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IPC President Phil Craven and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, Adolf Ogi, signing a Memorandum of Understanding at IPC Headquarters in Bonn.

IPC WELCOMES 2005: THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In November 2003, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed 2005 as the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE). At this session the UN adopted a resolution stressing the potential of sport and the need to build global partnerships to use sports as a tool for development and peace in 2005.

On 11 February 2005, IPC President Phil Craven and the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, Adolf Ogi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the IPC Headquarters in Bonn, Germany. This document provides the basis for mutual co-operation between the two organizations in 2005 and beyond.

The agreement aims to use the resources and experience of both organizations to work together, to promote the value of sport as a means for development for per-

sons with a disability. The agreement will also provide the basis for potential future co-operation between the IPC and the UN.

The I2005 YSPE was officially launched on 5 November 2004 by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. At that event, Mr. Annan stated: "Sport is a universal language. At its best it can bring people together, no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs or economic status. And when young people participate in sports or have access to physical education, they can experience real exhilaration even as they learn the ideals of teamwork and tolerance..."

The IPC has several projects planned throughout 2005 to work with the UN and other international organizations. Further details of these projects are outlined on page 14 of this issue.

SPIRIT IN MOTION



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IPC Development Special p.14-15

Strengthening IPC



2004 was certainly a successful year, the pinnacle being the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games and the IPC Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA). The EGA ratified a number of key motions, including the new Constitution and the Nomination and

Election Procedures for the IPC Governing Board. These changes will help the IPC function more effectively as we move into the future. Until elections take place at the IPC General Assembly in Beijing in November 2005, the members of the IPC Executive Committee will act as the Governing Board (GB). The closing of nominations for persons running for the GB is August.

The year 2005 also promises to be exciting, not only because of the elections but because we have signed a number of Memorandums of Understanding or Co-operative Agreements with organizations which we think can strengthen the work of the IPC and help us reach common goals. Most of our new partnership projects are already underway and you can read more about these in this issue of The Paralympian.

This is the International Year of Sport and Physical Education and we will take this opportunity to make sure that Paralympic sport is kept on the agenda. 2005 marks the five-year countdown to the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, leaves Beijing three years to go to the 2008 Paralympics and is one year out from the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. In March, I will therefore visit Torino and Vancouver to take part in events celebrating the coming of the Paralympic Winter Games. On 10 March, IPC HQ in Bonn will send out the invitations to the National Paralympic Committees for Torino. I will also be present at the unveiling of the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics mascot and the release of the ticketing information. Make sure that you plan to join us for the next thrilling Paralympic Winter Games!

The IPC and the Paralympic Movement have grown rapidly in the last five years and we are becoming more professional in what we do, encouraging us to strive for higher goals. We endeavour to keep our work transparent and always enjoy feedback from all Paralympic Family members and friends, so please send your comments to info@paralympic.org. Assist us in further strengthening the IPC and the Paralympic Movement!

Phil Craven

Phil Craven, MBE
IPC President

PARALYMPIC GAMES: ATHENS 2004

Almost 2 Billion View ATHENS 2004 Paralympics



Photo: Lieven Coudenys

Paralympic athlete Danny Crates giving an interview to members of the international media following his performance at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

A study of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games TV coverage conducted in 17 countries has revealed that a total cumulated television audience of 1.852 billion viewed the event. The study was conducted by international sport sponsorship and media evaluation company IFM.

The study monitored 17 countries and Pan Europe (Eurosport and EuroNews) over the course of the Paralympic Games and found that 577 hours of total broadcasting time was screened on 102 channels. Japan had the greatest cumulative audience with over 587 million, closely followed by France (335 million), Germany (310 million) and China (309 million).

Despite having smaller cumulative audiences, the market share was high in New Zealand (26.4%), Switzerland (21.6%) and Austria (21.1%). Of the 17 countries, Brazil showed the greatest coverage of the Paralympics with a total of 168 hours of actual broadcast time, including 115 hours live, followed by Spain (124hrs whereof 31hrs live) and Greece (82hrs including 57hrs live).

In addition, Reuters transmitted daily coverage to 446 clients in 200 countries. These numbers do not include affiliates which number in the thousands.

Statistics for another 12 countries are still pending. A final report will be posted in March on the IPC website: www.paralympic.org.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: TORINO 2006

Skiers Test the Slopes

Around 150 athletes from 19 countries competed in Biathlon and Cross-Country (middle distance and relay) at the Nordic Skiing World Cup, in Pragelato, Italy, from 26 to 28 January 2005.

The Nordic Skiing World Cup was organized by the Pragelato Val Chisone 2005 Organizing Committee, in collaboration with the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee (TOROC), the Italian Winter Sports Federation (FISI) and the Italian Disabled Sports Federation (FISD).

The event allowed the participants and organizers to test the operational and competition elements in preparation for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Said IPC Nordic Skiing Chairperson Rita van Driel: "The test event gave us a good opportunity to assess the progress being made by TOROC and has given us a chance to refine some areas in time for the Torino Games."

10 March 2005:
One Year to Torino



Photo: Archivio Fotografico Provincia di Torino

Participants in the Nordic Skiing World Cup test event at Pragelato, Torino.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

Positive Progress for Beijing 2008

The IOC Co-ordination Commission successfully concluded its third visit to Beijing. The Co-ordination Commission comprises 16 members, including the IPC Representative, Phil Craven. The Commission observes and advises on the progress of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG). Areas discussed during the meetings held from 27 to 29 October 2004, included sport, construction, communications and marketing.

IPC President and IOC Co-ordination Commission Member Phil Craven commented: "The IPC is satisfied with the status of BOCOG's planning. Following the ATHENS Organizing Committee's

briefing to BOCOG - which for the first time included a section about the Paralympics - and BOCOG's very extensive Observers' Programme conducted during the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, we expect an acceleration of the activities related to the preparation of the Paralympic Games."

Since the election of Beijing as host city in 2001, the IOC Co-ordination Commission has visited annually. From 2005, there will be two visits per year, with the next planned for May 2005.

BOCOG also made a progress report to the IPC Sports' Council in Bonn, held from 17 to 20 February 2005.



BOCOG Representative Shu'an Yang and IPC President Phil Craven during the IPC Sports' Council Meeting in Bonn, Germany.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

Bell Canada on Board



VANOC and Bell Canada join forces. From left to right: Stephen Owen, Murray Coell, Anne Roberts, Ken Lyotier, Stephen Wetmore, Jack Poole.

On 19 January 2005, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and the Vancouver Agreement (an urban development initiative of the governments of Canada, British Columbia and Vancouver) announced a new partnership with Bell Canada that will inject €1.25 million over the next four years for the economic revitalization of the Downtown Eastside.

The investment is part of Bell Canada's Premier National Partnership with VANOC, and supports efforts by VANOC and the Vancouver Agreement to ensure that Vancouver's inner-city communities receive opportunities to benefit from hosting the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The Honourable Stephen Owen,

12 March 2005:
Five years to Vancouver

Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport) stated: "This unique partnership will inspire more businesses to get involved and help make the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games the most inclusive ever held."

Bell Canada is the first corporate partner to support the VANOC and Vancouver Agreement plans to revitalize the Downtown Eastside's economy. The investment will help foster economic development such as business opportunities to fill vacant Downtown Eastside commercial space and jobs for local residents.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: 2012

2012 Decision Making Process

How will the decision be made to choose which city will host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games?

The IOC Evaluation Commission has received the Candidature Files from all five Candidate Cities bidding to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (in alphabetical order): London (GBR), Madrid (ESP), Moscow (RUS), New York (USA) and

Paris (FRA).

