

ISSUE
4
2006

INSIDE

BOCOG Launches
New Mascot: Lele
p.2

Online Education
Programme for
London 2012 p.3

President Craven
Visits Russia
p.5

Women on the Rise
in Paralympic
Sport p.10



Japan in action on the road at the 2006 IPC Cycling World Championships. Photo ©: Prezioso

CYCLING STANDARDS THE HIGHEST EVER

The 2006 IPC Cycling World Championships provided six days of top-level international competition from 10 to 18 September. The Championships were organized by the International Cycling Union (UCI) and held in the World Cycling Centre at UCI Headquarters in Aigle, Switzerland. This provided the organizers and athletes with access to the best Cycling knowledge and facilities and gave the world's top cyclists with a disability an opportunity to hit the track and the road for a shot at the World Champion titles.

Germany came in first overall on the medal tally, winning a total of 26 medals, including 12 gold. They were followed by Spain with 21 medals, eight of which were gold and third place was taken by Great Britain with 15 medals, including eight golds.

There was a bonanza of 17 world records on the Track in the first three days of competition and some highly competitive races on the road. Among the record breakers, Michael Gallagher of Australia collected two world records in the men's LC1 (4km) Individual Pursuit and LC1 Individual Time Trial. Natalie Simanowski of Germany took two new world records in the women's LC3 (3km) Individual Pursuit and the LC3 500m Time Trial. Karen Jacobsen of Denmark was also a top competitor, breaking world records in both the women's CP4 500m Time Trial and CP4 (3km) Individual Pursuit.

In the women's Handcycling Division B-C Road Race, Monique Van de Vorst (NED) crossed the line only milliseconds ahead of second placed Andrea Eskau (GER). In the men's Handcycling Division B Road Race, the first four cyclists to cross the finish line arrived within a second of each other. The men's Road Races in the LC1, LC2 and LC3 sport classes were all strongly contested as first, second and third place also came down to less than a second, showing the elite nature of the sport.

Said Tony Yorke, Chairperson of the IPC Cycling Sport Technical Committee: "The rising standards were clearly visible in all areas, including athlete performances and the organization. The velodrome provided an accessible and friendly atmosphere and, for the first time, one compact area could be used for both the Track and Road competitions. From now, the World Championships will be held annually and I look forward to the 2007 competition in Bordeaux, France."

This was the final World Championships to be held under the auspices of IPC Cycling, as a transfer of governance to UCI will occur by the end of the year (following ratification by the IPC Governing Board).

For more information and a full list of results, please visit www.2006ipc-cycling.com.

SPIRIT IN MOTION



Photo ©: VANOC
VANOC Launches 2010 Paralympic Emblem p.3



Photo ©: Prezioso
Europe Hosts IPC World Championships p.8



Photo ©: Eduard Fiegel
IPC Welcomes Two Gold Patrons p.4



Photo ©: Carol Grevemberg
Atlanta 1996 Paralympics - Ten Years On p.12

Progressing in Leaps and Bounds



The last few months have been an exciting time for the Paralympic Movement. From a sporting perspective, the momentum began in September with the 2006 IPC Athletics World Championships with over 1,000 athletes competing in the Netherlands. We then saw some great action from the IPC

Cycling World Championships, followed by Table Tennis and Wheelchair Dance Sport. Each of these competitions was a wonderful demonstration of the competitive abilities of Paralympic athletes but also of high quality, professional events.

I was also happy to see that the transfer of governance of Cycling from the IPC to the International Cycling Union (UCI) is underway. This process has been very smooth and I am confident that Cycling for athletes with a disability (Para Cycling) will be well looked-after by the UCI. I also look forward to a similar process which will take place in 2007, transferring the governance of Table Tennis to the International Table Tennis Committee (ITTF).

In early September, I attended the launching ceremony of 'Lele', the new mascot of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. This was an extraordinary show, with thousands of participants and worldwide media coverage. On my most recent trip to China, I was interviewed by a number of key Chinese media. I think this is evidence of the growing interest in China about the Paralympic Games and it will continue to grow in the lead up to 2008.

The following month, I had the privilege of visiting Russia, where among other leaders, I met with President Putin. During a special dinner, I presented him with the Paralympic Honour in recognition of his support for the Paralympic Movement. On receiving the honour, he spoke with me about the importance of the Paralympic Games and the enormous value they have in the world of sport. I think this is encouragement for us all.

Much progress has also been made recently within the Movement. With the IPC Sports Council meeting in Bonn in October and numerous meetings of our standing committees, the whole Movement is buzzing with new ideas and working on augmenting the Movement further. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of the members of the IPC Councils and Committees who each dedicate so much of their time and energy as volunteers to the Movement.

With this excellent progress, I wish you all the best for the holiday season. I look forward to returning in 2007 to begin what will be a very exciting and fruitful year for us all.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President

PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

Welcome Lele

On 6 September, exactly two years before the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, the Paralympic mascot, 'Lele' was unveiled during a ceremony in front of the Great Wall in Beijing, China.

In the presence of IPC President Sir Philip Craven, Liu Qi, President of the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) and Deng Pufang, President of the China Disabled Persons Federation (CDPF), the mascot was presented to the attending guests and, via live television broadcasting, to the public.

Said Sir Philip: "The 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games mascot epitomises another side of sport. On the one hand, sport is about medal winning athleticism but on the other hand, sport and participation in sport brings happiness, fun and enjoyment to people all over the world. This colourful ambassador of joy will attract people of all ages to the universal message of Paralympic Sport, which is 'Spirit in Motion'."

'Lele', which means 'happiness', is the name of the cow that will invite people from across the globe to come to Beijing, enjoy the splendours of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games and see the inspiring performances of Paralympians.

The design of the mascot absorbs the style of the Chinese culture, embodying the harmony between man and nature and resembling the traditional design styles unique to China's folk engraved prints and folk toys. The characteristics of the cow, like diligence, determination, courage, endurance and strength, also incorporate the spirit of Paralympians competing in the Paralympic Games.



The following month, from 24 to 26 October, Sir Philip was back in Beijing for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Co-ordination Commission for the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

During the visit, the Commission examined the progress made by BOCOG. Approaching Games time, the Commission meetings took a more client oriented approach, looking at services for athletes, media, etc.

A working group dedicated to the Paralympic Games addressed the Paralympic specific aspects and needs of the participants in the Paralympic Games. These discussions were complemented by a tour to various competition venues and concluded with a plenary session, which underlined the remarkable progress that has been made.

