

## 2006 World Championships

### First round of the World Championships to begin in England



*The trail to Japan for the 2006 FIVB World Championships starts in January 2005 in the city of Sheffield,*

*the venue for the 1991 World University Games.*

The first round men's matches see three nations from the British Isles - England, Scotland and Northern Ireland battle it out for the right to qualify for the second round in the Czech Republic in May. Current form dictates that England is the in-form team, having beaten Scotland in their last encounters. But the Scots, with their 'never say die' attitude, cannot be written off and will prove to be strong opponents. England will be strengthened by Alex Porter, currently playing in

Austria and Danny Weemes and Andy Sinclair, both in Sweden. Alex and Andy return to the city where they played their university Volleyball.

The Women's event brings together five teams of a wider ranging standard. The Home Nations are represented by England and Scotland, but they will have stiff continental opposition from Spain, Serbia-Montenegro and Albania. For Serbia and Albania it will be their first visit to these shores, while Spain returns for the first time in many years. The match between England and Scotland will provide partisan interest with the England team coach, ex-Olympic Beach player, Audrey Cooper originally coming from Scotland!

Mr. Bob Clarke, FIVB Sports Events' Coordinator said, "I was pleased with the efforts and the desire of England Volleyball as they take the first necessary steps to embrace world class Volleyball. We want to encourage these beginnings and believe the venues will become bigger and bigger as the sport grows in this nation," he said.

The event has gripped the imagination of the Volleyball aficionados in England. The hosts are keen to show to the general public the dynamism and excitement of Volleyball, which is truly a world-wide sport but has yet to establish a strong foothold in England. The new EIS venue (English Institute of Sport) is no stranger to important events - indoor athletics and netball, but this will be a first for Volleyball on this scale.

"We believe that a new interest in Volleyball will grow in England in the future. We will work together with the English Volleyball Association in promoting the sport so that a growing part of the people may enjoy the quality of our game and the qualities of our athletes. We are in the business of bringing Volleyball to the people and to give this wonderful sport the place it deserves," said the FIVB President, Dr. Rubén Acosta.

The English Volleyball Association welcomes this exciting opportunity to participate on the world stage and thanks the vision of the FIVB and its President to bring a concept into fruition.

#### ATHENS 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES

### Olympic Champions honoured at Eurosport's SportStar Awards

The third edition of the EuroSport SportStar Awards was held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland under the patronage of Dr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC Honorary President and Eurosport. More than 50 Olympic medallists were honoured, selected not only for their results in Athens but for their demonstration of the Olympic spirit and their upholding of true Olympic Values as well.

The Eurosport SportStar Awards were first held in Monaco in 2000 to celebrate Sydney's Olympians, followed by Lausanne in 2002 in tribute to the Salt Lake City Olympians. This year's event returned to Lausanne rewarding, among others, Volleyball player Andrea Sartoretti (ITA), and Beach Volleyball player Stephanie Pohl (GER) for their outstanding performance and for their demonstration of the Olympic Spirit.

"Today we pay tribute to all the men and women who were the pride of European sport in Athens. We thank them in the name of our viewers for giving us the chance to live unforgettable moments that are already part of sporting history," said Mr. Angelo Codignoni, Eurosport's President and CEO.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Seppey, FIVB's General Manager, also present at the awards ceremony said that he was proud of all the athletes who had achieved such excellence with passion and discipline. "When we look at the history of Volleyball and the huge leap forward in the last two decades, we can only thank Dr. Ruben Acosta, FIVB President for innovating and developing Volleyball and Beach Volleyball", he added.

FIVB Beach Volleyball Coordinator, Mr. Angelo Squeo was excited to see the players honoured. "This is a good reward for the German Beach Volleyball movement and we commend the German National



*Olympians Stephanie Pohl (GER) and Andrea Sartoretti (ITA)*

Federation and the promoter for their contribution to Beach Volleyball in developing the sport through different events especially the Beach Volleyball Tour," he concluded.

## VOLLEYBALL

### WGP 2005 Edition - World Grand Prix Council meets with organisers in Bangkok, Thailand



On November 11, the World Grand Prix Council Meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand today, conducted by Mr. Jizhong Wei, World Grand Prix Council President and with the participation of all preliminary and final rounds organisers for the 2005 edition.