The Commission, chaired by Olympic champion Nawal El Moutawakel and including IPC Representative Patrick Jarvis, have analysed the files and made site inspections as follows:

Madrid: 3 - 6 February 2005
London: 16 - 19 February 2005
New York: 21 - 24 February 2005

Paris: 9 - 12 March 2005
Moscow: 14 - 17 March 2005.

The Commission will now submit a report to the IOC members, who will then elect the host city on 6 July 2005 during the 117th IOC Session in Singapore.



Cairo Hosts IPC Extraordinary General Assembly



Members of the Paralympic Family voting during the IPC Extraordinary General Assembly, in Cairo, Egypt.

A total of 78 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), five International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs) and 18 sports attended the IPC Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) in Cairo, Egypt, on 25 November 2004. During the Assembly, members of the Paralympic Family covered and voted on several important issues, which will strengthen the IPC for the future. The following provides a brief summary of the decisions reached during the EGA.

A clear majority adopted the new

Constitution (87 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions) and Nomination and Election Procedures for the Governing Board (89 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions). This means that all persons standing for election for the IPC Governing Board in 2005 will start with a clean slate and will be eligible for three terms (of four years). The Governing Board will be elected by the IPC membership at the 2005 General Assembly.

The proposed list of the IPC Standing Committees and the 2005 budget were also adopted by the EGA and six new NPCs were approved - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Nepal, Surinam and Timor-Leste - bringing the total number of NPCs to 161.

It was agreed by a majority of 74 in favour, 18 against and 4 abstentions that the International Sports Federation for Person with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) has not developed a reliable, valid and proven eligibility and verification system. Despite this fact, the EGA agreed not to exclude athletes with an intellectual disability from IPC sanctioned competitions. Instead, while recognising that INAS-FID has the primary responsibility, the IPC will actively direct the process by which mutually acceptable eligibility and verification

systems will be developed (e.g. eligibility criteria, sport specific criteria and protest procedures).

Said IPC President Phil Craven: "Despite the fact that INAS-FID has not met the conditions, the IPC membership has reaffirmed that the interest of the athletes comes in first place. In consultation with the IPC sports, athletes with an intellectual disability should be able to gradually return to IPC sanctioned competitions as a means of testing the sport specific components of the eligibility and verification process."



IPC President Phil Craven and IPC Secretary General Miguel Sagarra welcome the six new NPCs.

Sports Get Together



The Sports' Council in action.

Over 50 representatives from 24 sports and IOSD and Regional Technical Representatives from the Africa, Asian and Americas regions met in Bonn, Germany, from 17 to 20 February 2005, for the IPC Sports' Council Meeting. Interim Chairperson Fred Jansen commented: "The Council was very co-operative, taking the time for good discussions and decisions in the interest of all sports and the IPC. The meeting had a pleasant atmosphere - I sensed a lot of passion and drive."

During the meeting, a post-evaluation of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games was conducted, including working group sessions about the qualification and sport entries procedures and the Games officials' services. The meeting also included presentations by the Torino 2006 and the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committees. The fruitful meeting provided a good foundation to move forward over the next four years.

New IPC Regional Structure

During its meeting in April 2004, the IPC Executive Committee (now the Governing Board) agreed that the regional structure of the IPC will be changed from six to five regions. Therefore, the IPC Middle East Region will cease to exist and its member countries will be included into the IPC Asian Region.

This decision was taken in mutual agreement with the current Middle East and Asian Regions and took effect on 1 January 2005. Until the General Assembly elections in 2005, both current Regional Representatives will keep their position on the IPC Governing Board.



The five IPC regions.

In addition, it was agreed to align the membership of the regional organizations to those of the IOC. As a consequence, beginning 1 January 2005 the NPCs of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan

and Uzbekistan (former members of Europe), have become members of the Asian Region, 'the Asian Paralympic Council'.

Draw in Athletes' Council Election

From 28 to 29 January 2005, members of the IPC Athletes' Council gathered at the IPC Headquarters in Bonn, Germany, for their first meeting following the elections held at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

During this meeting, Rutger Sturkenboom was elected Vice Chairperson and Carme Garcia Rigau Secretary. The position of Chairperson remains undecided due to a tie between the two candidates, Robert Balk and Ljiljana Ljubisic. Therefore, Vice-Chairperson Rutger Sturkenboom will act as Interim Chairperson until the Athletes' Council meets again in late April for new elections.

Other items on the agenda were: the budget for 2005, the approval of the renaming of the Athletes' Committee to Athletes' Council, reports from Paralympic Games (2004-2012) and presentations by the IPC Departments.

Currently, the Athletes' Council consists of the following members: Robert Balk (USA), Konstantinos Fykas (Greece), Ana Garcia-Arcicollar Vallejo (Spain), Carme Garcia Rigau (Spain), Beatrice

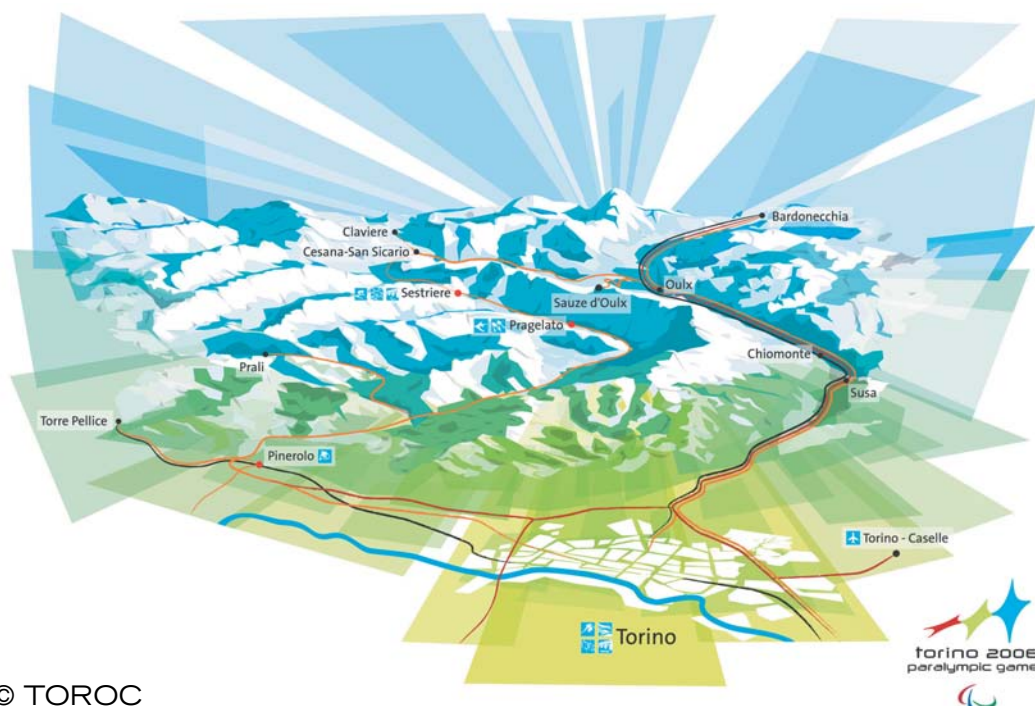


Photo: Cynthia Rühmekorf

Member of the IPC Athletes' Council, from left to right, top: Ana Garcia-Arcicollar Vallejo, Robert Balk, Ljiljana Ljubisic, Rutger Sturkenboom, Tanja Kari; bottom: IPC President Phil Craven, Carme Garcia Rigau, Rania Elwani, Konstantinos Fykas.

Hess (France), Tanja Kari (Finland), Ljiljana Ljubisic (Canada) and Rutger Sturkenboom (The Netherlands). Rania Elwani (Egypt) is the new IOC Representative to the Athletes' Council. Kjartan Haugen has accepted the position as Member at Large following the withdrawal of Michael Milton, until new elections are held at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Taking Stock in Torino



© TOROC

Venue plan for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

The IPC Games Liaison Committee and the Organizing Committee for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games (TOROC) held its third meeting in Torino, Ital, from 9 to 10 December. TOROC presented progress reports and the next steps to be taken to the IPC.