"I am delighted with the overall progress of BOCOG, especially for the Paralympic Games. During this visit the BOCOG leadership stressed its full support to the Paralympic Games, which is also reflected in a number of important steps that have been made. The great promotion through the launch of the Paralympic mascot and the continuous effort regarding the accessibility around the Games and the city are only some examples in that respect," commented Sir Philip.

The IPC will continue its close collaboration with BOCOG as it now enters the critical final phase of venue planning and testing.

The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games will take place from 6 to 17 September 2008, with around 4,000 athletes from 160 countries competing in 20 sports.



Sir Philip introduces Lele, the official mascot of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. Photo ©: BOCOG.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

Paralympic Face for Vancouver 2010

"This was the best Paralympic event ever, other than the Paralympics themselves! It's awesome that all the emblem launch's spectators now know the term Paralympics and what it's about. And that in itself is the Paralympic Movement. I'm honoured to have been a part of it."

- Paralympian Brad Lennea (Alpine Skiing)

On 16 September, the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games emblem was launched during a concert-style ceremony in Whistler, Canada. The emblem portrays a dynamic human form in blue and green colours representing the coastal forests, dramatic mountains and majestic sky of Vancouver and Whistler.

The emblem also reflects the inner strength and personal transformation of Paralympic athletes as they push themselves to new heights in the pursuit of excellence. The emblem symbolizes the heart of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympics, a celebration that will bring together Paralympic athletic heroes and Canada's passion for sport and nature.

Said IPC Governing Board Member Patrick Jarvis, who attended the launch ceremony: "In less than four years from now, right here in this community, and in Vancouver, thousands will be watching as Paralympians demonstrate to the world their athletic abilities and triumphant spirit. The emblem of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games is representative of that spirit as well as that of Vancouver and Whistler, where the

dreams of athletes from all over the world will have the chance to become a reality."

The emblem was launched during a free afternoon concert, featuring Canadian stars such as Chantal Kreviazuk, 'The Philosopher Kings' and Jim Byrnes, along with 'Spirit of the West' and Jeremy Fisher. During the event, guests from the world of politics, media and sport, including Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan, BC Government Minister Colin Hansen, Paralympians Lauren Woolstencroft, Sonja Gaudet, Brad Lennea, Brian McKeever and Phil Chew, made appearances. Video messages were sent by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Paralympian Rick Hansen.

Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) CEO John Furlong praised the design - in his view, a symbol of the very best Canada has to offer the global Paralympic Movement. "The emblem's representation of the athlete in nature, literally and metaphorically, symbolizes Vancouver 2010's vision to deliver an inclusive Olympic and Paralympic Games that celebrate excellence, sustainability and creativity in every endeavour," he said.

"Our people have lived among, and overcome, the challenges of these mountains for thousands of years. This Paralympic logo eloquently represents the power and strength of these wonderful athletes as they triumph over the challenges of their environment, and we are honoured to welcome them as they compete within our traditional territories during the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games."

- Four Host First Nations Chief Leonard Andrew, Lil'wat Nation

More than 4,000 Paralympic emblem pins were distributed at the launch celebration in Whistler. Photo ©: VANOC



Photo ©: VANOC

PARALYMPIC GAMES: LONDON 2012

London 2012 Launches Education Programme and NPC Grants

"I am determined that young people should feel inspired by the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. They can and will engage young people right across the curriculum through sport, culture and education. We want the Games to capture the imagination of young people all over the country and the launch of this resource is another positive step towards this goal."

- Lord Sebastian Coe, Chair of London 2012

The Organizing Committee of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has launched a set of educational materials, designed to help excite and engage children and young people across Great Britain.

The materials, called 'On Your Marks!', are the first step in the development of the London 2012 Education Programme. The 'On your Marks!' website provides a range of up to date information about the Games - including fact sheets, news articles and a bank of images for use at home or in school.

Targeted at 7-14 year olds, it also provides a number of cross-curricular teaching ideas to help teachers and support staff to integrate these resources into their teaching within the classroom. An interactive element of the site will also allow teachers to share their own ideas.

The website will be developed in conjunction with key national education partners including the British Olympic Foundation (BOF), the British Paralympic Association (BPA), the Department of Culture, Media &

Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Education & Skills, England (DfES). The site will promote the Olympic and Paralympic values and offer a wide variety of opportunities for young people to engage and be inspired by the Games across sport, culture and education.

'On Your Marks!' is available online on the London 2012 website at: www.london2012.com/onyourmarks.

The Programme was launched on 27 September by Daley Thompson, a London 2012 Education Ambassador, with students from a local secondary school. Double Olympic Gold medallist Daley said: "The London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will be an exciting and once in a lifetime experience that will benefit young people. We want every young person right across the UK to get involved with sport and the Games and to realise all the fantastic opportunities they provide. These materials are just a starting point for how we can achieve that."

In other news, London 2012 is offering Paralympic teams from all over the world funding grants to encourage the use of training camps in Great

Britain in the run up to 2012. Teams can apply for up to EURO 39,000 (£26,000) towards the cost of training in venues based in Great Britain.

The Scheme highlights London 2012's commitment to provide the best possible conditions for athletes at the Games as outlined in its Bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It recognizes the importance of pre-Games training camps in helping athletes perform at their best.

Daley Thompson with students from Morpeth Secondary School. Photo ©: London 2012



Photo ©: London 2012

Korea a Welcoming Host for 2007 IPC General Assembly

The next IPC General Assembly will take place in Seoul, Korea, from 24 to 25 November 2007. A total of 15 countries requested the bid documents. After careful consideration the IPC General Assembly Evaluation Working Group decided to award the IPC 2007 General Assembly to the

National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Korea.

Commented IPC President Sir Philip Craven: "This will be the thirteenth General Assembly and the third time that it takes place in Asia. I am confident that NPC Korea will be a great host to the IPC Membership and I look forward to visiting the country once again."

Preceding the General Assembly, from 22 to 23 November, the IPC Conference will take place. In 2005, the topics of the Conference were: Classification Code, Sport Independence, Anti-Doping and Paralympic Games. The theme of the 2007 IPC Conference will be announced at a later stage.

The bid by the Korean NPC was fully supported by the government of

Korea who have also provided a financial guarantee for the event.

"I think it is Korea's honour to have finally succeeded in hosting the biggest international conference in sports for persons with a disability since the Korean Paralympic Committee (KPC) was founded only nine months ago. From now on, Korea will do its best for the most successful IPC General Assembly ever held, by closely co-operating with the IPC," said Ms. Hyang-Sook Jang, President of the Korea Sports Association for the Disabled (KOSAD) and KPC.

The IPC 2005 General Assembly in Beijing, China, was the largest General Assembly to date, with more than 300 participants from 90 NPCs, five Regional Organizations, four International Organizations for the Disabled and 24 Sports.



