



**FIBA**

We Are Basketball

# ASSISTNEWS

FIBA ASSIST NEWSLETTER A BIMONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2007



## WHAT'S IN STORE

# BEIJING IS READY

**WHAT'S IN STORE**  
**BEIJING READY**  
PAGE 1/2

**FIBA'S WORLD**  
**FIBA 3 ON 3**  
**BASKETBALL PART**  
**OF 2010 YOUTH**  
**OLYMPICS?**  
PAGE 2/3

**BUSINESS**  
**CORNER**  
**FIBA VILLAGE AT FSB**  
**FULL SUCCESS**  
PAGE 3

**PEOPLE**  
**NAMES AND FACES**  
PAGE 4

**STAY TUNED**  
**EVENT AND**  
**MEETING CALENDARS**  
PAGE 4

**DON'T GET**  
**DISCONNECTED**  
**DIRECTORY CHANGES**  
PAGE 4

Official Sponsor

**molten**  
*For the real game*

## FIBA.COM NOKIA ENHANCES VIDEO CONTENT ON FIBA.COM

Since FIBA has entered into an agreement with Nokia in August 2007, the video content on [fiba.com](http://fiba.com) has drastically increased. Over 130 video clips have been produced by a FIBA reporter team at the 2007 FIBA events. Nokia provided FIBA with the Nokia N93i multimedia computers to record high quality video interviews and behind the scenes stories that have been viewed over 100'000 times on [fiba.com](http://fiba.com) and [www.youtube.com/fibaworld](http://www.youtube.com/fibaworld).



A FIBA delegation comprised of FIBA Secretary General and IOC member Patrick Baumann, FIBA Study Center boss Aldo Vitale, FIBA Sports Director Lubomir Kotleba and FIBA Communications Director Florian Wanninger

have recently visited Beijing. The group met with high leaders from BOCOG and visited the Wukesong arena that will host the Olympic basketball tournaments in 2008. Part of the delegation were FIBA Central Board members Mabel Ching from Hong Kong and Jose Luis Saez from Spain.

"We were impressed by the work progress made since our visit almost a year ago," said FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann. We are very confident to have our games played in sate of the art buildings. We had no major issues with the Organizing Committee besides not being able to obtain enough tickets for certain session. But this shows the high demand for basketball at the 2008 Olympics, which is definitely good news."

The Secretary General of FIBA and BOCOG Executive Vice-President Yang Shu'an have signed the Memorandum

of Understanding (MOU) that regulates all contractual obligations and rights between both parties as required by the International Olympic Committee.

FIBA and BOCOG have also given green light to the game entertainment project that is executed with the support from experts from the NBA. A working group of the three parties has today presented its proposals for the entertainment and game presentation elements to the BOCOG Executive Vice President Mr. Jiang Xiaoyu and Mr. Baumann. It was agreed that all performances should have a savvy mix of Chinese and international culture in particular from participating teams.

### Beijing is ready....

.... but there are still 8 teams that will have a chance to qualify for the Olympic Basketball tournaments in the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournaments for Men and Women next summer.

### Men's Qualifier on week later

The FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Men will now be played from 14th to 20th July.



Maria Stepanova from Russia wants to keep the flag high in Beijing



## ASIA NEWS CHINA AND PHILIPPINES BID FOR DIAMOND BALL

The Basketball Federations from the P.R. of China and the Philippines have presented their bids for the 2008 edition of the Diamond Ball for Men to FIBA. The FIBA Central Board meeting in December will decide on these bids. If accepted, the Diamond Ball would be played from 29th July – 1st August 2008, just one week before the Beijing Olympics. The Diamond Ball is an invitational tournament. Participating teams would be the host country China and the 2007 continental champions from all FIBA Zones. With the exception of USA, all continental champions have signaled already their participation.



**FIBA**  
ASIA  
We Are Basketball

## BEIJING READY CONTINUED

In order to ensure the highest possible standard and, following the request by its National Federations, FIBA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have decided that the tournament that will decide the final berths for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games will be played exactly one week later than initially planned. The new dates will allow the participating teams to enjoy a longer preparation phase and count with the presence of their best players.

