "EuroBasket" in Alicante, Granada, Palma de Mallorca, Sevilla, Madrid, Spain
20-30/09/2007	FIBA Africa Championship for Women in Dakar, Senegal
23-27/09/2007	FIBA Americas Championship for Women in Valdivia, Chile
24/09/2007 07/10/2007	FIBA Europe Championship for Women "EuroBasket" in Ortona, Lanciano, Vasto, Chieti, Italy
tbc	FIBA Oceania Championship in Australia or New Zealand
tbc	FIBA Oceania Championship for Women in Australia or New Zealand

## STAY TUNED

# MEETING CALENDAR

FEBRUARY	
27/02/2007	Draw for the FIBA U19 World Championship in Novi Sad, Serbia
MARCH	
01/03/2007	Inauguration of FIBA Hall of Fame in Alcobendas, Spain
02-03/03/2007	FIBA Central Board in Madrid, Spain
06/03/2007	Draw for the FIBA U19 World Championship for Women in Bratislava, Slovak Republic
23-25/03/2007	FIBA Americas Clinic for Referee Candidates in Cancun, Mexico
27-29/03/2007	FIBA Americas Clinic for Referee Candidates in Quito, Ecuador
APRIL	
10-14/04/2007	FIBA Americas Central Board in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
tbc	FIBA Africa Clinic for Referee Candidates in Lagos, Nigeria
tbc	FIBA Africa Clinic for Referee Candidates in Brazzaville, P.R. of Congo
AUGUST	
tbc	FIBA Oceania Clinic for International Referee Candidates in Apia, Western Samoa
NOVEMBER	
tbc	Central Board of FIBA

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