Photo ©: David Hart

IPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE
22 - 25 NOVEMBER 2007
SEOUL, KOREA.

Deutsche Telekom and Allianz Become Gold Patrons of the IPC

On 20 October, German companies Deutsche Telekom AG and Allianz SE became Gold Patrons of the IPC, pledging their support for present and future Paralympic athletes.

The signing ceremony took place in the attendance of Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, during a press conference at the Villa Hammerschmidt - the President's second official residence - in Bonn, Germany.

The agreement includes sustainable support of the Paralympic Movement and provides a financial contribution to athletes involved in the 'German Paralympics Top Team'. The programme allows approximately 30 to 40 German Paralympic athletes to dedicate more time to their training, by enabling them to take time off work and providing their

employers with financial compensation.

Dr. Eick, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chairman Deutsche Telekom AG, emphasized: "The support of sport for persons with a disability and of the Paralympic Movement is a consistent development of our corporate responsibility in society in the area of sport."

"I am pleased that Allianz together with its partners supports the aim of the Paralympic Movement and athletes with a disability to strive for excellence. All the best for Beijing 2008," added Dr. Rupprecht, Executive Board Member of Allianz SE.

The close collaboration between Allianz, Deutsche Telekom, IPC and NPC Germany will also support the development of potential

future Paralympians. The IPC Education Programme, and especially the Paralympic School Day and International Paralympic Day, will educate youth about Paralympic Sport and disability issues in a fun and playful environment. Ultimately the aim is to change the perceptions about persons with a disability through different types of activities.

The agreement was signed between IPC President Sir Philip Craven, Karl-Hermann Haack, President of the German National Paralympic Committee (NPC), Dr. Gerhard Rupprecht, Member of the Executive Board Allianz SE and Dr. Karl-Gerhard Eick, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chairman Deutsche Telekom AG.



Photo ©: Eduard Fiegel

"Paralympic athletes symbolize power, endurance and assertiveness. This makes them role models and perfect ambassadors. I am delighted that Allianz and Deutsche Telekom realize this potential,"
- President Köhler.

Deutsche Telekom

Allianz

IPC President Visits the Kremlin

IPC President Sir Philip Craven paid his first official visit to Moscow, Russia, in October. During the visit, Sir Philip joined representatives of the Olympic Movement, including Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and met with the Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin to discuss the role and development of sport within the Russian Federation and Russia's efforts in the fight

against doping.

Sir Philip presented President Putin with the Paralympic Honour, a medal given to persons outside the Paralympic Movement, in recognition of the outstanding commitment, given by both the people of Russia and President Putin personally, to furthering the Paralympic values.

Said Sir Philip: "The increased exposure of Paralympic Sport in Russia, especially since Russia's great achievements at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, has resulted in the coming together of the Russian government, the Russian Paralympic Committee and private investment."

During extensive meetings, Sir Philip also met with high-ranking officials from the Russian government and sport, including Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zhukov, Sports Minister Vyacheslav Fetisov, Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) President Vladimir Lukin and RPC First Vice-President Pavel Roshkov. The discussions focused on the development of the Paralympic Movement in Russia, including government investment in Paralympic Sport and improving accessibility for athletes with a disability. Sir Philip had the opportunity to tour several newly built Paralympic training facilities and other sights of Moscow.



Photo ©: IOC

(from left to right) Chairman of the Russian Olympic Committee Leonid Tyagachev, IOC President Jacques Rogge, former IOC Vice-President Vitaly Smirnov and IPC President Sir Philip Craven. Photo ©: IOC.

NPC PROFILE: KOREA

Building the Paralympic Movement in Korea

Following the announcement that Korea will host the 2007 IPC General Assembly, 'The Paralympian' found out a little more about the work of the NPC.

When and how was the Korean NPC established?

In 1989, after the success of the Seoul 1988 Paralympics, we created the Korean Sports Association for the Disabled, controlled by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. In November 2005, following a revised law on national sports promotion, KOSAD was re-established under the new Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The Korean Paralympic Committee (KPC) is a sub-committee of KOSAD which focuses on international relations and was formed in May 2006.

How is the NPC staffed?

Back in November 2005, the current president Ms. Hyang-Sook Jang was inaugurated along with Mr. Kyung-Sik Choi, the first Secretary General of KPC. Then, we have 25 staff in five departments: Planning & General Affairs, Sports Operations, Sports for All, Innovation & Evaluation and International & Public Relations. Two members of our Governing Board are from the Korean Sports Council (KSC) and Korean Olympic Committee (KOC), and we have membership in KSC and KOC. This means we have a close relationship and we expect it to continue to grow. On our official website, www.kosad.or.kr, we have an English version. Here you can see the structure of our organization and our activities.

Following the Seoul 1988 Paralympic Games, how did the public respond in Korea in support of Paralympic Sport?

There have been three big steps in the history of sport for persons with a disability in Korea. In 1981, we held the first National Summer Sports Games for the Disabled, however, the awareness of sport for persons with a disability was not that big. Then in 1988, the Seoul Paralympic Games were the first big step towards the Paralympic Movement. The second big step occurred

after hosting the 8th BUSAN FESPIC Games in 2002 and the third step was the reestablishment of KOSAD in 2005.

What are the major goals of the Korean NPC over the next five years?

A significant goal will be to successfully host the 2007 IPC General Assembly. We want to devote ourselves to making the Paralympic Movement known to the world by aligning with the IPC. We also would like to focus on the improvement of the national Paralympic Movement by successfully hosting many events including the 2007 IPC Archery World Championships and gain support to move forward. We are also working towards the successful bid to host the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will be decided next July in Guatemala.

Will there be more emphasis on winter sport now towards the bid for the 2014 Winter and Paralympic Games?

We were not fully prepared for Torino as we only began our preparations in 2005. However, from now on we are preparing to host the 2014 Games and increase our success in winter sport. For example, we are holding annual winter ski camps and creating facilities for use by athletes with a disability. We have also founded a new Ice Sledge Hockey team and are planning to host more winter sport regional competitions to create the groundwork for the systematic development of winter sport in Asia.

Are there any education or development programmes you are currently focusing on?

There are several programmes being managed directly by KOSAD/KPC, for example, there will be a programme to identify young athletes and we will co-ordinate the distribution of sporting equipment to many disabled schools and organizations. We are also working to develop trainers at the local level through an annual training course, which includes two weeks of training after which participants can become certified trainers. We conduct these trainings for 18-19 summer sports and four winter

sports. In the case of Wheelchair Basketball there were around 200 participants in this course, while the least popular sports have only 20 or 30.

