



POC Online

The official weekly online newsletter of the Philippine Olympic Committee

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Excellence • Respect • Friendship



POC Online:

Bringing news about the POC to the world

In line with its mandate to “develop and protect the Olympic movement in the Philippines...,” and its desire to inform its stakeholders and the Olympic community about its plans, programs, and activities, the POC will be publishing a weekly online newsletter – POC Online.

The newsletter, which is an initiative of the Philippine Olympic Academy, will be carrying the latest news about the POC and the National Sports Associations (NSAs). It will be sent by e-mail to various POC stakeholders and carried on the POC website. Past newsletters will be archived in the website for retrieval and reference purposes.

A quarterly newsmagazine will also be launched that will not only carry news for the quarter but will also have feature stories, calendar of future activities, and educational articles promoting Olympism. The newsmagazine will have both a hard copy and online edition.

POC President Jose “Peping” Cojuangco will be Chairman of the Editorial Board of both the newsletter and the newsmagazine. POC Spokesperson Joey Romasanta is the Managing Editor. Veteran sportswriters Gerry Ramos and Tito Talao head our news team, and Gus Villanueva is editorial consultant.

In this maiden issue, we bring news about the possibility of the Philippines’ future hosting of the Asian Youth Games (AYG), the Olympic Day Run, along with developments in softball, basketball, and boxing.

We enjoin the POC members to provide us with news that would be of interest to POC stakeholders. POC Online is your newsletter and the participation of all will help strengthen the POC, the NSAs and the Olympic movement in the country.

Benjamin I. Espiritu
Editor-in-Chief, POC Online

To POC and NSA News Contributors:

We reserve the right to edit or reject articles due to technical and other editorial considerations. Likewise, much as we would like to publish news about all POC and NSA activities, time and space limitations are real constraints that may prevent us from doing so. We ask you to bear with us on this. We also ask for your assistance in taking the initiative to provide us with news and pictures of your organization’s activities, along with enough lead time for us to write and layout the same. - Editor

Philippines may host Asian Youth Games

By Gerry Ramos



THE Philippines hosting the Asian Youth Games (AYG) in the future?

Why not?

Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President Jose 'Peping' Cojuangco is tinkering with the idea of bringing the multi-sports Asian meet for athletes 14-17 years old to the country in 2013 or perhaps come 2017.

Cojuangco indicated the plan shortly after meeting with officials of the Singapore Sports Council, the association in charge of Singapore's hosting of AYG's inaugural staging.

The possibility of the Philippines hosting the next AYG came up in talks between Cojuangco, Singapore Sports Council Chairman

Alex Chan, and Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sport Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, since bidding for its staging is still open.

"They told me that the Philippines can host it too, since hindi naman talaga ganoon karami 'yung events," said the POC President.

The 1st AYG has a total of nine sporting events that include athletics, swimming/diving, shooting, bowling, beach volleyball, football, sailing, table tennis and basketball (FIBA 33).

The last time the country hosted a major multi-sports event was in 2005 during the 23rd Southeast Asian Games where 40 sports were included in the calendar of events.

"Perhaps we can just improve on our facilities for the AYG hosting," Cojuangco added.

The POC President stressed that aside from becoming a benchmark to gauge the strength of other youth teams from Asian nations, the hosting of the AYG could also help inspire young Filipino people to get into sports.

Cojuangco added it would be up to his successor to make the staging possible should the country succeed in its hosting bid.

The AYG also serves as the qualifier to the Summit Youth Olympics, whose initial offering would also be hosted by Singapore in 2010.

The country finished its campaign in the first ever AYG by winning a silver and bronze medal courtesy of javelin thrower Stephanie Cimatú and bowler Jose Collins.

The swimming trio of Jasmine Alkhaldi, Banjo Borja and Jessie Khing Lacuna also met the qualifying time in their respective events and earned berths in next year's Youth Olympic Games.

Cimatú, a 15-year-old from Bangui, Ilocos Norte, bagged the silver in the girls' javelin after posting 36.21 meters on her first throw.

So did the shooting quintet of Dianne Nicole Eufemio, Jayson Valdez, Shanin Gonzales, Mark Lorenz Manosca and Czarmainne Trajano.