The following nine teams have already booked their tickets for the Olympic Basketball Tournament for Men that will take place in Beijing, China, from 9th to 24th August 2008: Angola, Argentina, Australia, China, Iran, Lithuania, Russia, Spain and USA.

The remaining three men's berths for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games will be decided in the 12-team FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament, in a country and city to be determined by FIBA at its Central Board Meeting in Chicago (USA) on 8th and 9th December 2007. The organizers and venues of the tournament will be decided amongst the candidatures received from the 12 participant teams: Brazil, Cape Verde, Canada, Cameroon, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Korea, Lebanon, New Zealand, Puerto Rico and Slovenia.

The dates for the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Women remain unchanged (i.e. 9th to 15th June 2008).

### Bids from Greece, Japan, Puerto Rico, and Spain

Bids for the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Men have been received from Greece and Puerto Rico. Japan and Spain have applied to be the host for the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Women.

### System of Competition for FIBA Olympic Qualifiers

The system of competition for the FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournaments for Men and women will be as follows:

#### Preliminary Round:

The 12 participating teams will be divided into four groups (A, B, C and D) of three teams each. Each team will play all the other teams in its own group. The teams placed 1st and 2nd in each group will play in the Quarter-Finals; the teams placed 3rd in each group will go home. A total of 12 games will be played in the Preliminary Round.

#### Quarter-Finals:

Game 13: A1 vs. B2  
 Game 14: B1 vs. A2  
 Game 15: C1 vs. D2  
 Game 16: D1 vs. C2

#### Semi-Finals:

Game 17: Winner 13 vs. Winner 15  
 Game 18: Winner 14 vs. Winner 16

The two winners will qualify for the Olympic Games. The two losers will play in the Finals the game for the 3rd place (Game 19 below) for one remaining qualifying place.

#### Finals:

Game 19: Loser 17 vs. Loser 18

### Olympic Draw on 26th April

The draw for the Olympic Basketball Tournaments will be held on 26th April 2008 in the Olympic Basketball Venue, the Wukesong arena. The draw will be staged on the occasion of the Olympic Basketball Test event, that will be held from 19th – 26th April 2008.

Directly Qualified:	Women	Men
The host nation	China	China
The gold medalist from the 2006 FIBA World Championship	Australia	Spain
<b>Qualified through the Continental Championships in 2007:</b>		
Africa	Mali	Angola
Americas	USA	USA
Americas	x	Argentina
Asia	Korea	Iran
Europe	Russia	Russia
Europe	x	Lithuania
Oceania	New Zealand	Australia
<b>FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Women</b>		
Date: 9th - 15th June 2008		
Site: Will be decided on 8/9 December 2007 in Chicago		
Teams eligible: Senegal, Angola, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Spain, Belarus, Latvia, Czech Republic, Fiji	? 5 teams	
<b>FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Men</b>		
Date: 14th - 20th July 2008		
Site: Will be decided on 8/9 December 2007 in Chicago		
Teams eligible: Cameroon, Cape Verde, Brazil, Canada, Puerto Rico, Lebanon, Korea, Greece, Germany, Croatia, Slovenia, New Zealand		? 3 teams

## WHAT'S IN STORE

# FIBA 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL PART OF 2010 YOUTH OLYMPICS?

When the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved on 5th July 2007 the idea to organize Youth Olympic Games for teenagers aged 14 – 18 every four years starting in 2010, it was evident from the IOC's intention that something new, more dynamic and appealing to the youngsters would be welcomed.

Therefore, FIBA is considering formalizing its participation with a FIBA 3 on 3 Basketball on the sports program. The Youth Olympic Games (YOG) will bring together approximately 3,500 athletes and 875 officials for the Summer Games. The sports programme of the YOG comprises all sports on the programme of the 2012 Summer Games with a limited number of disciplines and events. There is not so far, an official FIBA 3 on 3 Basketball game and thus, in order to be able to make the proper decision, FIBA is analyzing all the technical/administrative/sporting aspects of this discipline.

### Iran claims Gold at FIBA 3 on 3 Test Event

The Islamic Republic of Iran claimed the gold medal at the FIBA 3 on 3 test event at the Asian Indoor games in Macau. The national 3 on 3 team from Iran beat China in a high class and much contested Final with 33-29. Hong Kong was able to win the bronze medal against the Philippines with 33-29.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the Macau Indoor Games Organising Committee (MAIGOC) have accepted FIBA's request on 11th July 2007 that the 3on3 basketball game be held as a demonstration sport in the 2nd Asian Indoor Games in Macau, SAR of the P.R. of China. The FIBA 3 on 3 event at the Macau Indoor Games was a test event for players born 1st January 1990 or later.