There are also several events managed by KOSAD/KPC, which include the National Summer & Winter Sports Games for the Disabled, which were five-day & three-day festivals held in September and February, involving 19 summer sports and four winter sports respectively. Then we have the National Sports Games for Youth in May 2007 and the National Sports for All Games, which will involve around 17,000 participants, in June 2007. These events are the best way to make our sports known to the public.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

ATHLETE PROFILE: GARY WILLIAMS (GBR)

Innovation in Cycling

Gary Williams has been involved in both able-bodied and disabled Cycling for about 16 years in one form or another. During the 2006 IPC Cycling World Championships, he spoke to 'The Paralympian' about his career and the changing face of Cycling.

How has the sport of Cycling developed since you first began?

I think over the last 16 years it's gone from a relatively amateur sport to a professional sport. For example, in the Great Britain team we have 12 elite members, of which I am one. But I am now the only person who also has a day job. Everyone else is now a full time paid professional cyclist. We are affiliated to the British Cycling Federation and have access to exactly the same bikes, funding, coaching staff and track time as our able-bodied counterparts. It wasn't always like that, but over the past few years it has certainly reached that level.

How have the perceptions of Cycling for persons with a disability changed?

In my category, the times that we do are similar to the elite able-bodied times. Then in the more disabled categories, people with an arm and a leg missing, their times aren't as close to the able-bodied elite. But the fantastic thing about watching those athletes is how they actually ride the bike. So, to me there are two sides: there is the degree of professionalism and the elite nature of the sport but there's also an element of admiration. Some people you see and you think, how can they even ride a bike at all, let alone ride to the standard that they do.

What is your training schedule like?

I work a four-day week rather than five days. When you are a Cyclist, rest is an important part of training. I could do 25 hours a week if I wanted to, I could go out until midnight after work, but I would get worse not better. I get up before work and do an hour, go to work, come back from work and do another hour. I wouldn't do this training if I were doing it for fun. But I am doing it to potentially win a Paralympic or World Championship medal.

What special equipment do you use?

My road bike is worth about EURO 8,000. Some people in my category ride totally one handed and other people have different methods of attaching their prosthesis to the bike. I use my own system, it is not standardized. What I use is actually a 'flex foot' for a child that we have adapted and bonded onto a carbon shaft. I have adjusted it over a period of trial and error to get the right degree of flex.

Did you try out other sports before you chose Cycling?

I used to cycle as a boy. I had a bone tumour and had my arm amputated when I was 14. Cycling was the only sport I've done professionally. I love snowboarding. If there was a disabled snowboarding programme, I probably wouldn't be sitting here talking to you. But, unfortunately, there are no mountains in Liverpool so snowboarding is my treat in the winter.

What is your best result?

I would love to tell you that I won a gold medal in Athens. I was fifth in Athens in the road race, that is probably my best result and I was fifth here at the 2006 IPC Cycling World Championships in the Pursuit. Fifth in the world isn't bad, but, I have to be honest with you, I was disappointed. This might be controversial but the 'it's not the winning, it's the taking part' mentality, it's not true! You are doing it to win. When there are 20 people in a race, there are 19 disappointed people.

What is the best thing about being a Paralympic athlete?

Whilst it's right that it should be professional and you are doing it to win, I think the thing that sets the Paralympic Games apart from the Olympic Games is the incredible human spirit. That sounds like a cliché, but I class myself as an able-bodied person. I am a consultant radiologist by profession, so I have been through medical school and I lead a 'normal' life, in a 'normal' house and a 'normal' car. But [at the Paralympics] there are thousands of athletes from all continents and it is incredible to see. I remember, in Barcelona, a fellow with no arms came down for dinner. He put these special knives and forks in his feet and started to eat. It was admirable, but also a testament to how adaptable the human body is. The Paralympics are a sporting event, but there is a real 'Paralympic experience' and I think for anybody, whether you are an athlete, a staff member, a journalist, it is a real privilege to go to the Paralympic Games.

What do you predict for your sporting career?

If I am lucky enough to go to Beijing, that will be my professional Cycling career finished. Not because I am 'past it', but because I would like to spend some time with my children and go on normal holidays. It should be like that, it should be a sacrifice, it should be that level of commitment. You should not just be able to pop along to the Paralympic Games every now and again and win. It should be all or nothing.



Photo ©: Prezioso

SPORT NEWS

Preview of the 2007 Parapan American Games



The Rio 2007 Parapan American Games will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 12 to 19 August 2007. Around 1,300 athletes and 700 delegation staff are expected to take part in 10 different sports.

The Rio 2007 Pan American and Parapan American Games Organizing Committee (CO-RIO) has been busy in its preparations. In August, the Committee launched 'Caue', the mascot of both the Pan American and Parapan American Games, followed later in the month by the launch of the Parapan American Games logo.

The logo launch was part of an official three-day visit by IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez and IPC Sport Director David Grevemberg at the CO-RIO Headquarters.

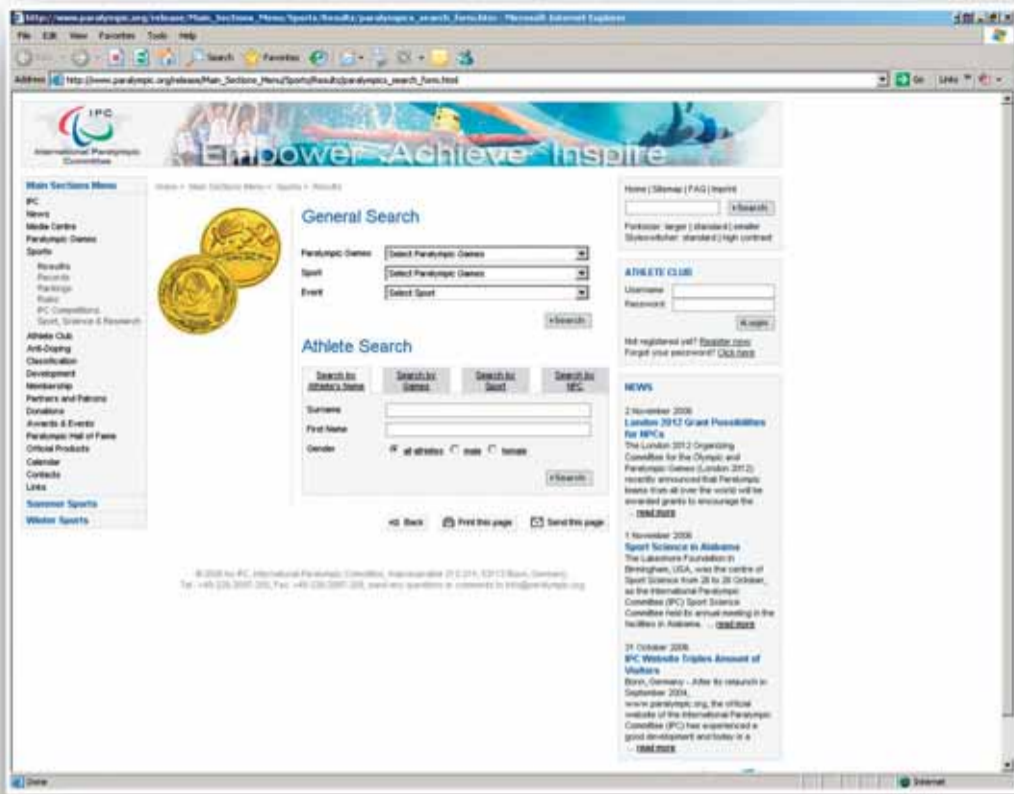
Said IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez: "With approximately one year to go, the IPC is confident that the Parapan American Games will offer athletes from the region a high-level event and that the athletes, in their turn, will offer the spectators exciting competitions. We are pleased that Rio 2007 will be hosting one of the largest sporting competitions of the Paralympic Movement, with ten sports being showcased in a compact Games using the same venues as the Pan Am Games."