The schedule for the most important annual Women's Event was discussed and confirmed. The preliminary rounds of the 13th edition have been scheduled to be played from 24th June to 10th July 2005.

After having organised the final round in 1997, Japan will host the final round for the second time in the World Grand Prix history. Japan, automatically qualified as hosts, together with the five best ranked teams of the preliminary round will qualify for the final round.

The World Grand Prix Council was very happy to confirm the return of Macau as organiser of a preliminary round on the 2005 World Grand Prix. This prestig-

ious competition has traditionally been played in Asia but, after having hosted the final round in 2004, Italy will now host a preliminary round in 2005.

The teams which will be participating in the 2005 edition: Japan, China, Korea, Thailand, Brazil, Cuba, USA, Dominican Republic, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Germany have qualified through qualification tournaments which took place in 2004.

When asked about the 2005 World Grand Prix, Dr. Rubén Acosta, the FIVB President said: "We are looking forward to the 2005 edition. The new 12-team formula instead of the standard eight has proven more competitive and very successful. It's encouraging to see this outstanding women's tournament going from strength to strength as the best female athletes strive for the best."

The Council Meeting also reached other key decisions concerning technical and broadcasting matters, as well as maintaining the present Qualification process for the 2006 World Grand Prix and recommended that this process be reconsidered in Asia for future editions.

## VOLLEYBALL

### 2005 World Grand Prix in Europe and Asia Pools composition and calendar

Rounds	Cities & Teams		
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Group A in Tokyo, JAPAN</b>	<b>Group B in Reggio Calabria, ITALY</b>	<b>Group C in Ningbo, CHINA</b>
24-26 June 2005	Japan Korea Brazil Poland	Italy Cuba Germany Dominican Republic	China USA Thailand Netherlands
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Group D in Suncheon, KOREA</b>	<b>Group E in MACAU</b>	<b>Group F in Manila, PHILIPPINES</b>
01-03 July 2005	Korea USA Dominican Republic Japan	China Brazil Poland Germany	Italy Cuba Thailand Netherlands
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Group G in Hong Kong, CHINA</b>	<b>Group H in Taipei, CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	<b>Group I in Bangkok, THAILAND</b>
08-10 July 2005	China Italy Germany Dominican Republic	Cuba Brazil Korea Netherlands	Thailand Japan USA Poland
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>FINALS in JAPAN</b>		
13-18 July 2005	Japan & the top five ranked teams after the Preliminary Rounds will qualify for the Final Round		

## VOLLEYBALL

### Merit Medal awarded to Mr. Yazdani Khorram

#### Merit medal to the President of the Volleyball Federation of the Republic of Iran

The ceremony of Governmental medals award was held at Saad abad palace in Tehran, Iran at the beginning of November. The Governmental Merit and Management badge was awarded to Mr. Yazdani Khorram, President of Iran Volleyball Federation. Out of 103 nominees, 32 persons were honoured with this award given to prominent individuals who have served the country in scientific, cultural, sport, art and managerial spheres.

Under Mr. Khorram's leadership, the Federation has seen a series of improvements and has received prestigious titles as champion and vice champion at Asian and World levels. It should also be mentioned that training of 150 International level coaches, building and renovation of Volleyball halls, preparing the facilities of sport establishments are in the range of his extraordinary activities.

"This is the first time that the Merit medal has been awarded to a sport director. I receive this medal as representative of sport Managers, Coaches, Players, Referees, Sport Writers, Sport Commentators and the sport community of the country. Teamwork, effective planning, dedication and essential investment, among others, have been the main reasons which have led us to this point. I also want to acknowledge Dr. Rubén Acosta's input and recommendations which have helped the Volleyball Federation of Iran to take major steps towards expansion both in quality and in quantity as well as an increased image of Volleyball all over the nation," said Mr. Khorram as he received the medal.



Mr. Yazdani Khorram, President of Iran Volleyball Federation, receiving the award

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

### FIVB Beach Volleyball Permanent Committee shapes the future of the sport

The FIVB Beach Volleyball Permanent Committee meetings held at the FIVB headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland 2-3 November 2004 concluded successfully.