Topics covered in the meeting include accommodation, accreditation, marketing and broadcasting, with significant progress made in the areas of transportation, medical services and technology. Improvement has also been made with regards to the accommodation for the Paralympic Family.

François Terranova, Chairperson of the IPC Games Liaison Committee, stated:

"We have seen progress in many important areas since the last Games Liaison meeting was held. In the last two days, we have emphasised the need for enhanced communication now that the Games are just a little over one year away. At this point of time, our main concern is the TOROC budget deficit and how it will affect the Paralympic Winter Games. We are waiting for the decision, to then be able to get an overview of the implications on the services provided to the Paralympics."

The Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games will take place from 10 to 19 March 2006 in Torino, Sestriere, Pragelato and Pinerolo, Italy.

Appointments



Dr. York Chow was recently appointed as the Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food for the Hong Kong government. Dr. Chow is a current member of the IPC Governing Board as Vice President of Policy, Planning and Development.

On 4 December 2004, Alan Dickson was elected President of the Cerebral



Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA) at its 23rd General Assembly in Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr. Dickson has been involved with CP-ISRA since 1993.

He is a current member of the IPC Governing Board as the CP-ISRA Representative.



Dr. Björn Hedman has been appointed member of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Health, Medical and Research Committee. As a member of the Committee, he will contribute to recommendations of a scientific nature to the WADA Executive Committee. Dr. Hedman is a current member of the IPC Governing Board as the Medical Officer.

Paralympic World Cup Ups the Pace

From 12 to 15 May 2005, more than 350 athletes from around 50 countries will compete at the first Paralympic World Cup, taking place in Manchester, Great Britain. The Paralympic World Cup is set to be one of the biggest annual multi-sport events featuring Athletics, Cycling (track), Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball competitions.

The event promises to provide a very high level of competition and excitement as some of the world's top teams are already lined up to take part. Athletes and teams from Australia, Germany, Great Britain, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the USA are committed to participate.

Three of the biggest stars in Athletics Tanni Grey-Thompson (GBR), Oscar Pistorius (RSA) and Danny Crates (GBR) have



Photo: Darren Walsh
British Paralympians Tanni Grey-Thompson (Athletics) and Sinclair Thomas (Wheelchair Basketball) show their support.

already confirmed their participation.

The Paralympic World Cup is an IPC sanctioned event, with technical support provided by the IPC, IPC Athletics, Swimming, and Cycling and the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation. The IPC is pleased to be sanctioning the Paralympic World Cup and has licensed the rights of this international multi-sport competition from 2005-2007, to be hosted in Manchester, to the British Paralympic Association (BPA).

For more information about the event and how to purchase tickets please visit the official website www.paralympicworldcup.com.

"The Paralympic World Cup is the perfect annual event for my sport. It will offer top-level competition on a regular basis and will expand awareness of elite disability sport" stated Paralympian Tanni Grey-Thompson.



IPC President Phil Craven said: "The IPC is very pleased that Athletics, Cycling, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball - four Paralympic sports - will be showcased in Manchester in 2005. I am sure that the Paralympic World Cup will be yet another opportunity for Paralympians to inspire and excite the world!"

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: WHEELCHAIR CURLING

Wheelchair Curling Puts It On Ice

From 17 to 22 January 2005, the third Wheelchair Curling World Championships took place in Braehead,

Scotland. Organized by the Local Organising Committee under the auspices of the World Curling Federation (WCF), the event included 80 athletes from 16 countries. The Championships were the final opportunity to qualify for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, where this sport will debut on the Paralympic programme.

The first shot of the event was delivered by the current Olympic Curling Champion Rhona Martin directed by IPC President Phil Craven. On 18 January, HRH Princess Anne also attended the event to meet with athletes and volunteers and to watch some of the games.

After beating Denmark 7:5 in a close final, the Scottish National Team of Frank Duffy, Michael McCreadie, Tom Killin, Angie Malone and Ken Dickson was named the Wheelchair Curling World Champion for the second year in

a row. The Swiss team won the bronze medal beating Sweden 10:0. Norway placed fifth, overcoming Canada 11:0.



Photo: Hakan Sundstrom
Frank Duffy, of the Scottish Wheelchair Curling team makes a crucial shot.



Photo: Bob Cowan
HRH Princess Anne visited the 2005 Wheelchair Curling Champs held in Scotland.

"Wheelchair Curling has seen a remarkable success in a relatively short period of time. We are delighted to be part of the Paralympic Family who have welcomed and supported the introduction of Wheelchair Curling" said Kate Caithness, World Curling Federation Wheelchair Curling Chairperson.

IPC SPORTS CALENDAR

2005 IPC Nordic Skiing WC
2005 IPC Archery WC
Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games
2006 IPC Athletics WC
2006 IPC Table Tennis WC
2006 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport WC
2006 IPC Swimming WC

12 - 20 Mar 2005
25 Sept - 3 Oct 2005
10 - 19 Mar 2006
Jul/Aug 2006
30 Sept - 9 Oct 2006
13 - 14 Oct 2006
27 Nov - 9 Dec 2006

Fort Kent, ME, USA
Massa Carrara, Italy
Torino, Italy
Assen, Netherlands
Montreux, Switzerland
Arnhem, Netherlands
Durban, South Africa

SPORTS NEWS

TeamPARADISE Sets Sail

A group of veteran Olympic sailors from around the world have announced the establishment of the first ever programme to pair Olympic medallists with athletes with a disability, in preparation for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Magnus Liljedahl (USA), winner of the Star Class Sailing 2000 Olympic Gold Medal, is spearheading the newly named TeamPARADISE in Florida, USA, under the auspices of Shake-A-Leg Miami (SALM), one of the world's largest, fully accessible water sports centres.

TeamPARADISE participants will spend much of their time sailing and learning skills through on-the-water drills, practice starts and short races that pit them against the very best sailors on the globe. The programme aims to provide expert coaching in all areas including tactics, rules, equipment and fitness. Coaches then focus on developing teams, combining the skills of each individual into a cohesive unit.

An elite group of international sailors will participate in the programme, including the US Sailing Association's Rolex Sailor of the Year for 2000 and 2004 Olympic gold medallist Kevin Burnham, 2000 Olympic bronze medallist and top ranked sailor Freddy Loof of Sweden, 2003 Rolex Yachtsman of the year Augie Diaz, 1992 Olympic silver medallist Morgan Reeser and 1932 gold medallist George Crawford.

As part of its support for the project, SALM has agreed to expand its race schedule by adding two major regattas per year to the current Miami Olympic Class Regatta and the SALM Mid-Winter Regatta, to include more international sailors with a disability and more boat classes.

British Paralympic team member Hannah Stodel tests the tension in the lines of her boat at the start of the 2005 Rolex Miami Olympic Class Regatta.



Photo: David Adame

MISCELLANEOUS

Paralympian Stars in Photo of the Year

A photograph of the Spanish Paralympic swimmer Xavi Torres, taken by British photographer Bob Martin for Sports Illustrated, has been selected by the World Press Photo as the Best Sports Photo of the Year 2004 in the category: Sports Action Single. The photo was taken in 2004 during the heats of the men's 200m (S5) at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

The photograph was chosen out of 69,190 entries contributed by 4,266 professional photographers from 123 countries.

The World Press Photo is the most prestigious international annual competition for press photography. Prizes are awarded in ten categories to 59 photographers. The award

will be presented on 24 April in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The photo will tour the world as part of an international exhibition to 85 locations.