The Parapan American Games took place in Mexico City, Mexico, in 1999 and in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 2003. 2007 is the first time the Parapan American Games will take place alongside the Pan American Games. For more information, please visit the official website at www.rio2007.org.br.



Images ©: CO-RIO

IPC Launches Paralympic Games Historical Results Database



The IPC has launched the Paralympic Games Historical Results Database for online use on its website (www.paralympic.org).

The database is a comprehensive collection of Paralympic Games results available from 1960 to 2006. The database includes all preliminaries, heats and finals plus useful information such as scores, times, distances, etc, as well as world and Paralympic records. It is separated into two different search options, the 'General Search' by Games, Sport and Event, and the 'Athlete Search' by Athlete's Name, Games, Sport and NPC.

With this wealth of information, the Paralympic Games Historical Results Database has already become one of the most visited tools on the IPC website.

Xavier Gonzalez, IPC Chief Executive Officer, said: "The IPC is proud to be able to provide such a fantastic tool for everyone interested in results of the Paralympic Games. It will establish a new standard in the Paralympic Games results search and perfectly complements our services to athletes, National Paralympic Committees, International Federations media, and other interested users."

IPC SPORT CALENDAR

2006 IPC Swimming World Championships	2- 8 December 2006	Durban, RSA
Sollefteå Winter Games	15 - 25 February 2007	Sollefteå, SWE
IPC Biathlon World Cup Finals	10 - 11 March 2007	Mt. Washington, CAN
IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals	12 - 14 March 2007	Zoncolan, ITA
IPC Cross Country Skiing World Cup Finals	13 - 14 March 2007	Mt. Washington, CAN

SPORT PROFILE: CYCLING

Cycling Transferred to Safe Hands

On 14 September, at the Sport Forum of IPC Cycling in Aigle, Switzerland, 25 of the 28 members attending voted in favour of a motion submitted by the IPC Cycling Technical Committee regarding the approval of the transfer of governance of IPC Cycling from the IPC to the able-bodied International Cycling Union (UCI).

Following years of close collaboration between the IPC and UCI, the UCI Management Committee in 2005 formally contacted the IPC with regards to the organization's interest to pursue the governance and authority role over Cycling for riders with a disability or 'Para Cycling', as UCI will formally name it. The IPC Governing Board will now ratify the recommendation at its upcoming meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November.

"I am pleased with the overwhelming decision taken by the IPC Cycling Sport Forum to recommend this transfer to the IPC Governing Board. The IPC looks forward to further establishing a true partnership with the UCI for the benefit of all cyclists," said IPC President Sir Philip Craven.

The first step to an enhanced development of Cycling for riders with a disability was made in July 2002, when IPC and UCI signed an agreement of co-operation for successful collaboration in the IPC sport of Cycling.

Said Tony Yorke, Chairperson of the IPC Cycling Sport Technical Committee: "The development of international Cycling for athletes with a disability has been a rewarding challenge and the quality of competition has risen dramatically in recent

years. Hopefully you will see whenever you watch Cycling competitions that we have now reached the standard where we need the expertise of the UCI."

Worldwide there are about 45 countries regularly taking part in Cycling for athletes with a disability, involving approximately 1,000 current athletes in the international ranking system. Cycling now faces the task of creating growth in Asia, Africa and South America.

Pat McQuaid, President of the UCI, stated: "This is a very exciting moment for the UCI and for me personally as President. The UCI is fully committed to the development of Paralympic Cycling and we will provide all of the necessary resources in the years to come."



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Event of the Year

The 2006 IPC Athletics World Championships were the largest IPC competition of the year, bringing together 1,097 athletes from 76 countries in Assen, the Netherlands. The Championships, which were held from 2 to 10 September, provided some outstanding sporting competition, with a total of 51 world records broken over the eight days.

At the end of the Championships, China, the largest team present, finished first on the medal tally with a total of 55 medals, including 22 gold. Throughout the Championships, it was a tough battle for second place, but in the end, the USA and Australia came in neck and neck, both finishing with a total of 32 medals each and equal with 16 gold medals. A total of 58 of the 76 competing countries finished with at least one medal.

The Championships officially opened with a spectacular and energetic Opening Ceremony at the De Smelt Ice Stadium in Assen, during which Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Margriet of the Netherlands officially declared the Championships open. Following this ceremony, the action switched to the sporting arena. The first day of competition saw seven world records broken and the trend continued.

Chinese athlete Wei Guo set two world records in the men's F35 Shot Put and the men's F35 Javelin. Irish teenager

Jason Smyth also set two world records in the men's T13 100m and the men's T13 200m. All eyes were on South African athlete Oscar Pistorius who beat his own world record in the men's 200m T44 in a time of 21.66 seconds and then took the championship title in the final on the following day.



Photo ©: Prezioso

On the last day of competition, the men's T54 marathon provided one of the most exciting races. The battle came right down to the last minute as Kurt Fearnley (AUS) and world record holder Heinz Frei (SUI) both crossed the line in a close finish, in a time of 1:28:16, with Fearnley taking the gold. The T54 women's race was also down to the wire as Diane Roy (CAN) finished in a time of 1:44:22, less than a second ahead of Sandra Graf-Mittelholzer (SUI).