Cimatú, a 15-year-old from Bangui, Ilocos Norte, bagged the silver in the girls' javelin after posting 36.21 meters on her first throw.

The Palarong Pambansa gold medalist was bested by Korea's Seonhye Lee with a 41.10-m hurl on the fifth attempt to win the gold.

Cimatú and Lee were the only participants in the event.

Collins, meanwhile, snared the bronze medal in the boys' masters with 3507 pinfalls. Basil Low of Singapore won the gold with 3576 pinfalls while Korean Kyung-hwan Choi settled for silver after scoring 3558 points.

Alkhaldi clocked 59.04 in the girls' 100 m freestyle, Lacuna registered 53.07 in the same event for boys, while Borja made it in the boys' 200 m individual medley with a time of 2:11.60.

The 17-year old Eufemio earned a ticket to the Youth Olympic Games by tallying 385 in the girls' 10-meter rifle event to top the qualifying score of 368, while Valdez, a 14-year old Malate Catholic School student, collected 566 points in the 10-meter air rifle competition to breach the qualifying mark of 552.

The 14-year old Gonzales and the 16-year old Trajano shot 361 and 360 respectively, in the girls' 10-meter air pistol competition, just above the qualifying mark of 355, while Manosca, 16, hurdled the qualifying score of 540 in the boys' 10-meter air rifle event by firing 550.

A total of 61 athletes comprised the Philippine delegation that competed in nine disciplines. It finished in 18th place out of 25 countries that competed.

POC organizes Olympic Day Run

by Gerry Ramos

THE Philippines celebrated with the rest of the world in commemorating the founding of the Olympic Movement with the successful staging of the 2009 Olympic Day Run that started and ended at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila last June 21.

People from all walks of life comprised the more than 1,500 runners that participated in the annual event that was simultaneously observed around the globe.

Top Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) officials, heads of the various National Sports Associations (NSAs), athletes, students and running enthusiasts graced the affair highlighted by the running of a 10K race for both men and women.

The occasion likewise served as the POC's sendoff to the entire Philippine delegation bound for the 1st Asian Youth Games in Singapore.

The Olympic Day Run is an international Olympic Movement activity first launched in 1987 through the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sports for All Commission.

Its staging comes on the commemoration date of the IOC's founding. The Olympic Movement was first established on June 23, 1894 through the efforts of Pierre de Coubertin to promote competitive sport as a revival of the ancient Olympic Games.

Usually held from June 17-24, the event was also celebrated in other parts of the world, from Sri Lanka, China, Tokyo to as far as Great Britain.

In all, 161 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) have been promoting the event every year.

A 3k fun run and 3km wheelaton were also part of the local program that began at 6 a.m.

As the race was going on, athletes from various sports did their respective disciplines to entertain the crowd waiting at the Grandstand.

A big hit among the people were the aborigines from Clark, Pampanga, who showed their talent with the bow and arrow along with the country's top archers.

Darwin Lim and Ailene Tolentino emerged the grand winners in the 10 km. run. A member of the Far Eastern University varsity squad, Lim broke away from a three-man lead pack in the final two-kilometer mark to top the men's side with a clocking of 33 minutes and 23 seconds.



Finishing as runner-up was Mendel Lopez (34:03), followed by Gerald Sabal (34:22). Tolentino, 21, ruled the distaff side behind a 40-minute clocking.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim fired the starting gun.

This year's celebration was made possible by the event's principal sponsors led by the Department of Tourism, City of Manila under Mayor Lim, City of Pasay under Mayor Pewee Trinidad, City of Makati under Mayor Jejomar Binay, Uniliver, Milo, and wushu official Julian Camacho.

POC spokesperson Joey Romasanta headed the organizing committee.

Softball

Blu Boys in 2009 World Men's Softball Championship

By Gerry Ramos

SPEED over height.

Ranged against taller opposition, the RP Blu Boys are banking on their agility and hitting power to offset their lack of size as they see action in the 2009 World Men's Softball Championship in Saskatoon, Canada.

“During practice we've always put emphasis on our speed kasi nga malalaki yung mga makakalaban natin sa World Championship,” said Zacky Bacarisas, serving his first stint as Blu Boys coach.