You can find a special pullout poster of the photograph on pages 8 to 9 of this issue of The Paralympian.

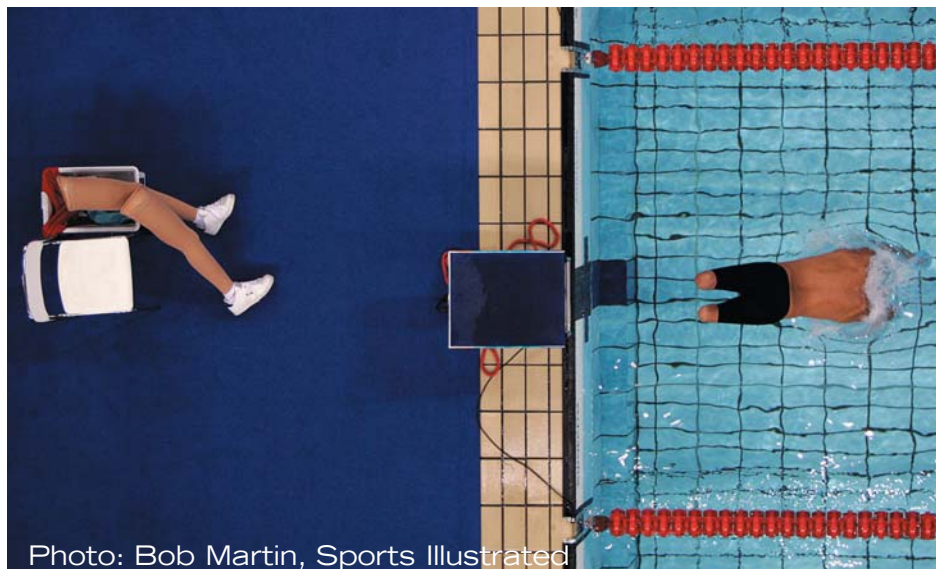


Photo: Bob Martin, Sports Illustrated

And the Award Goes to...

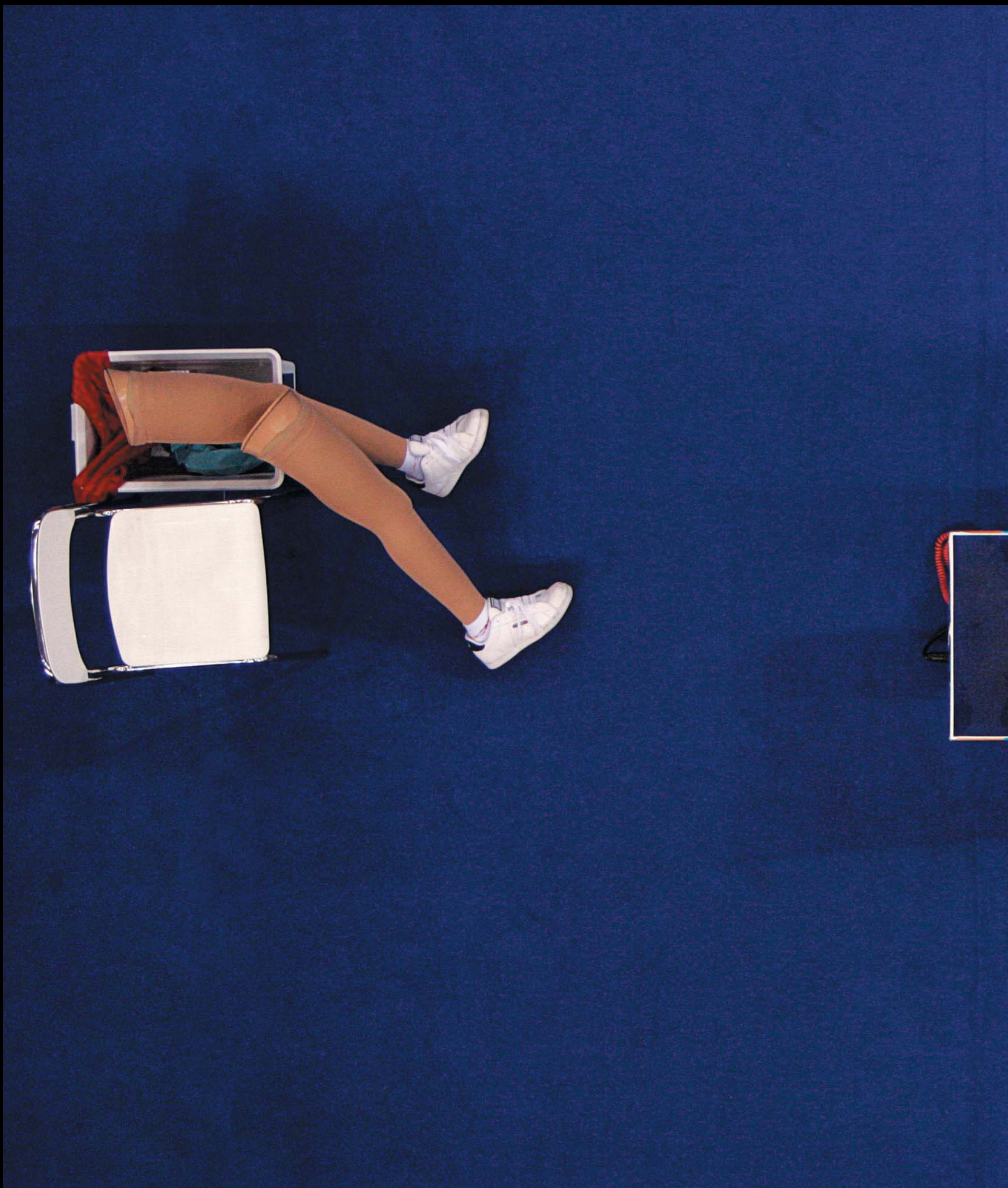
In 2005, the IPC will be presenting a number of awards to members of the Paralympic Family and others for their unique contributions to the Paralympic Movement.

The Paralympic Sport Awards will be presented to a number of athletes in the categories: Best Male Athlete, Best Female Athlete, Best Team Performance, Best Paralympic Games Debut and Exemplary Paralympic Games Official.

The Paralympic Media Awards will be awarded to members of the international media in the following categories: Broadcast, Print, Photo and Radio.