A total of 168 media representatives from 22 countries attended, including broadcasters, photographers and written press. Highlights coverage of the Championships was also broadcast by the IPC's Internet TV channel, www.ParalympicSport.TV, providing an alternative for viewers in countries where traditional television did not provide coverage.

In addition to the smiling faces of the 850 volunteers on site, the stadium was also swarmed with thousands of Dutch children as part of the 'School Project', arranged by the EuroChamp Foundation, the Organizing Committee of the Championships. A total of 4,200 children, including 200 students with a disability, were involved in the project and had the opportunity to watch some of the competition and take part in a series of sporting activities.

Wheelchair Dance Sport Draws Crowds in the Netherlands

The National Sports Centre Papendal in Arnhem, the Netherlands, was filled with over 500 spectators and athletes for the 2006 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships. The Championships were held from the 14 to 15 October, in conjunction with the Holland Masters.

A total of 66 couples from 18 countries competed in Standard (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep) and Latin American Dance (Samba, Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive), in both combi-style dancing (the competing couple includes a wheelchair user and a non-disabled partner) and duo-dance (two wheelchair users).

Several Wheelchair Dance Sport fans, including Dr. Gertrude Krombholz, former chairperson of the IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport Technical Committee, representatives of the Dutch Paralympic Committee and IPC Governing Board member Fred Jansen were on-site to attend the competition.

The Duo LWD1 Category was won by Eduardo Nunez Medellin and Maria Antonia Pena Anguiano (Mexico), followed by Alexey Fotin and Ruzanna Kazaryan (Russia) and Norbert Huebl and Angela Schulz (Germany).

Duo LWD 2 Category. Silver was won by Aliaksei Harchakou and Hanna Harchakova (Belarus) and bronze by Roman Ens and Ksenlya Ginlyatullina (Russia).

The Latin Class LWD1 was won by Iwona Wydra and Marci Blazejewski (Poland), who were followed by Valeriy Bevzyuk and Olena Iaremenko (Ukraine) and Jose Antonio Medina Aviles and Sonia Mendoza Bernal

(Mexico).

In the highly competitive Latin Class LWD2, the gold medal was won by Piotr Iwanicki and Dorota Janowska (Poland), followed by Emil Malanowski and Martyna Wisniewska (Poland) and Hanna Harchakova and Ihar Kisialiou (Belarus).

Iлона Slugovina and Oleksandr Ivanov (Ukraine) won the Standard Class LWD1. Slavomir Solej and Alexandra Kastelova (Slovakia) took the silver medal, while Petra Kolberova and Juraj Adam (Slovakia) won the bronze.

In the Standard Class LWD2, Monika Chojnacka and Lukasz Prochacki (Poland) took the honours, followed by Hanna Harchakova and Ihar Kisialiou (Belarus) and Marta Krizanova and Peter Jasovsky (Slovakia).

Grethe Andersen, Chairperson of the IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport Technical Committee, commented after the Championships: "Again, we had a very successful and well organized competition in Papendal. The level of the dancers was higher than ever and they can all be proud of their performances. For the first time the World Championships included duo-dance and I was pleased to see the high standard in this event. A big thank you to the Organizing Committee for a memorable weekend."



Photo ©: Prezioso

Sergey Antonov and Vita Vimba (Russia) won gold in the

The Best in Table Tennis Compete in Switzerland

A total of 350 athletes from 48 countries participated and fought for medals and titles at the 2006 IPC Table Tennis World Championships, which were held from 23 September to 1 October in Montreux, Switzerland. Approximately 200 athletes competed in wheelchairs (classes TT1 to TT5) and 150 competed standing (classes TT6 to TT10).

China dominated the medal tally at the Championships, taking 14 gold, four silver and seven bronze medals. They were followed on the medal tally by Germany with five gold, three silver and a bronze medal and third place was taken by Korea with three gold, five silver and a bronze medal.

Gui Xiang Ren of China was the 'Queen of the Championships' after winning three gold medals. She took the honours in the wheelchair open category, in the women's wheelchair class 5 and finally in the team event in the wheelchair class 5, defeating Germany in the final (3:0).

Former Swiss President Adolf Ogi was the Honorary President of the Organizing Committee and was present on several occasions during the event. The Championships also received support from the well-known Swiss former Tennis star Jakob Hlasek. The Organizing Committee was assisted in its work by around 400 volunteers including 1,600

youths, aged 13 to 18 years, who worked throughout the competitions collecting balls in over 2,000 matches that took place over the nine-day period.

Said one of the young volunteers assisting in a semi final: "The match was very close, but with so much fair play. When one athlete

scored, the other would compliment him. For us, it was necessary to always be quick and observe the referee. But the athletes are very nice. At the end, they shook our hands. I have a lot of respect for athletes with a disability. I know that they compensate for their disability, but I am really impressed; their energy is incredible and the expression on their faces is indescribable."



Photo ©: Prezioso

Table Tennis has been included on the Paralympic Programme since the first Paralympic Games in 1960. The governing body for Table Tennis is the IPC. The rules of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) also apply to the Paralympic Table Tennis competitions with slight modifications for wheelchair athletes. The IPC Table Tennis World Championships are the premier competition in IPC Table Tennis outside the Paralympic Games.

For more information about the Championships, including a collection of photos, videos and all results, please see the official website at www.montreux2006.ch.

Kiwis Welcome Wheelchair Rugby

Top seeds the United States, beat the host team New Zealand in a dramatic 34:30 victory to take the title at the World Wheelchair Rugby Championships held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 7 to 17 September.

The game was closely fought from beginning to end. The USA was up 9:8 at the end of the first quarter and 16:15 at half time. The New Zealanders, known as the 'Wheel Blacks', dropped behind in the third quarter and could not close the gap on the Americans.

American Mark Zupan was the top scorer of the game with 14 points, followed by Tim Johnson of New Zealand with 13. Canada beat Great Britain 23:19 to take the bronze medal. Winning the Championships guarantees the USA a spot for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Boccia on the Beach in Brazil

Located inside a tent on the Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the 2006 Boccia World Championships brought together over 200 athletes from 30 countries.

The Championships, which began on 3 October and continued until 15 October, provided an opportunity for the best Boccia athletes in the world to compete for the title of World Champion in four individual, two pairs and the team competitions.

The BC1 category was won by José Vaquerizo (ESP), BC2 by Karen Hoi Ying Kwok (HKG), BC3 by Keon Woo Park (KOR) and BC4 by Bruno Valentim (POR). Korea took the title in the Pairs BC3 and Portugal took gold in the Pairs BC4. New Zealand took the honours in the team competition, beating Portugal and Great Britain for the gold. For more information, please visit the official website at www.bocciario2006.com.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Torino Hosts Wheelchair Fencing

From 29 September to 7 October, Torino, Italy, was again host to another exciting sport event for athletes with a disability. Male and female athletes from 18 countries competed in individual and team events (with three fencers per team) including Foil, Epée (men's and women's) and Sabre (men's).