The Blu Boys finished ninth during the last staging of the meet held in New Zealand in 2005.

Bacarisas refuses to say what the team's chances are, but declared the Blu Boys are ready for the quadrennial meet set July 17-26.

“Mahirap magsalita pero handa naman kami,” he said.

The Blu Boys had been bracketed in the tough Group A along with defending champion New Zealand, United States, Japan, Great Britain, Botswana, Denmark and Mexico.

Group B meanwhile is composed of Australia, Argentina, Czech Republic, Venezuela, South Africa, Puerto Rico, Indonesia and host Canada.

The team, a mixture of youth and experience, left for Canada last July 11 and played tune up matches with ball clubs from the United States, Australia and a local Canadian team prior to the competition proper, according to Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines (ASAPHIL) president Jean Henri Lhuiller.

The Blu Boys also had a week of training in Japan last year as part of their preparation for this year's world meet.

Comprising the team are veterans Apolonio Rosales, Orlando Binarao, Jasper Cabrera, Manolito Binarao, Oscar Bradshaw, Isidro Abello, Darius Bacarisas, Ben Maravilles, Emerson Atilano, Anthony Santos, Roger Roxas and Vic Enriquez – all of whom are members of the RP team that finished second to champion Japan in the last Asian softball championship in 2006.

Marlon Pagkaliwagan, Leo Barredo and Jorge Marquez are all rookies in international play, although the three are part of the Blu Boys' five-man pitching rotation that also includes Roxas and Enriquez.

Rosales, Orlando and Manolito Binarao, Cabrera, Darius Bacarisas and Roxas also suited up for the team when it campaigned in New Zealand four years ago.

The highest the Blu Boys copped in the world championship was a fourth place finish during the second staging of the meet in Oklahoma City, USA in 1968.

Records in the ASAPHIL website listed the team members as Severino Sta. Maria, Alejandro Cruz, Jose Lopez, Domingo Peldonia, Esmenio Vilar, Rodolfo Anayang, Reynaldo Manzanares, Romeo Galang, Jose Pinga, Manuel Julve, Jr., Gonzalo Gonzales, Filomeno Codiñera, Jr., Nacanor Silos and Rodolfo Lugay.

Officials on the other hand, were comprised of Raul Sta. Rosa (team manager), Norberto Raymundo (Asst. team manager), Jose Valle, jr. (coach); Felino Nocum (asst. coach), Arturo Pagsisihan (trainer).

The World Men's Softball Championship is one of two major events up for the Blu Boys this year. The other comes in December when they defend their title in the 25th Southeast Asian Games in Laos.

Basketball

Aiming for the World Basketball Championship

By: Tito Talao

THE arrival from Chicago of Japeth Aguilar, the 6-foot-9 son of former Northern Consolidated center Peter Aguilar, has completed the puzzle for coach Yeng Guiao's Powerade Team Pilipinas, the squad tasked with bringing the country back to the World Basketball Championship after more than three decades.

No red carpet was rolled out for Aguilar, who played for Ateneo before hooking up with Western Kentucky in the US NCAA, when he checked in via Korean Air from Seoul.



But the door was swung open when he stepped into The New Arena in San Juan to finally join Asi Taulava and Co. in practice for two important international tournaments – the W. Jones Cup in Taipei from July 18-28 and the FIBA Asia World Championship qualifier in Tianjin, China from Aug. 6-16.

“He can add to the solution of a perennial problem for the RP team – the lack of size and quickness in the 4 and 5 positions,” said Guiao, the national coach.

“Also, the urgent need for a naturalized player will be minimized somewhat with his presence.”

Barring any injury, Guiao believes Aguilar can be the next best homegrown big man in the country for years to come.

“Basically because of his physical attributes, he can dominate,” Guiao said. “We’re just hoping he can stay healthy and contribute to the cause of the national team.”