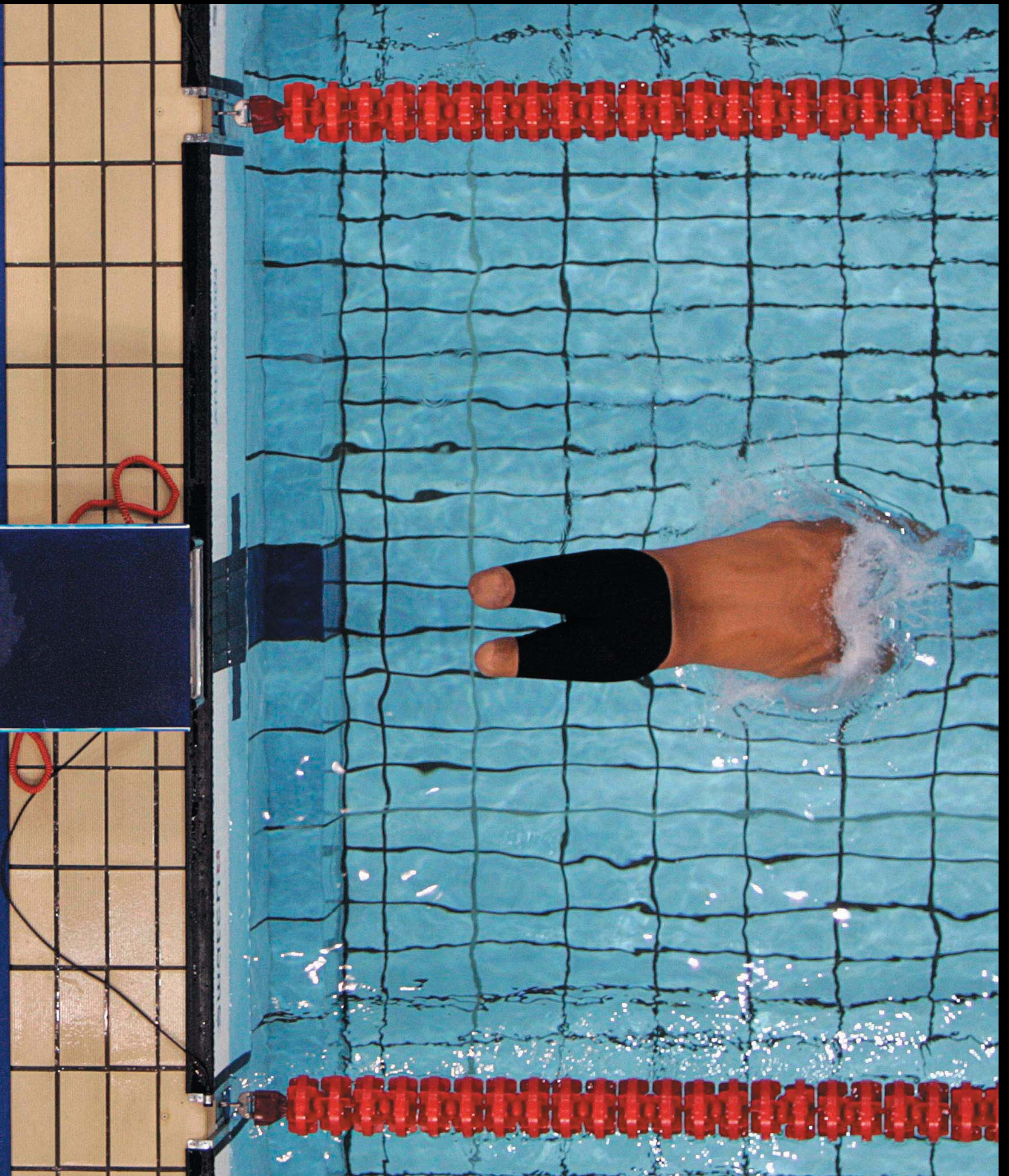
The Paralympic Scientific Award will recognize one outstanding contributor (academic or scientific) to the field of sport for persons with a disability.

The nomination procedure for all Paralympic Awards will open on 1 April 2005. Please continue to check the IPC website www.paralympic.org for further details.



WORLD PR

©Photo: Bob Martin - Sports Illustrated



PRESS PHOTO CONTEST 2004 - FIRST PRIZE SPORTS ACTION
ATHENS 2004 PARALYMPIC GAMES
XAVI TORRES (ESP) MEN'S 200m HEAT FREESTYLE

Wheelchair Dance Sport Takes to the Floor



Photo: Aki Suzuki

From 20 to 21 November 2004, around 140 athletes from 15 nations took to the floor of the National Olympics Memorial Youth Centre in Tokyo, Japan, for the IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships.

The venue proved to be perfect for the event, with a dance surface of 300m² for the athletes to perform. The event boasted a full audience for all competition days and was honoured by a visit from the Japanese Emperor and Empress on the final day of competition.

After the finals, Chairperson Grethe Anderson and Vice Chairperson and organiser, Nobuko Yotsumoto, the President of the Japanese NPC and President of the Japanese Dance Federation, attended a reception with the Emperor and Empress.

The World Championship programme included both Standard dances (waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, slow foxtrot and quickstep) and Latin American dances (samba, cha-cha-cha, rumba, paso doble and jive). Events were held in "combi"-style dancing, with an able-bodied (standing) partner.

Class I (Standard): Ilona Slugovina and Oleksiy Ragulin, Ukraine.

Class I (Latin): Alena Serkulskaia and Dzmitry Shaplyka, Belarus.

Class II (Standard): Monica Chojnacka and Lukasz Prochacki, Poland.

Class II (Latin): Dorota Janowska and Piotr Iwanicki, Poland.

The event was organized by the Japanese Wheelchair Dance Sport Federation (JWDSF), in co-operation with the International Paralympic

Wheelchair Dance Sport Committee (IPWDSC). A doping control programme was implemented during the event as part of the IPC's continuing efforts against doping in sport.

Wheelchair Dance Sport is an IPC Championship sport, but is today not part of the Paralympic programme. It is governed by IPWDSC. It follows the modified rules of the International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF) and is practiced by athletes in over 19 countries.



Photo: Aki Suzuki

ATHLETE PROFILE

"Like a Fish in Water"

The Paralympian recently spoke to Polish Wheelchair Dancers Dorota Janowska and Piotr Iwanicki following the Wheelchair Dance Sport World Champs held in November 2004 in Tokyo, where they won first place in the Class II Latin American Competition. They are trained by Włodzimierz and Iwona Ciok and Maria Zajdler.

The Paralympian: How did you start competing in Wheelchair Dance Sport?

Piotr Iwanicki: It was just good luck. I was repairing my wheelchair when a woman there told me about Wheelchair Dance Sport. I decided to try and I really enjoyed my first practice.

Dorota Janowska: I have been dancing for 12 years now, since I was 8. I was introduced to Peter at my dance school by Iwona Ciok and we began dancing together in 2002.

TP: What competitions have you competed in so far? What competitions are you looking forward to?

DJ: Over the past three years we have competed all over Europe, in the last two World Cups (2002 and 2004) and the World Champs (2002 and 2004).

PI: In 2005, we are looking forward to the Boxmeer World Cup in March and then Warsaw in April for the Polish Open Champs and then on to the European Champs in

Bratislava in November!

TP: What kind of training is involved in Wheelchair Dance Sport?

DJ: We have lessons with our coach for the technical skills or we focus only on



Photo: Jaroslaw Michalek

Piotr Iwanicki and Dorota Janowska: "like a fish in water".

our choreographed routines.

PI: We practice not only the Standard or Latin American styles but also enjoy new and different dance styles like ballet or modern dance.

TP: How do you feel when you take the floor in a competition?

PI: I forget about everything when I enter the dance floor - I see only my partner and the audience.

DJ: When I take the floor I feel like a fish in water, I love it! I am always nervous before competition, but when I take the floor I forget about everything, think only about the music.

TP: What kind of difficulties have you faced in your sport?

PI: At first I didn't know how to use my wheelchair and I was pretty shy.

DJ: As an able-bodied dancer I was scared of the wheelchair at first. But we have done a lot of training and now I feel 100% sure on the dancefloor.

TP: What advice would you give to other persons with a disability considering taking up Wheelchair Dance Sport?

DJ: Don't be scared of dancing! If you want to try dancing, then do it because everybody can dance!

PI: You just have to take that first step!

SPORTS PROFILE: GOALBALL

Goalball is one of the unique Paralympic sports that does not have a counterpart on the Olympic programme. The Paralympian spoke to Goalball Chairperson Jim Leask to find out what makes this sport so special.

The Paralympian: What is the history behind the sport?

Jim Leask: Goalball was introduced in 1946 by Austrian Hans Lorenzen and German Sepp Reindle, in an effort to help in the rehabilitation of blinded war veterans. The game was introduced to the world in 1976 at the Paralympics in Toronto, Canada, when people with a visual impairment were included as a disability group. In addition, every four years a World Championship event has been held with the first being in Austria in 1978. Since its inception the popularity of Goalball has increased on a global scale. We now have programmes in over 85 countries and it is played competitively in 58 nations in all of the International Blind Sport Federation (IBSA) regions.