The event in Macau primarily



## AMERICAS NEWS LAUNCH OF THE AMERICAS LEAGUE

The Americas League was launched on Tuesday, November 13 at 10:00 A.M., at Quebracho Salon in the Hilton Hotel of Buenos Aires. The announcement was made by FIBA Americas President Julio Subero and FIBA Secretary General Alberto Garcia.

The first Americas League will tip off on December 4 and will have 16 teams from the Americas.

The Americas League will not only be a major attraction for basketball fans in the Americas but will also help in the development of top players from the region as they will be given the opportunity to play at an international stage against the best clubs from the zone.

served to test rules and equipment as well as to get feedback from athletes and coaches on the concept. The feedback by participants and FIBA officials was overwhelmingly positive.



FIBA Secretary General and IOC member Patrick Baumann stated on behalf of his colleagues from the FIBA Central Board, of whom many members were present in Macau: "This test was very promising and we are sure that this new form of official FIBA

competition has a huge potential and could have a huge impact on the promotion of basketball worldwide. It could attract more youngsters to competitive basketball and to enable smaller basketball nations to be competitive at the highest level."

"We have learned a lot of lessons here in Macau," added FIBA President Bob Elphinston. "But we are sure that we are on the right track and we will continue to develop an attractive, dynamic and modern new competition that we will propose to the IOC for implementation in the Youth Olympic Games."

#### NEXT STEPS:

In November 2007 the FIBA Youth Commission and Competition Commission will evaluate the results of the Test Event

In December 2007 the FIBA Central Board will decide in Chicago, in principle, the general concept of its participation in the YOG.

If positive, in January 2008 the FIBA Technical Commission will evaluate the experience of the 3on3 Rules.

In February 2008 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decides on the host for the 2010 YOG.

In April 2008 the FIBA Central Board will approve all the details of the 2010 YOG 3on3 (number of teams, classification (designation) of the teams, age, rules etc).



## FIBA'S WORLD

# CSKA MOSCOW WIN FIBA WOMEN'S WORLD LEAGUE



Russian basketball is celebrating another title after CSKA Moscow upset a USA Basketball Select to capture the 2007 FIBA Women's World League title.

Ilona Korstin and Maria Stepanova, fresh off a gold-medal winning performance with Russia at the FIBA EuroBasket Women in Italy, each poured in 16 points in a 75-65 triumph in Ekaterinburg.

Ann Wauters finished with 11 points, and EuroBasket Women MVP Amaya Valdemoro and American Nicole Powell poured in nine apiece.

The victory avenged an 81-72 defeat to the Americans in the preliminary round.

CSKA, who have moved from Samara to Moscow this season, stretched a 40-34 lead at half-time to 64-52 by the end of the third quarter and marched to victory. The triumph will ease some of the pressure on CSKA after they finished third in the FIBA EuroLeague Women last season and

second in the Russian Superleague, with Spartak Moscow Region winning the titles in both.

In the third place game, Ekaterinburg hammered CBA Beijing 91-69 behind Sandrine Gruda's 26 points. Gruda is the FIBA Europe Young Player of the Year. Australia's Suzy Batkovic finished with



17 and six rebounds, and Poland's Agnieszka Bibrzycka scored 15 and grabbed eight boards. Lijie Miao, a player in Tom Maher's Chinese national team, had a game-high 31 points in defeat.

Hungarian giants MiZo Pecs throttled Canberra Capitals 73-38 in the battle for fifth place and Basketball Club Habana defeated TEO Vilnius 78-73 in the play-off for seventh place.

#### Final Standings:

1. CSKA Moscow, RUS
2. USA All Stars, USA
3. Ekaterinburg, RUS
4. CBA Beijing, CHN
5. BC Habana, CUB
6. TEO Vilnius, LTU
7. MiZo Pecs, HUN
8. Canberra Capitals, AUS

## BUSINESS CORNER

# FIBA VILLAGE AT FSB FULL SUCCESS

The FIBA Study Centre participated for the seventh time at the FSB, the International Trade Fair for Amenity Areas, Sports and Pool Facilities, held in Cologne, Germany.