This group representing the world of Beach Volleyball is responsible for making decisions and proposals that will shape the future of the sport. The proposals that come from these meetings will be presented to the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Council on 30 November. This International group is made up of the World Tour Promoters and their representing National Federations as well as the Beach Volleyball Permanent Committee.

The committee meetings were attended by several representatives -athletes Marrit Leenstra (NED) and Markus Dieckmann (GER), chosen by the World Tour players; Bjerne Masseide (NOR) for the promoters; Miguel Quintana (ESP), FIVB Board Member, for the National Federations; Marco Gonzalez (CHI) from IEC, Tour Television Coordinator; Jose Casanova (POR) Referee Coordinator; Marco Solustri (ITA), Coaches' Coordinator and Dr. Anne Peytavin, Medical Commission President. The group was led by the FIVB General Manager, Jean-Pierre Seppey (SWI-ITA), Beach Volleyball Coordinator Angelo Squeo (ITA) and the President of the Beach Volleyball World Council, Sinjin Smith (USA).

Topics of discussion over the two days included finalising the event calendar for the next four years with existing and new promoters as well as confirming

FIVB Tour Sponsors for the same period of time.

A preview of the 2005 World Tour can be seen as the results of much hard work and includes such highlights as the USD 1,000,000 World Championships held in Berlin as well as two Grand Slams and as many as 28 Open events for the season.

Some of the other important topics discussed were the growth plan, rules and regulations, and many more items including the players' favourite topic: increasing the prize money and other player benefits. It is also the first time that Beach Volleyball coaches have been represented to discuss the future of coaches in our sport.

The President of the World Council, Sinjin Smith was very impressed with the newly elected players' representatives and how they contributed to the discussions and also how they were able to represent the interests of all levels of players on the World Tour.

The FIVB has decided that this group should meet more than once a year to ensure that plans be implemented properly and to discuss new ways to move Beach Volleyball forward on a worldwide basis.

"The successes that we see today in the sport are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Beach Volleyball Department with the support of the rest of the FIVB, particularly its President, Dr. Rubén Acosta, Mrs. Malu Acosta and the General Manager, Mr. Jean Pierre Seppey," said Beach Volleyball Coordinator Angelo Squeo.



Front row: M. Leenstra, J. Casanova, M. Gonzalez, J.-P. Seppey, M. Quintana and M. Dieckman. Back row: A. Squeo, S. Smith, B. Maaseide and M. Solustri

## BEACH VOLLEYBALL

### 2008 Olympic Games The FIVB rejects new Beijing 2008 venue proposals

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Organising Committee has surprised the FIVB by proposing a new Beach Volleyball venue after Tiananmen Square had been officially approved in an official signed document by the Beijing 2008 Bidding Committee, the city of Beijing and the FIVB. The FIVB has no choice but to reject the new venue.

According to the Olympic Charter the FIVB is the only body competent to approve venues for its sport. Even if the IOC agrees with BOCOG regarding technical aspects of the venue, it is not the sole competence of the IOC or BOCOG to make such an evaluation.

The FIVB faces the same issue with Volleyball. It will continue to seek a solution with BOCOG which must recognise the FIVB as the body responsible for making the final technical evaluation of and approving the venues for Volleyball and Beach Volleyball. The FIVB has communicated to BOCOG its firm intention to carry out an inspection visit shortly. When a venue is officially approved by a Bidding Committee and an International Federation, it cannot be changed without the formal approval of the latter. Otherwise, this constitutes total disrespect of the IF concerned, the IOC Evaluation Commission and the IOC Session in Moscow.

"We cannot accept the arguments presented by the IOC", said the FIVB General Manager, Jean-Pierre Seppey. "To bring up logistical complications and to say that the image of Tiananmen Square would be jeopardised by Beach Volleyball doesn't make sense. Last October famous French showman, Jean-Michel Jarre gave a huge concert on the Square. The success of that giant popular event can only prove that Beach Volleyball, with its philosophy of bringing entertainment to the heart of the city, can also be a plus on Tiananmen Square at Beijing 2008."

"We have a signed commitment; the venue had been duly approved by the Beijing 2008 Bidding Committee and the FIVB. We will stand firm on our rights clearly stated in the Olympic Charter," concluded the FIVB President, Dr. Rubén Acosta.

