

Primer Seminario de Atletas Olímpicos de las Américas
 por
 La Asociación de Atletas Olímpicos de la
 República Dominicana.

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FIRST OLYMPIANS SEMINAR OF THE AMERICAS SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – OCTOBER 20 – 21, 2006



Murray Sanford (DICT), Dean Greenaway (BVI), Freida Nicholls (BAR), Marc Gutekunst (DITC) and Tony Ledgard (PER)

After several months of hard work, and with the logistical support of the Office of the Americas, the Dominican Olympians Association successfully hosted the first Olympians Seminar of the Americas. National Olympians Association Presidents and delegates from across the Americas traveled to Santo Domingo to share their works and discuss the development of the NOAs throughout the region. With the financial support of the local government, individuals and international organizations, the Olympians Seminar of the Americas, led by Dominican Olympians President Wilfredo Almonte and Secretary General Gerardo Suero, allowed participants to

discuss the difficulties they have encountered since their establishment and seek solutions for their local associations to move forward. The Office of the Americas offered its logistical support to make sure the delegates were up to date with information leading up to the seminar and ways to work together in forming a stronger organization.

The regional meeting brought in national and international panelist to share their insights on topics such as business relationships between the National Olympic Committees and the National Olympians Associations, health, fundraising, communications, legal issues, community involvement and more. Several National Olympians Associations also had the opportunity to present some of their accomplishments at home; these accomplishments allowed participants to better understand how to implement events within their regions with the support of local officials and organizations.

During the two days the seminar was held, Olympians and guests were able to learn how different associations work in different territories and how to incorporate different programs into their annual activities. The WOA is proud of the continuous work the regional associations are committed to do on behalf of their members and their communities.



Participants at the seminar

FIRE AND ICE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By Liston Bochette



Greg Sun with children

Trinidad and Tobago produces some of the fastest athletes in the world. Everyone knows of Hasley Crawford and Ato Bolton for their great achievements on the running track. There is another track where Trinidad and Tobago has gained international notoriety. Greg Sun has represented his homeland in three Olympic Winter Games in the Bobsleigh track. Greg piloted his sled in World Cup, Europe Cup, Americas Cup, and other championships for over ten years. His dedication and good sportsmanship in this dangerous discipline distinguished him as a role model for others to follow.

Greg is completing with doctorate degree at the University of Idaho at present. Likewise, he teaches and coaches others in health and exercise when not training himself. Recently, Greg spoke to a group of children about the sport values, his experiences, and his island nation. The

fourth graders were delighted to meet a real Olympian. Many questions filled the classroom. Everyone, including the teachers, enjoyed the day and came away with a better understanding of Bobsledding and how to pursue personal goals. The students were thrilled to learn about being the best they could be and invited Greg back anytime to talk to them again.

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS OLYMPIANS ASSOCIATION

TORTOLA, BVI: November 9, 2006 -The British Virgin Islands Olympians Association was formalized during a Wednesday afternoon meeting at the BVI Olympic Committee offices in Road Town. Nine of 11 Olympians in the territory, who represented the BVI in athletics and sailing at four of its six Olympic Games appearances, attended the meeting.

Dean 'The Sportsman' Greenaway, who represented the territory in athletics during the inaugural Olympic Games appearance in Los Angeles in 1984, was elected president. Joining Greenaway on the executive are: Vice President Steve Augustine, who competed in athletics during the 1996 games in Atlanta; Two time Olympic sailor Robbie Hirst, the territory's representative in Barcelona, 1992 and Atlanta, 1996, is the Secretary/Treasurer. Karl "Dub" Scatliffe, a Barcelona 1992 Olympian, is the executive committee member. BVI Olympic Committee president Rey O'Neal, is the honorary president of the BVI Olympians Association.

Other BVI Olympians attending the meeting included: 1984 Los Angeles Olympians Guy Hill, athletics; Keith Thomas and Dr. Robin Tattersall from sailing. Tattersall also attended the 1992 Games in Barcelona. 1988 Seoul Olympian, Willis "Chucky" Todman, athletics and 1992 Barcelona Olympian John Shirley, from sailing. BVI Olympic Committee vice president John Lewis also witnessed the elections.



Olympians from the British Virgin Islands Olympians Association

"I think this organization can serve a very useful purpose in getting the message across to young athletes and the community as a whole, as to what it means to have competed in the Olympics and what one can aspire to in that regard," BVI OC head O'Neal said. "Certainly, it's something that's worth the effort and I think that the community has to give it encouragement."

One of the first projects the BVI Olympians Association will spearhead is the BVI's Olympic Games legacy. Photographs of all 23 Olympians who have represented the territory and their respective profiles will be produced and placed in the BVI Olympic Committee offices, as well as the Royal BVI Yacht Club and the BVI Amateur Athletics Association offices. The association will also spearhead a territory wide art contest for disabled children in early 2007.

