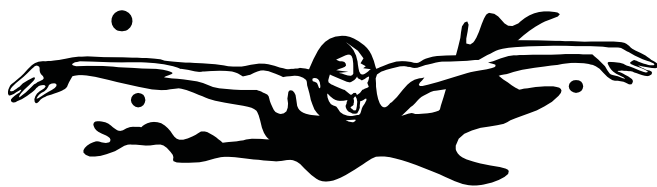




Teofilo Yldefonso to be inducted into International Swimming Hall of Fame

TWO-time Olympic bronze medal winner Teofilo Yldefonso will be inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) this year.

Bob Duenkel, executive director and curator of ISHOF, made the announcement in behalf of the body recognized by the FINA as the official hall for the aquatic sports based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



“It is my happy privilege to announce that Teofilo has been elected for honor membership in the International Swimming Hall of Fame,” said Duenkel.

“I am thrilled that he made it and will take his place as one of the greatest swimmers from the Philippines and the world.”

The induction ceremony will be held on May 6-9, marking the 46th year of the organization in honoring the greatest names in the history of the sport.

Yldefonso was the first Filipino to win an Olympic medal – bronze – which he did in the 200-meter breaststroke of the 1928 Amsterdam Games. Four years after in Los Angeles, he repeated the feat in the same event, making him the first and only Filipino to win back-to-back medals in the quadrennial meet.

Known as the ‘Ilocano Shark’, Yldefonso was born in Sitio Bayog in Piddig, Ilocos Norte on Nov. 4, 1903. He was a Lieutenant of the Philippine Scouts who fought against the Japanese during World War II.

Although he survived the infamous Bataan Death March, Yldefonso eventually died at the Capas Concentration Camp in Tarlac on June 19, 1942. In 2006, he was honored in the town of Piddig where a monument bearing his image was erected at the town plaza.

A great grandson of his is two-time Southeast Asian Games 50-meter freestyle gold medalists Daniel Coakley.

Aside from Yldefonso, other members of the 2010 Hall of Fame batch are Brooke Bennett of the U.S., Australian Petria Thomas, Franziska Van Almsick of Germany, Russia Maria Kisseleva, Paul Smith and Murray Stephens also of the U.S., Tamas Szechy of Hungary, American Larry Griswold and Cornel Marculescu of Romania.

Triathletes prepare for international meets

KIM Mangrobang, Neil Catiil and Lea Coline Langit will all undergo extensive training as part of their preparations for two major international events this year – the Guangzhou Asian Games in China and the Asian Beach Games in Oman.

The international exposures begin on March 1 in the different triathlon capitals of the world, according to Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) president Tom Carrasco.

Of the three, Carrasco is pinning his hopes on Langit to vie for a medal in the Asiad. The most experienced among the triathletes, Langit already represented the country in the 2006 Doha Asiad and finished 11th overall.

Langit will be sent to New Zealand and is set to train under Australian coach Rob Piccard.

Meanwhile, the 18-year old Mangrobang is scheduled to attend the International Triathlon Union training camp in Hungary and will be fielded in other premium tournaments around Asia.

Mangrobang won the Asian Junior Duathlon Championship held in Mekong a year ago.

Phuket, Thailand will be the destination of Catiil this March and he will be under Australian Brett Sutton and RP coach Melvin Fausto. By May, the native of Cagayan de Oro will be bound for Switzerland, and then to Japan and Korea a few months before the Asiad.

Catiil topped the ITU Triathlon held in Singapore last year.

“Our athletes have a full training schedule for the Asian Games, that’s why we’re optimistic about our participation in Guangzhou,” said Carrasco.

“We have also formed our training pool pursuant to the directive of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC),” the TRAP president added.