### TECHNICAL NEWS

#### Mikasa creates new lighter youth ball for future volleyball stars

In a desire to increase the fun for young players and to meet the needs of future volleyball stars, Mikasa created a ball that is specially designed for children and teenagers, the new SCHOOL SV-2 and YOUTH YV-1 ball.



*The new Mikasa ball designed for children and teenagers*

Mikasa leads the pack thanks to its technology, its manufacturing methods and its materials. A special machine-stitched double seam forms the basis of Mikasa's perfect ball construction. The segments are pulled together more tightly and the seams are recessed, thus protecting the player. The School SV-2 volleyball's weight has been cut to just 210 g and the Youth YV-1 reduced to 240 g, which means reduced skin inflammation and irritation. No matter how enthusiastic training is done, the players will still love to play.

The unique tactile feel of this Mikasa ball is due to a construction that uses just two layers – a skin of particularly hard-wearing synthetic leather, and a highly elastic butyl rubber bladder – with no loss of precision or dynamic response.

Tests prove that, after more than 20,000 bounces, Mikasa balls remain rounder than comparable balls from competitors.

Whether hitting, setting, digging, spiking or blocking – it's the fingertips, palms, edges of the hands and insides of the forearms that come into contact with the ball.

Hundreds of times each game, rapidly, dynamically and... with feel.

An unsuitable ball can soon become a problem for the delicate skin of children and young people. This can result in skin redness or inflammation, scrapes or even injury. That's why Mikasa has introduced a new ball that's specially developed for the training and playing needs of kids and young people in a school, leisure or at a club level.

FIVB is proud to announce that Mikasa, the official ball manufacturer, also guarantees a great game for children.

### FIVB DEVELOPMENT

#### FIVB and UNHCR strengthen development partnership

Thanks to the long-standing relationship between the FIVB and UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), thousands of refugee children and youths have been able to benefit from recreational Volleyball.

The UNHCR has selected many refugee areas around the world in Azerbaijan, Guinea, Liberia, Tajikistan, Zambia, Yemen, Nepal, Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, Rwanda, Thailand, East Timor, Uganda; Iran, Afghanistan, Gabon, Sri Lanka, Georgia and Kenya. The FIVB has donated balls, nets, air pumps, and has provided local instruction for the game.

In **Guinea**, where 60% of the population consists of children and youth, UNHCR distributed the balls donated by the FIVB in the refugee camps in the forest region of the country. Among these teenagers



*Youth players in action in Guinea*

are former child soldiers, unaccompanied and separated children, children victims of sexual exploitation, abuse and violence and children heading siblings. Together with UNHCR's implementing partner Right to Play, a four day mini-knock-out tournament was organized with players of both genders between the ages of 16 and 20 years. The successful tournament was well attended and gathered a large number of spectators (over 500).

Mr. Tim-Moore Weah, Camp President, who attended the tournament expressed his gratitude and said: "In essence, the support from the FIVB has contributed to the well-being of all youth and some adults living in the Nzerekore camps. The tournament was a success and we hope to have others in the future."

The FIVB was also present in the Dadaab camp in **Kenya**, one of the biggest in Africa, where the majority of the refugee population is under the age of 18. The FIVB's support contributes towards positive and productive activities for refugee children and plays a role in building character and confidence, which are essential to overcome the trauma of flight as well as the distress resulting from displacement. Team sports help build positive connections with peers and adults, creating a sense of belonging and helping



*Adult and young participants bond as a team in Georgia*

refugee children to reintegrate into the community as well as offering them a space to play.

UNHCR's Branch in Tbilisi, **Georgia** distributed the sports equipment donated by the FIVB to the children of both Chechen refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Georgia.

Members of the National Volleyball Federation and trainers from the national Volleyball team travelled to three locations in the Pankisi Valley, in Kutaisi and in Zugdidi to assist in the distribution of Volleyball equipment, acting as professional Volleyball coaches, conducting seminars and providing training to refugee and IDP children.

All children, teachers and youth club staff members expressed their gratitude for the provision of Volleyball equipment and follow-up in training. They stated that the equipment would allow them to be actively engaged in daily sports activities.