The International Basketball Federation featured a "basketball village" of over 1000 square meters, gathering more than 20 FIBA Study Centre partners involved in basketball equipment. In the centre of the village, a large basketball court was built by some of the FIBA partners in order to allow daily basketball activities. Different top teams from Germany were demonstrating their skill together with mini basketball and wheelchair basketball squads. FIBA Study Center Director Aldo Vitale was very satisfied with the



first day of the 2007 edition: "We never had more partners present in Cologne. This clearly shows the high interest of the industry in this trade fair. We hope to enhance further the business opportunities for our partners and at the same time increase the standards of basketball equipment and arenas."

The FSB, held bi-annually and featuring over 500 exhibitors, represents the biggest fair of such kind in the world and generates new business and networking opportunities for all the FIBA partners that will be present in Cologne.

The FIBA Study Centre ([www.fiba.com/study\\_center](http://www.fiba.com/study_center)) was founded with the aim to help equip and increase the number of sports facilities throughout the world, to encourage the construction of basic facilities and the refurbishment of older ones, to co-ordinate research initiatives and to offer consulting services for materials, equipment design and construction.

The Study Centre, which edits publications such as the "Guide to Basketball Facilities for High-Level Competitions", the "Guide to Small Basketball Facilities" or the "Safety Standards", seeks to attain a high standard of quality, safety and high-tech for the athletes, the public and the media.

## AFRICAS NEWS FIBA AFRICA CHAMPIONS CUP FOR MEN 2007: FIELD COMPLETED

The Zone 3 preliminaries of the FIBA Africa Champions Cup for Men 07 has qualified with the medal winners Niger Potters from Nigeria, A B C from the Ivory Coast and ASPAC from Benin, the last three teams for the 12-team field of the event. The Final Round of the FIBA Africa Champions Cup for men will be held in Angola from 13th – 22nd December 2007.

Qualified clubs: Petro Atlético (Angola), Primeiro de Agosto (Angola), Interclube (Angola), Ferroviario Beira (Mozambique), Onatra (DC Congo), Kauka (DC Congo), APR (Rwanda), M.B.C (Guinée), Stade Malien (Mali), Niger Potters (Nigeria), A.B.C (Côte d'Ivoire), ASPAC (Benin).



**FIBA**  
AFRICA  
We Are Basketball

# PEOPLE NAMES AND FACES

## DON'T GET DISCONNECTED FIBA DIRECTORY CHANGES

### Latvian Basketball Association

New Address:  
6B Grostonas street  
Riga, LV-1013  
Latvia

Azerbaijan Basketball Federation  
Garabagh street 22 Firuza Business Center,  
1008 Baku, Azerbaijan  
Tel.: +99 (412) 496 37 26  
Fax.: +99 (412) 496 37 25  
abf\_baku@yahoo.com;  
azeribasket@europe.com  
President: Mr. Nasibov, Nadir  
Secretary General  
Mr. Mammedyarov, Gakhraman

### Gambia Basketball Federation

President: Mr. Essa M. Gaye  
St. O.A.U Boulevard, Dukla Jabbi Building  
Banjul  
The Gambia  
Tel.: +220-4226026  
Fax: +220-4229028  
Mobile: +220-98915542  
emaegaye@yahoo.com  
Secretary General: Mr. Mohamadou M. Njie,  
Public Diplomacy and Cultural Affairs  
Assistant  
at the American Embassy Banjul,  
Kairaba Avenue, Fajara,  
The Gambia  
Tel: +220-4392856 ext.2166  
Mobile: +220-9738878  
Fax: +220-4392475  
njiemmm@state.gov

To view all contact details of our 213  
National Federations please go to  
[www.fiba.com/nf](http://www.fiba.com/nf)

## GRUDA VOTED FIBA EUROPE YOUNG WOMEN'S PLAYER 2006

Sandrine Gruda of the French national team has won the 2006 FIBA Europe Young Women's Player of the Year award.

The 192-cm center was selected with the honour based on a vote from a select panel and



Women season, Gruda averaged 13.2 ppg and 5.9 rpg to help her side reach the Final Four.