Hong Kong topped the medal tally with a total of 11 medals, including six gold, and five bronze. They were followed by China with 14 medals (four gold, seven silver and 3 bronze). Poland took the third place position with 12 medals (two gold, two silver and eight bronze).

In combination with the World Fencing Championships 2006 for able-bodied fencers, the event attracted a lot of spectators and around 350 media representatives. The Championships were broadcast to several countries worldwide, including China, France, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain and USA.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Women Step up in Paralympic Sport

In 2003, the IPC adopted a policy on gender equity. The policy states that all entities belonging to the Paralympic Movement shall immediately establish as a goal, to be achieved by December 2005, that at least 15% of all offices in all their decision making structures be held by women, with the intent of achieving 30% representation by 2009.

In December 2005, a report from the IPC Women in Sport Committee revealed several findings:

- Women hold 19% of offices/positions within IPC decision making structures. This finding indicates that IPC has met its goal of achieving 15% representation by women by 2005.
- Women hold 31% of decision making positions on IPC Standing Committees and Councils.
- Women hold 14% of leadership positions within the IPC Governing Board and 10% within the National Paralympic Committees (NPC).
- 19% of NPCs have female Presidents or Secretary Generals.
- By Region, Oceania leads with the largest number of women holding President or Secretary General positions (29%), followed by the Americas (23%) and Europe (22%).
- Although there is good overall representation of women in the Standing Committees, there is still an under representation of women filling the position of chairperson.

Paralympic Summer Games	Female Athletes	Countries Bringing Female Athletes
Atlanta 1996	24.5 %	47%
Sydney 2000	25.4%	65%
Athens 2004	31%	77%

Paralympic Winter Games	Female Athletes	Countries Bringing Female Athletes
Nagano 1998	21%	78%
Salt Lake 2002	24%	72%
Torino 2006	21%	69%

The Committee also found that there has been a steady increase in the participation rate of female athletes over the past three Paralympic Games and there has been a remarkable increase in the number of countries bringing female athletes to Paralympic Games.

A policy by which less developed countries receive Universality Wild Cards (UWC) for the Paralympic Games has greatly improved the participation rate of countries bringing female athletes. UWCs are qualification slots granted by the IPC on a per invitation basis in particular sports, which are used to achieve greater universality (eg, equitable, global) at the Paralympic Games. New sports, disciplines and events for women and dedicated quotas have had the greatest impact on increasing the number of female athletes at the Paralympics. The target for

the Beijing 2008 Paralympics is 35% of the total number of athletes.

The Committee also offered several recommendations for achieving the equitable representation target for 2009. It suggests representation by women on the IPC Governing Board, in Chairperson and Committee positions and Director positions at the IPC Headquarters must be a focus. The report showed that leadership in IPC Sport Technical Committees is an area in which women have excelled without quotas. This may offer a formula for success across the organization and these persons should be called on to provide leadership throughout the organization.

In 2005, the Committee led several initiatives to promote women's leadership throughout the Paralympic Movement. In late 2004, they launched the Women in Paralympic Sport (WIPS) Network. The network now contains over 150 members from 44 countries who receive a quarterly E-newsletter about the activities of the Committee and other related events.

Beginning in 2004, the Committee initiated the IPC Women in Sport Leadership Summits. The pilot summit was held from 3 to 5 December 2004 in Tehran, Iran. Following its success, two African summits were held from 17 to 19 August 2005 in Niamey, Niger, and 2 to 4 November 2005 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Further sessions are planned for Asia in November 2006 and the Americas region in 2007.

The Committee has also developed, in association with the IPC Management team, the WIPS Toolkit which provides resources to improve the health and well-being, leadership skills, social and democratic skills, self determination, productivity and independence of girls and women with a disability. This toolkit is available on request (wisc@paralympic.org).



Photos ©: Lieven Coudenys

IPC Alpine Skiing Trains Tomorrow's Stars

From 29 July to 5 August, the IPC Alpine Skiing Development Camp in Les Deux Alpes, France, provided an opportunity for 30 young athletes to get together, further develop their technical skills and enjoy training in a professional environment. The athletes came from nine countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, France, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland) and varied in age from 11 to 17 years. A well-balanced representation among the three different disability groups of Alpine Skiing (amputation, spinal injury and blindness/visual impairment) was also ensured.

Organized by the IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee (IPC Alpine Skiing) and supported by an IPC Development Grant, the main goal of the project was to stage an international multi-sport camp for young athletes, combining Alpine Skiing training with different outdoor activities. Thirteen coaches were on-site to provide workshops and training lessons and also identify and recruit potential young athletes for the sport of Alpine Skiing. The camp also offered the participants the possibility to share experience and provide know-how on

how to establish Development Camps at a national level.

After the first day of skiing, the young athletes were divided into three groups for specific snow training and a videotaped performance analysis. Thereafter the coaches were assigned to the respective groups. In addition to improving their skiing abilities, the young athletes learned what it

takes to become a Paralympic athlete and were exposed to a variety of situations and approaches that will help them to overcome some barriers to competing at an elite level.

The interest shown by the participants to further develop the concept of the camp has confirmed the success of this event and organizers are looking forward to further camps in the future.



Photo ©: IPC Alpine Skiing

Paralympic.Sport.TV Screens World Championships

Over the past few months, the IPC's Internet television channel www.ParalympicSport.TV has been screening coverage of the many IPC World Championships, providing free coverage of Paralympic Sport to the global public.

For the 2006 IPC Athletics World Championships, the IPC broadcast nine highlights programmes from Assen, the Netherlands. Daily five-minute highlights from the 2006 IPC Table Tennis World Championships were also broadcast to viewers worldwide. Footage from both championships is still available 'on demand'.

In September, 6,762 viewers from 90

countries viewed the channel. There are now over 3,100 registered viewers, who receive regular updates and programme reminders direct to their inbox.

ParalympicSport.TV is a top quality 24/7 television channel broadcasting via the Internet with either regular or full screen size available for the best viewing experience. Free of charge, people all over the world are able to watch live and delayed programming, or see the coverage on demand later. ParalympicSport.TV underlines the truly global nature of Paralympic broadcasting.

The long-term goal of ParalympicSport.TV is to become a global media platform for

Paralympic and IPC Sport, providing access to images from competitions and activities. By increasing the accessibility to coverage of Paralympic Sport, this new technology will allow more people to experience and witness the outstanding sporting performances of Paralympic athletes.