MEMBERS of Powerade Team Pilipinas, including Japeth Aguilar (left) listen as coach Yeng Guiao diagrams a pattern on the white board during team practice Monday at The Arena in San Juan. Other photos show Aguilar on the way to a two-handed slam dunk. (Photos by Eric Fernandez)



Guiao has labeled the Jones Cup the “real test” due to the presence of countries like Iran, Jordan, South Korea, Japan, Lebanon and Kazakhstan in the field, and he has called the 25th FIBA Asia Men’s Championship the “real thing” for its overall worth.

The top three finishers in Tianjin will qualify to the 16th World Basketball Championship in Istanbul, Turkey in August 2010.

In last week’s FIBA draw, attended by Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Noli Eala and Powerade-RP team manager JB Baylon, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tianjin, Powerade-RP was bracketed in Group A with long-time Asian Games rivals South Korea and Japan, plus Sri Lanka, reviving hopes for a return to the global stage after more than two decades.

Injuries and illness have saddled the RP team's preparation prior and during the 8th SEABA Men's Championship in Medan, Indonesia where the Nationals swept the opposition by an average of 38 points.

Forward Kelly Williams was diagnosed with a blood disorder, point guard Jayjay Helterbrand went down with a pulled hamstring and center Sonny Thoss banged up his knee.

Williams stayed behind while Helterbrand and Thoss joined the Medan trip although neither saw action in the games where they later got bench company when playmaker Ryan Reyes pulled his hamstring in the opening match against Malaysia.

Leaving for Taipei as well are Mick Pennisi, Willie Miller, Cyrus Baguio, Jared Dillinger, Gabe Norwood, Ranidel de Ocampo, James Yap, Kerby Raymundo, and Arwind Santos, with Guiao trimming the 15-man lineup to the final 12 while still there.

Boxing

MNLF boxers to train with RP team coaches

By: Tito Talao

The six Moro National Liberation Front boxers competing in the landmark Smart-ABAP Boxing for Peace and Unity tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium will be directly under the supervision of the Philippine team coaches.

This was bared by Ed Picson, executive director of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP), saying the MNLF boxers, who will pit ring prowess with bets from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, will be brought straight to the National Training Center for Boxing at the Philippine Sports Commission facility in Baguio City upon their arrival from Cotabato.

“They will get a feel of what it's like,” said Picson. “In effect, they will be training with the national boxers.”

Head coach Pat Gaspi and assistant Boy Velasco will oversee the MNLF boxers' training, Picson said.

“With this novel concept, it is hoped amateur boxing can be an instrument to national peace,” Picson said.

Boxing

ABAP may train boxers in Cuba, China, U.S.

By: Tito Talao

THE Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP) is eyeing to train in three different countries which it hopes would benefit Filipino boxers when they vie on two major international stints in the final quarter of the year.

Being considered as probable training destinations are Cuba, China and the U.S., in preparation for the coming World Boxing Championships and the 25th Southeast Asian Games in Laos, according to ABAP executive secretary Ed Picson.

As per the recommendation of the national boxing team coaching staff, the Filipino pugs are again Cuban-bound for a possible 30-day training camp.

Cuba has been a known boxing power in the world, prompting ABAP to even avail of the services of two Cuban coaches in Juan Enriquez Steyners Tissert and Badoberto Rojas Scott.

On the other hand, China is slowly emerging as a force to reckon with in the sport as proof of its gold medal wins in the 2008 Beijing Olympics courtesy of light-flyweight Shiming Zou and light heavyweight Xiaoping Zhang.

Picson admitted a trip to Cuba would be very costly for the association, especially with the coaching staff suggesting as many as 18 boxers attending the camp.

For cost cutting measures, the ABAP secretary-general said half of the boxers would be going to Cuba, and others to China.

“Ang idea, 30 days sa China yung isang team, 30 days naman sa Cuba yung isa,” he said.

“Pagbalik nila dito, magla-laban laban sila. Pagkatapos, ang magiging resulta doon natin makukuha yung komposisyon ng ating koponan sa World Championship at sa SEA Games.”

The World Boxing Championship is slated in September in Milan, Italy, while the SEA Games will be held early in December.

Picson added a similar training in the U.S. is being offered to members of the RP boxing national pool.

“Meron ding alok sa atin sa Estados Unidos na magsanay especially `yung youth and juniors ages 19 and below,” said the ABAP official.