TP: Which kind of equipment and assistance are needed by Paralympic athletes to participate in Goalball?

JL: The main piece of equipment is an adapted ball which contains a bell to

allow athletes to audibly track the location of the ball. Therefore spectators in the stands must remain silent during a match so that players can concentrate and react instantly to the sound.

The game of Goalball is a physical sport and requires additional padding for the safety of the players. Elbow, hip and chest protectors are used along with hand and leg guards. The design of the equipment is unique to the country participating in the sport of Goalball. The most important piece of equipment required in Goalball to ensure that all players, regardless of the level of visual impairment are on an equal footing, is blackout goggles.

TP: What type of classification system is used for Goalball?

JL: Because of the use of blackout goggles the classification system is based on the requirement that a player be blind as defined by the IBSA regulations.

TP: Who are the leading nations in the sport?

JL: In the men's division Denmark, Sweden and USA are the top nations and in the women's division, Canada, USA and Japan. But the competition is fierce.

TP: What developments have been made in the sport recently?

JL: The expansion of the IBSA official's programme has been and will continue to be a key to the con-



Photo: Lieven Coudneys

tinued growth of the sport. With IPC and IBSA support, clinics have been recently conducted in Lithuania, Turkey and Brazil. Further clinics are planned in 2005 for South America, the Middle East and Asia. A coaching development programme will also be launched in 2005.

TP: Can you summarise the success of the Goalball competition at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games?

JL: Any one of the top ten men's teams could have won a medal and in the women's competition any of the seven women's teams were medal worthy. Because of both the quality of play and the commitment of the Games organizers, the ATHENS 2004 Paralympics were an outstanding competition.

TP: In which areas do you see a need for further development?

JL: In order to continue the growth of the sport of Goalball we will expand our officials programme and launch our new coaches programme this year. Our overall development strategy is to expand the number of women and totally blind athletes playing the game and also to provide coaching and referee opportunities in all IBSA regions.



Photo: Lieven Coudneys

REGIONAL NEWS

EYES 2004 Comes to an End

On the occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the European Year of Education through Sport 2004 (EYES), held on 2 December 2004, in Papendal, the Netherlands, the IPC Treasurer, John Teunissen, had the opportunity to present IPC's work in the field of education and development and to talk to the European Commissioner, Ján Figel, about future areas of co-operation between the IPC and the European Commission.

Throughout 2004, the IPC and the European Commission have worked closely together on several occasions. This partnership enabled the European Commission to utilize the social and educational values of Paralympic sport to meet the objectives of the EYES project - to increase knowledge, skills

and social capabilities such as teamwork, solidarity and fair play.

The IPC-EYES partnership was highlighted at a special EYES day during the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games. Both parties agreed that combining the communicative powers of the European Commission and the Paralympic Movement could help to boost the promotion of Paralympic sporting values.

At the Closing Ceremony, Mr. Teunissen and Mr. Figel discussed the successful EYES partnership and explored opportunities for future co-operation. They agreed to meet again to advance different activities for the development of Paralympic sport in- and outside the European Community.



Photo: Media Consulta

Dutch Football Player and EYES spokesperson Clarence Seedorf with European Commissioner Ján Figel.

Paralympic School Day Project

From 3 to 4 December 2004 the IPC hosted the first conference within the framework of the Paralympic School Day Project (PSD) at its Headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

In 2004, the European Paralympic Committee (EPC) initiated this two-year project as co-ordinating organization. The PSD aims to raise awareness and understanding in elementary schools about sport for persons with a disability. The project was made possible by a grant from the European Union (EU).

The partner organizations involved in the PSD Project are the European Paralympic Committee, the Catholic



Photo: Lieven Coudneys

School children at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

University of Leuven, Belgium, the University of Olomouc, Czech Republic, the University of Koblenz, Germany, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, the Latvian

Disabled Children's and Youth Sport Federation, Latvia and the Swedish Development Centre for Disability Sport, Sweden.

These partners are co-operating on a national level with an elementary school, an institute of higher physical education and a sport federation for persons with a disability to implement the Paralympic School Day in their respective nations.

A final script including all educational material used and a vocational training manual will enable participating European countries to implement the programme in their schools in the future.

This multicultural project aims to change the attitudes of youth towards persons with a disability and provide an advocacy tool for elementary school teachers to use.

NPC PROFILE: TIMOR LESTE

Timor Leste Joins Paralympic Family



At the IPC Extraordinary General Assembly held in Cairo, Egypt, in November last year, six new NPCs joined the Paralympic Movement. The Paralympian had an opportunity to speak to Julio

Sarmento Lopes, Secretary General of the Timor Leste Paralympic Committee (TLPC), to find out what is in store for one of the newest NPCs.

The Paralympian: When and how was the NPC in Timor Leste established?

Julio Sarmento Lopes: The NPC of Timor Leste was established on 28 February 2004 following discussions between representatives from the 13 regions in Timor Leste, local NGOs and the national Athletics, Powerlifting and Table Tennis federations.

TP: How many people work at your NPC?

JSL: At the moment we have a staff of 18 volunteers who run the administration and sport activities. We do not have a permanent headquarters so we are using the residence of the President of our Committee to run our activities.

TP: How many members (athletes) do you have in your NPC?

JSL: We currently have 30 athletes who participate at an international level, however one of our main objectives is to develop an athlete identification programme over the next few years to increase that number.

TP: What are your main objectives as an organization?

JSL: We have tried to establish the Paralympic Committee as an umbrella organization to protect and improve the status and ensure the equal rights of people with a disability in all sports activities.

TP: Who are your main target groups and how do you reach them?

JSL: We target all of the five Paralympic disability groups - spinal injury, visual impairment, cerebral palsy, amputee and les Autres. We have found that by targeting urban areas, particularly the capital city of Dili, we have good access to a large number of people with a disability.

TP: What major goals do you have for the next 5 years?

JSL: In the short-term we are preparing for the upcoming regional, national and international competitions sanctioned by the IPC. One of the next events we are looking towards is the Asian Para Games in Manila, Philippines, in December 2005.

We also have plans to hold a series of competitions to identify new talent that we can help develop for future competitions.

TP: What are the challenges facing your organization right now?

JSL: We face many significant challenges in Timor Leste, firstly the lack of funding which we need to help support our athletes and to implement a national development programme. We do have some support from our government and from corporate contributions, however as we are still such a young organization we have yet to

make much impact. Another problem we face is that there are no accessible training facilities or venues in our country, which makes it difficult when organizing competitions.

TP: As a newly formed NPC, what advice would you give to other countries interested in developing Paralympic sport?

JSL: Our country is still rebuilding following the conflict we endured up to 2002, however, this is one way in which we can help those people with a disability in our country to rebuild their lives and to fully participate in sporting activities. Paralympic sport offers hope and opportunity to the people of Timor Leste and I would like to encourage any other country considering joining the Paralympic Movement.



IPC, UN and ICSSPE Join Forces to Commemorate the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE) 2005



In celebration of the 2005 IYSPE the IPC, in association with the International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) and the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, is encouraging and promoting research on a number of topics concerned with sport for persons with a disability and the Paralympic Movement.

As such, the IPC is calling for article submissions from academic and scientific institutions that conduct research on these topics. All work submitted will be reviewed, with several articles selected for publication in a special edition of the ICSSPE 'Perspectives' series - The Multidisciplinary Series of Physical Education and Sport Science (for more information about Perspectives, please visit www.icsspe.org). This edition will be focused on the contribution of sport for persons with a disability to highlight the work done in this field.