At just 19 years of age, Gruda played a key role for France's senior national team at the 2006 FIBA World Championship in Brazil. She averaged 10.0 ppg and helped her country to a fifth place finish.

"It is amazing to think that Sandrine Gruda is accomplishing so much at a young age at the top level in Europe," said FIBA Europe Secretary General Nar Zanolin.

## CARLOS ARROYO WANTS OLYMPIC TICKET

Puerto Rico finished the FIBA Americas Championship with a bronze medal. Now the stakes are higher as they get ready for next summer's FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament. Guards Carlos Arroyo and Larry Ayuso want to take their team to Beijing.



"Both Larry and me, we both feel a great deal of responsibility every time we played for Puerto Rico and we feel that we need to take this young team step by step," said Arroyo.

"We are very proud of this medal, and we'll see what happens next year. This medal brings great confidence to us as we try to grab a spot in the Olympic Games. We'll be playing against

experienced and talented teams. Hopefully, we'll be ready for that. Nothing is impossible. We just need to have desire and play as a team, with everyone understanding his role, and we'll have a good chance."

## PALMA WANTS TO TURN JORDAN INTO AN ASIAN POWERHOUSE

Former National Team coach of Angola Mario Palma enjoyed one of his finest moments at the helm of Jordan's national team when he steered them to glory in the King Abdullah Basketball Cup. Jordan, a team Palma is attempting to turn into a powerhouse as he did with Angola, prevailed 89-77 over Tunisia in Amman, the capital of Jordan.



"Jordan has the capacity to face and beat other (great) teams," Palma said to FIBA. "Our latest results are evidence of that."

There were signs of Jordan's progress in Japan, where they came in fifth at the last FIBA Asian Championship.

"We have gained respect," he said. "Our squad is getting stronger and stronger. In one year, we have achieved the work of 10 years. We climbed seven positions in the FIBA Rankings, which is superb." Palma travels with the team to the Pan-Arab Games from November 14-21 and after this event, Palma will have to make a decision on his future.

"I have been with the team for a year and half, and our goal is improving more and more," he said. "Jordan is a very nice country; I have been enjoying the experience."

"They [Jordan Basketball Federation] want me to stay until 2009, but we will see after the Pan-Arab Games."

For now, Palma wants to bring more silverware to Jordan.

"I have already won some trophies in Egypt with Angola," he said. "We want to go there to win."

## STAY TUNED

# EVENT CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

01/11/2007 Start of South American League for Women's Clubs

07/11/2007 Start of FIBA EuroLeague Women

### DECEMBER

06-15/12/2007 South East Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand

### FEBRUARY

01/02/2008 Start of South American League for Men

### APRIL

01/04/2008 NCAA Final Four for Men and Women in San Antonio, USA

15-22/04/2008 Military World Championships for Men, in San Antonio, USA

19-26/04/2008 Olympic Test Event for Women's Teams in Beijing, China

26/04/2008 Draw for the Olympic Basketball Tournaments in Beijing, China

### JUNE

09-15/06/2008 FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Women in city tbd

### JULY

14-20/07/2008 FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Men in city tbd

## STAY TUNED

# MEETING CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

12-13/11/2007 FIBA Commission for Legal Matters in Geneva, Switzerland

19-20/11/2007 FIBA Commission for International Competitions in Geneva, Switzerland

19-20/11/2007 FIBA Commission for Youth Basketball in Geneva, Switzerland

### DECEMBER

07/12/2007 FIBA Secretary General's Meeting in Chicago, USA

08-09/12/2007 FIBA Central Board Meeting in Chicago, USA

### JANUARY

18-19/01/2008 FIBA Technical Commission in New York, USA

### APRIL

25-27/04/2008 FIBA Central Board in Beijing, P.R. of China

## 05 2007

For more information  
please contact:

FIBA Communications  
Department,  
53, Avenue Louis Casaï  
1216 Cointrin/ Geneva  
P.O. Box 110  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-545.00.00  
Fax: +41-22-545.00.99  
communications@fiba.com  
www.fiba.com

**Editing:**  
FIBA Communications  
Department

**Layout:**  
www.oikoservice.com

**Printer:**  
Publish - Pescara - ITALY



**FIBA**

Official Sponsors

