



POC Online

The official weekly online newsletter of the Philippine Olympic Committee

Excellence • Respect • Friendship

September 19, 2009 Vol. 1 No. 11



Peping's Birthday Wish: Peace and Unity in Philippine Sports

As he celebrates his birthday today, September 19, POC chief Jose 'Peping' Cojuangco has nothing but the bright welfare of Philippine sports for a birthday wish.

“Ang main wish natin is for all the warring factions na magka-ayos na para matapos na itong gusot sa Philippine sports,” said the former congressman from Tarlac.

In seeking unity among the country's top sports leaders, the POC president is trying to get strength and inspiration from the work and deeds of his late sister, former President Corazon Aquino.

“Yung gaya nga ng pakiusap ni Cory before na for us to join her in prayer for the healing of this nation, ganoon din `yung birthday gift sana sa atin na madagdagan pa itong mga dasal para nga maayos na itong gulo sa ating palakasan.”

As early as five days before his birthday, Cojuangco was already honored by about 300 people composed of athletes and sports officials following a meeting among members of the RP delegation bound for the Laos Southeast Asian Games.

At the end of the long discussion about the country's coming campaign in the December biennial meet, a simple celebration followed at the Brent gym.

A separate birthday luncheon was also held at the Cojuangco ancestral home in Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

It has been five years since Cojuangco assumed the country's highest elective position in sports, and he is now into his second term.

Looking back, Cojuangco said not once did he regret his decision to seek the POC presidency.

“Medyo nagulat lang tayo sa magnitude ng sports dito sa ating bansa,” he admitted. “Ang akala ko noon, simple lang ito, that it could just be a part time job for me.

“Ang hindi ko alam, napakalaking responsibilidad pala ito. As POC president, dapat 24/7 ka available for the job.”

Despite past adversities and the current conflicts in local sports, the POC president vowed not to lose hope.

“Makakaasa ang lahat particular na ang ating mga atleta na patuloy nating ibibigay ang lahat ng ating makakaya para sa kapakanan ng Philippine sports. Mahihirapan akong iwanan ito,” he added.

Bowling

RP bowler bags title



FORMER World Masters champion Biboy Rivera scored a perfect game and then capped his campaign in the Ramadan Open by bagging the Masters title at the Khalifa Bowling Center in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Rivera, winner of the 2006 World Men's tenpin bowling championship in Busan, South Korea, whipped former World Cup champion Saeed Al Hajri of Qatar in the stepladder finals, 267-195.

He topped the qualifiers with a 237 average, including a remarkable 300-297 score in the second block that catapulted him to the top of the 16-game series.

Rivera used a 15-pound Hammer Jigsaw ball in rolling his perfect game on lanes 5 and 6 of the sprawling playing area to earn the top seed in the

stepladder finals.

The 35-year old long-time mainstay of the national team pocketed the equivalent amount of P300,000 for winning the crown.

"Of course I dedicate this victory to my country," said Rivera in an e-mail to Philippine Bowling Congress (PBC) secretary-general Bong Co, while extending his heartfelt thanks to his sponsors for making his trip to the Middle East country possible.

Rivera finished the qualifier ahead by 140 pins off runner-up US pro Pat Healy.

A former World Cup champion, Healy was billed as the early favorite to top the event that featured 20 top international bowlers and four crack players from the Middle East.

Al Hajri, seeded no. 4, turned back Healy, 233-214, to set up the title showdown with Rivera.

Another Filipino, Chester King, finished 10th overall in the meet.

WOA exec meets with POC

John Amabile, director of global communication for the World Olympians Association (WOA), paid a courtesy call to POC president Jose `Peping' Cojuangco at his Dasmarinas residence in Makati last September 15. Amabile was accompanied by POC secretary-general Steve Hontiveros and Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA) president Art Macapagal, who is the head of the Philippine Olympians Association (POA), an active member of WOA.

The WOA is working closely with the POA and has expressed its desire to develop a closer working relationship with the POC.

“It was a very cordial meeting,” said Cojuangco of his talk with Amabile. “Basically, he’s been encouraging National Olympic Committees (NOC) to be more active worldwide.”

The meeting, which lasted for about an hour, was the first between the two sports officials.

“He (Amabile) was actually a guest of Art (Macapagal), being the head of the Olympians association here in the country. But it was a pleasant time to sit down and talk with him,” said the former Tarlac congressman.