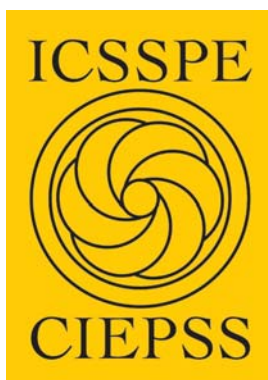
This project is fully endorsed by the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, Adolf Ogi. To highlight the collaborative work done in this field, the publication will include a foreword by

Mr. Ogi, ICSSPE President Prof. Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepper and an introduction by IPC President Phil Craven.

This initiative aims to include work covering all areas of the social and medical sciences and to provide a global overview of the issues facing different disability groups, levels (from participation to elite competition), issues of stigma and discrimination (gender, race, etc) and Paralympic sports in all regions of the world.

Articles submitted for consideration should be in the following format: abstract, introduction, methodology, results, discussion and an additional chapter entitled 'practical implications'. The total length of the article should be no longer than 6,000 words. The due date for submission of articles is 15 April 2005.

Articles should be sent to: International Paralympic Committee Attn. Mr. Andy Parkinson Medical & Scientific Director Adenauerallee 212-214 53113 Bonn, Germany.



New IPC Classification Code



Anne Hart

Before and following the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, the Chief Classifiers highlighted a need to develop standard protocols and principles for classification ensuring the consistent application of

classification systems in all sports and at all levels.

In order to progress the development of the IPC Classification Code, the IPC has invited a number of experts in classification to be a part of the Working Group. The following have accepted the IPC's invitation and will assist in the development and content of the Code:

Anne Hart, Chairperson (IPC Classification Committee Member & IWRF Chief Classifier), Trish Jensen (IPC Classification Committee Chairperson), Don Perriman (IWBF Chief Classifier), Jane Buckley (IPC Swimming Classifier) and Terrie Moore (CP-ISRA Sports Technical Committee Chairperson).

The first draft of the Code is scheduled to be completed by April 2005 and distributed for feedback before the final version is completed by the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. The final version will be presented to the IPC Governing Board and the IPC General Assembly.

The development of the Code will take some time and effort to complete and the IPC hopes that all Chief Classifiers, NPCs, athletes, coaches and the Paralympic Family will contribute to the process, through constructive feedback on the draft versions, ensuring that the final product reflects the best practices within sport.

What is ADAMS?

The IPC is currently involved as part of the Anti-Doping Administrative Management System (ADAMS) Implementation Group to assist the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in the first stage in implementation of a central database. ADAMS will be managed by WADA to assist with world-wide testing co-ordination including: Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE), athlete whereabouts information, results and laboratory reporting.

During this first phase, the IPC has been providing feedback on the ADAMS technical specifications. Training is expected to be carried out in April 2005 with full implementation to start in phases from mid-2005.

ADAMS offers a secure, centralized, online service assisting WADA and its stakeholders in their day-to-day operations in order to fulfil their obligations under the World Anti-Doping Code. There will be three general components to the system:

Whereabouts System

ADAMS will facilitate the collection of athlete whereabouts information by receiving updated information on athletes in national and/or international testing pools. The system will monitor the failure of athletes to provide complete whereabouts information.

Clearinghouse

ADAMS will receive Doping Control data on in-competition and out-of-competition tests, laboratory results and information on adverse analytical findings and anti-doping rule violations. This information will be made available to relevant athletes and/or stakeholders and statistical information will be disclosed publicly.

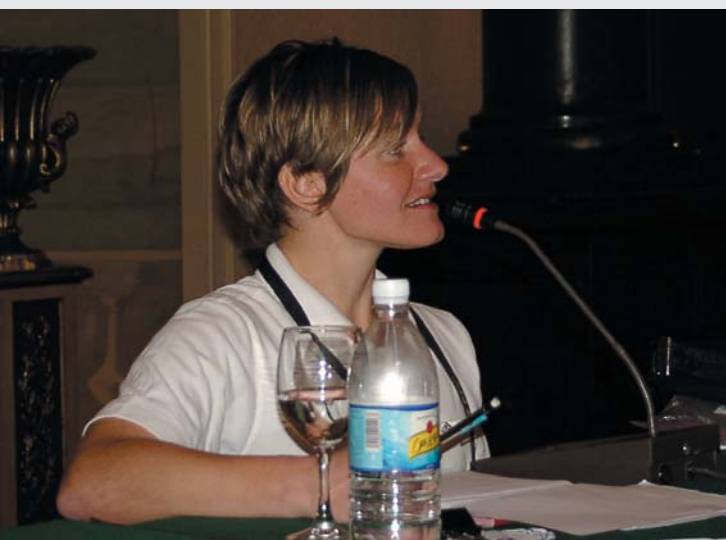
Doping Control System

ADAMS will manage a doping control programme including the planning of test distribution, athlete selection, data entry and results management.



A Paralympic skier adds his support during the WADA Athlete Outreach Programme held in Austria in 2004.

IPC Takes Steps to Ensure Sustainable Development



Paralympian Cheri Blauwet, chaired and presented at the 2004 IPC Development Conference.

From 26 to 27 November 2004, the IPC Development Conference titled 'Ensuring Sustainable Development' was held, following the IPC Extraordinary General Assembly in Cairo, Egypt. With 150 participants including National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), Sports, Regions, International Organizations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSDs), IPC Governing Board members and IPC partner organizations, there was broad representation of the Paralympic Movement.

Through a series of presentations and discussions, the conference aimed to bring the Movement together to better understand member needs, increase communication and create a unified direction for development.

During the Development Conference five core areas for development were agreed: athlete development, leadership development, organizational development, knowledge development and global Paralympic development. These five dimensions represent elements that can ensure sustainable development of the Movement.

Participants helped to define these core areas, assess the current status and develop practical ideas for future projects such as an international awareness campaign, a Leadership Development Project, a Paralympic Administration Toolkit and an NPC Mentoring Programme. These ideas will assist the IPC and its member organizations to go forward in the area of development.

"Thanks to the participants of the IPC Development Conference we now have quality feedback and suggestions on how to continue to move the Paralympic Movement forward and ensure its sustainability" said IPC Secretary General Miguel Sagarra.

IPC Partnerships



The IPC and Right To Play have signed a partnership in order to promote sport as a means for development, health and peace with particular focus on inclusion of persons with a disability.

IPC President Phil Craven commented: "The IPC is pleased that Paralympians will be assisting Right To Play in their future work, where appropriate. We believe that this will strengthen the work of both organizations and lead to new and exciting occasions to promote sport for persons with a disability all over the world."

The agreement includes the involvement of Paralympic athletes in Right To Play activities. These athletes will take part in the organization's athlete programme as individual athletes, as

representatives of their sport and as representatives of the Paralympic Movement. Among other things, they will contribute to the Red Ball Report Newsletter, participate in Right To Play's internet community and in speaking engagements and other Right To Play events, co-promoting the Paralympic Games and Movement.

The IPC and Right To Play will also pilot a new project in 2005 to strengthen Right To Play's existing curriculum that focuses on and facilitates the inclusion of children with a disability into everyday sport and play activities and opportunities.

"Right To Play is excited about the new opportunities that our partnership with the IPC will create. Inclusion of all children in sport and play is one of our guiding principles. Our new association with the IPC will help us deepen our knowl-



Photo: Right to Play

edge and resources to keep this promise everyday. In addition, by demonstrating that anything is possible, Paralympic athletes are important role models for the children that we reach," said Johann Koss, President and CEO of Right To Play.



Photo: DEAFLYMPICS



DEAFLYMPICS

On 30 November 2004, IPC President Phil Craven and Dr. Donald Ammons, Interim President and Secretary General of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (DEAFLYMPICS), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Washington, D.C., USA.

The MoU allows athletes with multi-disabilities to compete in sanctioned competitions, provided they meet the relevant eligibility criteria and are entered through the respective national member of IPC or DEAFLYMPICS.