A daily one-hour highlights programme from the 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships will be broadcast from Durban, South Africa, in December. For more coverage of Paralympic Sport, stay tuned to www.ParalympicSport.TV.



IPC NEWS

Sports' Council Tackles Big Issues

Members of the IPC Sports' Council met for their annual meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 20 to 22 October. Representatives from 25 of the 26 sports affiliated to the IPC came together for a series of presentations, working groups and activities.

During the sessions, several topics were addressed, including the development of the IPC Sport Governance and Management Initiative, sport issues related to women in sport, youth initiatives and athletes with a severe disability. Best practice in the areas of rules, regulations, results, rankings and records were also exchanged. Workshops were held separately for Winter and Summer sports to discuss issues related to their relationship with the IPC and specific matters concerning the upcoming editions of the respective Paralympic Games.

Sports on the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Programme worked with the IPC on the Paralympic Results and Information Requirements (PRIS) gathering process for the timing, scoring, results and INFO systems for the upcoming Games.

Approximately 40 participants attended the three-day meeting. Representatives from the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG), the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) and the London 2012 Organizing Committee (London 2012) were also on-site for formal presentations to the Council and to hold side meetings to address planning for upcoming Paralympic Games. Representatives from the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and the International Cycling Union (UCI) attended for the first time.

IPC Partners with Prominent PR Agency

The IPC has selected Edelman as its global Public Relations Agency. Edelman will support the IPC by leveraging its expertise in sports marketing, corporate reputation, consumer and multicultural marketing in its offices in Hamburg, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Beijing, Toronto and London. As a pro bono partner of the IPC, Edelman will focus on the development of a global PR programme and implementation in key countries.

"We opted to partner with Edelman because of the firm's unique sport marketing and Games expertise, as well as their global reach," said Xavier Gonzalez, IPC Chief Executive Officer. "The IPC is proud that Edelman recognizes the value and potential of the Paralympic Movement and has committed to help us promote our important mission to inspire others through sport, empower athletes and make the world better for all people with a disability."

Since 1984, Edelman has worked on every Olympic Games through numerous clients including corporate sponsors, national governing bodies, organizing committees, bid cities and athletes. For the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games, Edelman worked for three worldwide Olympic partners, including Samsung, which also became a Worldwide Partner of the IPC this year.



Photos ©: Lieven Coudenys

The Atlanta 1996 Paralympics - 10 Years On



Photo ©: Caroll Grevemberg

Ten years ago, from 16 to 25 August 1996, the Atlanta 1996 Paralympic Games took place with 3,195 athletes (2,415 male and 780 female) representing 103 countries. 'The Paralympian' looks back on the Games and the legacy they left for the Paralympic Movement.

The Atlanta 1996 Paralympics were a challenging experience. After the spectacular success of the two previous summer editions, the Movement faced a difficult environment, with separate organizing committees and tense relations with the US Olympic Committee. The funding that secured the Games came very late and the atmosphere after the Olympics was of "Game Over". The Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee (APOC) had gone through a lot of changes of management and never found the necessary stability to address these challenges.

The Paralympic family left Atlanta with the feeling that they had lost an opportunity. But looking back, the Movement showed an incredible maturity and resilience. Despite the problems, the Games took place, providing an opportunity for Paralympic athletes to excel once again. For the first time a compressive sponsorship programme was implemented and television coverage reached its highest level at the time. The Atlanta Paralympics were not what had been expected, but built the foundations for success in Sydney and the progress of the relationship with the IOC.

A total of 388,373 spectators were recorded across all the sporting events. For the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, figures of 66,257 and 57,640 were noted respectively. A total of 2,088 media representatives were accredited. In addition, Atlanta hosted around 12,000 volunteers and 1,717 NPC delegation staff.

APOC together with the IPC, developed a qualification system, which remains in use today, to ensure dynamic growth and improvement within each sport. This system was based on three components of quality, quantity and universality, designed to provide the highest level of competition with a maximum number of events.

The Programme boasted 20 sports, including 17 full medal sports and two demonstration events: Sailing and Wheelchair Rugby. The Track discipline was also added to the Cycling programme. Among the many outstanding sporting performances, Australia's Louise Sauvage dominated the women's wheelchair racing events, taking the gold in the 400m, 800m, 1,500m and 5,000m. In Swimming, Kasper Engel from the Netherlands set a world record in the men's 100m breaststroke (SB5) in a time of 1:31.50 and Beatrice Hess from France won the gold medal in the women's 200m individual medley (SM5), taking a world and Paralympic record.

A total of 269 new world records were set in Atlanta. The United States topped the medal table with 157 medals, of which 46 were gold. Next came Australia with 42 gold medals, and Germany with 40 gold medals.

BlazeSports America (originally founded as the U.S. Disabled Athletes Fund, Inc.) became the legacy organization of the Atlanta 1996 Paralympics, focusing on the development of community-based sport clubs for youth and young adults with physical disabilities. As of today there are 49 BlazeSports America Clubs in 25 states and growing. Today, the organization bears the name of the popular Atlanta 1996 Paralympic mascot, Blaze.



Watch Paralympic Sport live on the Internet at:
www.ParalympicSport.TV

Imprint

Editor: Miriam Wilkens

Assistant Editor - Graphic Design:
Clare Wolfensohn

Printing: welzel+hardt GmbH

All rights reserved
International Paralympic Committee, 2006
ISSN 1609-1329

For subscriptions please visit
www.paralympic.org

International Paralympic Committee
Adenauerallee 212-214
D-53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49-228-2097-200
Fax: +49-228-2097-209
E-mail: info@paralympic.org
Web: www.paralympic.org

The views expressed in The Paralympian are not necessarily those of the IPC. In case of republication of any part of The Paralympian, please send a copy to the IPC.

The publisher reserves the right to edit submitted articles.

Worldwide Partners:



"At that time I was in the middle of my sporting career, so Atlanta was the beginning of success in terms of results and professional training. My two best memories were when I entered the stadium carrying the flag and my results (6 gold and 1 silver medal) and their communication to the media. I think that the Atlanta Paralympics were the start of media coverage for both Paralympic Games and athletes as far as France is concerned."

- Beatrice Hess, Swimming, France.

"We have come a long way from those days in the mid 90's. The IPC itself and the Paralympic Games in particular can no longer be recognized when making a comparison to what, who and where we were just a few short years ago. Thanks to the dedication, energy and vision on the part of so many, including our current President Philip Craven."

- Lilo Ljubisic, Athletics, Canada.