WOA is the mother unit of all Olympian organizations worldwide. It unites Olympians from around the world regardless of their age, sport, nationality or other definitive measure, and involves them in the promotion of the values and virtues that make the Olympic movement.

The association was founded by former International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch during the Centennial Olympic Congress and Congress Unity held in Paris in 1994. It was formally established on November of the following year.

On the other hand, POA was founded in 2002 by honorary chairman and former POC president Celso Dayrit.

It serves as the organization of Filipino athletes tasked with organizing activities and projects for the welfare of former Filipino Olympians.



Macapagal, a two-time Olympian (1972 Munich and 1976 Montreal Games), is the charter president, with former swimmer Gerardo Rosario (1972 and 1976 Games) as secretary-general and cage great Rafael Hechanova (1952 Helsinki Olympics) as charter chairman.

POC presents token to WOA exec.
L-R: POA and PNSA President Art Macapagal, WOA Director of Global Communication John Amabile, POC President Jose Cojuangco, Jr., POC Secretary-General Steve Hontiveros

Promoting Olympism

Excellence, Respect, Friendship.

This was the message equestrienne and Asian Games gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski conveyed in her inspirational talk to the roughly 1,700 La Salle Green Hills high school students at the start of their sports fest last September 14.

Mikee, together with her husband former Pasig Congressman and PBA star Robert “Dodot” Jaworski, Jr., were invited by the La Salle Green Hills High School Department and the Parents Association of La Salle (PALS) to be the guests of honor at the start of the annual high school sports fest.

In her inspirational talk, Mikee explained what Olympism is all about.

Olympism, is defined by the Olympic Charter of the International Olympic Committee as a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal ethical principles. Its goal is to place sports at the service of harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging human dignity. It espouses the values of excellence, respect, and friendship.

Mikee likewise elaborated on the Olympic ideals and the character traits that make an Olympian. She challenged the boys to do their best and strive so that they may one day compete in the Olympics.

Dodot, for his part, told the students that it is not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game. He exhorted them to do their best and bear in mind that in sports the competitors should not be out to prove who is the best, but instead try to bring out the best in each other.

La Salle Green Hills was chosen by the POC to be the Philippine school “twinned” with the Singapore’s Catholic High School and St. Nicholas Girls’ School for the Friends@YOG Twinning Programme of the 2010 Youth Olympic Games.



Photo courtesy of Ria Gutierrez-Lim of PALS LSGH

Track and Field



Looking forward to the SEA Games

RANGED against the world's finest in the recent 12th IAAF World Championships in Berlin, Germany, Filipino tracksters Henry Dagmil and Maristella Torres are looking forward to using the experience as motivation for winning the gold in the coming 25th Southeast Asian Games in Laos.

Both Torres and Dagmil are among the best bets of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (PATAFA) to deliver what it projects to be a seven gold medal romp in the December 9-18 meet Laos is hosting

for the first time.

Torres and Dagmil, who represented the country in the women and men's long jump events of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, are both two-time defending champions in their respective SEA Games events.

Dagmil's gold medal jump of 7.87 meters in the 2007 SEA Games in Nakhonratchasima in Thailand stands as the current record of the meet.

The two athletes did not perform as well in the World Championships in Berlin, a stint which PATAFA president Go Teng Kok said could had been the result of being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the competition.

"Medyo matamlay. They failed to perform their best. Siguro dahil world athletics na ito," Go offered.

"Siyempre, iba naman `yung SEA Games and Asian Games, iba rin naman `yung sa Berlin."

The meet held August 15-23 was highlighted by Jamaican Usain Bolt's world breaking performances in the 100-meter (9.58 seconds) and 200-meter (19.19 seconds) runs.

Dagmil fouled in all of his three attempts and was assessed with an NM (No Mark), one of only three entries in the men's long jump who failed to make the grade along with Carlos Jorge of Dominican Republic and Clayton Lathan of Canada.

Dwight Philips of the U.S. won the gold medal with a jump of 8.54 meters.

For her part, Torres leapt to a distance of 6.22 meters to finish 29th out of 36 entries in the distaff side of the event topped by American Britney Reese (7.10 meters).

Erratum: In our September 12 issue, Roel Velasco was mistakenly mentioned as a bronze medalist in the 2004 Athens Olympics (11th par, page 2). He was a bronze medalist in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Our apologies for this oversight.
(The Editor-in-Chief)