"Deaf athletes with an additional disability represented at IPC sanctioned competitions, will now be able to participate in various IPC events. Equally, Paralympic athletes with a multi-disabili-

ty, including a minimum hearing loss, will be able to compete in the Deaflympic Games and the Deaf World Championships. This is in line with the IPC vision: enabling athletes to inspire and excite the world," commented Mr. Craven.

Both organizations will henceforth cooperate in informing the relevant sports authorities of the international structures of both organizations and address the conflicts that may arise at a national level between the affiliated organizations.

"This agreement illustrates our commitment to working together in-sync. It will ensure that these athletes have a global stage to display their sporting spirit and dedication" said Dr. Ammons.

Women's Initiative: Middle East Women Pave the Way



Photo: Mehdi Zare Ardestani

The participants in the IPC Middle East Regional Women in Paralympic Sport Summit.

The first IPC Regional Women in Paralympic Sport (WIPS) Summit for the former Middle East (ME) Region was organized and hosted by the Iranian NPC in Tehran, from 1 to 3 December, 2004. The event was attended by twelve representatives from the countries of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar and the USA.

The Summit's agenda, content and speakers provided a stronger understanding of the unique challenges facing girls and women in the Middle East and enabled the participants to produce an action plan for the Region.

An IPC ME Women in Paralympic Sport Committee was formed and Sima Limoochi was selected as the

liaison to the IPC.

The next ME WIPS Committee meeting is scheduled to be held during the - 4th Muslim Women's Games in September 2005. Athletics, Swimming and Table Tennis were identified as targets for early development efforts. This programme will provide training for female coaches, officials and classifiers.

"The first IPC Women in Paralympic Sport Regional Summit was a resounding success. I was inspired and energized by the commitment of all participants to carry out specific actions that will increase opportunities in Paralympic sport for girls and women with disabilities in the IPC Middle East Region," stated Ann Cody, Chairperson of the IPC Women in Sport Committee.

Rehab Project: A Smile Through Sport

"Sitting alone in a corner of the room was a young girl with a sad look in her eyes. I approached her and she told me why she was so sad. She used to like playing and laughing until she was ten years old, when she lost a leg in a landmine explosion. When I asked her why she didn't join in, she just said 'I always stay sitting'. First she showed disbelief when I played the video images of other children with a disability practising sport, then she tried for herself, at first tentatively, then came the victory, the prize, the most important reward - her smile..."

The IOC has recently initiated the 'Rehabilitation Through Sports: Pilot Project in Angola Assisting Amputees and Other Persons with a Disability'. The project is being carried out in collaboration with the IPC, the Angolan NPC, the Angolan government, the National Olympic Committee and the

MINSa Rehabilitation Center in Huambo, Angola.

Seven physiotherapists receive specialized training during three sessions held from 1 to 5 November 2004, 24 January to 4 February 2005 and a third to take place from 1 to 12 August 2005.

The project focuses on training professionals (physiotherapists) using sport as a means of rehabilitation, with the overall aim to improve the opportunities for Angolans with a disability.

Angola was chosen as the site for this project as it is among the top three most affected countries for landmines in the world. From 1975 to 2002 Angola endured a civil war that caused significant numbers of new amputees.

"Many who took part in the course were given renewed hope for a better quality of life, as sport could open the door to other parts of the world," said Jorge Vilela de Carvalho.



Photo: Neves Bendinha

Conference Participation: World Bank and MINEPS



Photo: The World Bank

Aerial view of the conference Poster Board Exposition with Phil Craven and Barbara Trader of UNICEF in the foreground.

In celebration of the UN 2004 International Day of Disabled Persons on 3 December 2004, the World Bank hosted a Disability and Development International Conference from 30 November to 1 December 2004, aiming to further reduce global poverty for persons with a disability.

IPC President Phil Craven acted as Co-Chair of a discussion on 'Inclusion through Sports and Physical Education'. Mr. Craven spoke specifically about his vision for how the IPC can work in partnership to strengthen sports opportunities for children and adults with a disability in the developing world.

Other panelists included Co-Chair

Stephen B. Corbin, from Special Olympics, Dr. Karen DePauw from the International Council of Sport Science Physical Education (ICSSPE) and Jennifer Howitt, Paralympian.

The IPC also participated in the fourth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS IV), which took place in Athens, Greece, from 6 to 8 December 2004.

One of the main objectives of the MINEPS conference was to formulate a Draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport. The recommendations of the conference explicitly recognized that the IPC has made progress in the fight against doping.

UNESCO Awards German NPC for Distinguished Services to Physical Education and Sport

On 7 December 2004, the German NPC received the UNESCO Award for Distinguished Services to Physical Education and Sport. UNESCO commended the German NPC for setting an example both from a social-political and from a sport-political perspective.

The award was handed out to NPC President Theodor Zühlsdorf at the 4th Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS IV) in Athens, Greece.

Said Dieter Keuther, Secretary General of the German NPC "With this award the work of the German NPC over the last 50 years was honoured. This award has given us motivation to continue and strengthen our work."

The German NPC was established in 1951 in Bonn, Germany. Today it is based in Duisburg. It is currently responsible for over 342,000 individual members, 17 regional associations and 3,640 clubs, making it one of the largest NPCs in the Paralympic Movement.



© Getty Images; Photo: Tom Shaw

The triumphant finish by German Paralympian Wojtek Czyz during the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

Paralympic Founder and ONCE Receive Highest Paralympic Honour



On 18 September 2004, Dr. Ludwig Guttman, the founder of the Paralympic Movement was awarded posthumously, the Movement's highest honour, the Paralympic Order for his outstanding contribution to sport for persons with a disability. The award was

presented by IPC President Phil Craven, in the presence of IOC President Jacques Rogge and the Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Association (IWAS) President Paul dePace, to Dr. Guttman's daughter Eva Loeffler, who accepted it on his behalf.

Dr. Guttman pioneered sport for persons with a disability in the 1940's, proclaiming the benefits of sport for rehabilitation from his work at the Spinal Cord Injuries Centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Great Britain. After initiating the Stoke Mandeville Games in 1948, he initiated the

Paralympic Movement with the first Paralympic Games held in Rome in 1960. Mr. Craven said: "Awarding the Paralympic Order to Sir Ludwig Guttman was long overdue. The IPC has been waiting for the right moment and today, here at the Paralympic Games - the pinnacle of Paralympic sport - we found it. We would not be where we are at the moment, if it was not for Sir Guttman."

On 17 November 2004, the ONCE (Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles) was also awarded the Paralympic Order in a ceremony in Madrid, Spain, for their involvement in the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games and support of the Paralympic Movement in Spain and internationally, with their contributions to the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).

Mr. Phil Craven stated: "The Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games were a turning point in the Paralympic Games evolution - ONCE's contribution was fundamental to the success of those Games." During the award ceremony, Mr. Craven also praised the passion and dedication of ONCE and its

President, Miguel Caraballeda Pineiro's continued support of sport for persons with a disability.



Photo: ONCE

Search for the Most Accessible Facility



In a new and exciting initiative, the IPC is working with the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) to honour the most accessible sporting facility with the IPC

Distinction for Accessibility. The award is part of the IOC/IAKS Award 2005 for Exemplary Sports and Leisure Facilities, an international architecture competition for sports and leisure facilities.

ibility aims to recognize those facilities that have excelled in providing access to persons with a disability, allowing them to practice and view sport freely and without barriers.

All entries for the competition will be adjudicated by a panel of experts from IAKS, the IOC and the IPC. The award will be presented at the official opening of the 19th IAKS Congress on 26 October 2005 in Cologne, Germany.

Submissions are due by 30 April 2005. For more information about the award requirements and for the official submission documents, please visit www.iaks.info.

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