Currently, BVI Olympians are active in coaching athletics, organizing and competing in regattas as well as represented in the sports media.

The BVI Olympians Association is affiliated to the BVI Olympic Committee and the World Olympians Association, the fourth pillar of the Olympic Movement, and the representative body for more than 100,000 Olympians worldwide.

COLOMBIAN NOA GIVES HOPE TO THE YOUTH

Mauricio Rivas, President of the Colombian Olympians Association, has developed a program in a low income area in his native Cali to teach children the values of friendship, discipline, and dedication through the teachings of the sport of fencing.

The fencing program has obtained the support of the local government, athletes, community leaders and participants' parents. The program, which started with about 15 children during the summer and now accounts for more than 50, allows the participating children to see life from a special perspective filled with hope and dreams; something different from what they usually see everyday in the streets. The sport of fencing, as it happens in many South American countries, is not well-known by several children; however, everyday children visit the school where the classes are been taught to learn the techniques, practice, and be able to take home a new lesson that will help them develop better relations in the future.



Graduating class showing their fencing skills

Although the organizers do not count with sufficient materials to provide every child with the necessary equipment, children rotate what they have at hand and observe when they are sitting down. The success of this program has allowed the organizers to obtain the recognition of the regional government from which they are locating funds to expand it to more areas where more children will be able to learn from the teachings of sports and friendship.

Mauricio, a four-time Olympian (1988, 1992, 1996, 2000), works on behalf of his community to spread the Olympic values and ideals he learned throughout his successful career. We wish him the best on all his endeavors.

OLYMPIAN GARY HALL JR. SPEAKS TO MIAMI SCHOOLS ON DIABETES World Olympians Association kicks off a five part "Olympian Education Series"



Gary greets the participants after his speech

On November 14th, three-time Olympian Gary Hall Jr. addressed over 600 students from 57 middle schools and 39 high schools from Miami-Dade County Public School System at Felix Varela Senior High to discuss diabetes as part of the "Olympian Education Series." This series was developed due to the Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2004, which required that all school districts receiving federal funding for free and reduced lunch develop Wellness Policies to impact the physical education and nutrition needs of the school district.

As a result, and part of the Wellness Policy is to provide health education and health literacy to the students, staff, and parents, so that our students can engage in a healthy lifestyle. To accomplish the health literacy component, in part, M-DCPS has partnered with the World Olympians Association Office of the Americas to show how Olympic athletes with specific health disparities can still achieve greatness with proper training, activity, and nutrition. The students in

attendance will be the ambassadors to their fellow classmates and discuss the health literacy component that is discussed by an Olympian, and other guest speakers. Currently there are 5 programs: Diabetes, Nutrition, Asthma, Stress Management and Performance Enhancing Drugs.

Gary Hall Jr. was greeted by a chanting crowd in unison "G A R Y", "G A R Y"! He talked about being an Olympic Athlete and no matter who you are or what you do how important it is to be passionate about what you do and who you are. Gary has fought diabetes now for ten years. Today he is in training for the 2008 Beijing Games and is very careful to keep on top of his diabetes. It is not unusual for Gary to stop during his training about every 45 minutes to check his blood to make sure he is ok. After his presentation he stayed to personally greet the students, take pictures, shake hands, sign autographs and answer questions. He has a great passion for life, and he connected well with all those around him.

We are very excited about bringing together the World Olympians Association, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the Diabetes Research Institute, American Diabetes Association and Miami-Dade County Health Department to talk about Diabetes. We look forward to this five part series that will take place in November (Diabetes), December (Nutrition), January (Stress), March (Asthma) and April (Performance Enhancing Drugs).

YOUTH PROGRAMS IN THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Youth sailing is booming in Curacao (AHO). In the last few years 125 new young sailors have signed on and are taking part in one of the most dynamic sports programs in the country. Kids starting as young as 7 years old and up attend clinics, participate in training, and, of course, take part in competitions not only in Curacao but across the globe in Mexico, Switzerland, Bermuda, Peru, etc...

The winter months bring athletes from Europe to compete in the warm waters of the Caribbean. Many events are organized over the next few years that will see hundreds of sailors racing around the blue waters of Curacao and its neighboring islands. The North American Optimists Championships, the World Slash Championships, and the Curacao Open are all on the calendar and in position.

The AHO NOA is very proud of the progress being made with youth sailing. Special recognition is due to the AHO NOA Treasurer Cor van Aanholt for his work with youths in this sport. Olympians in Curacao are pleased to welcome youths, adults, active and retired Olympians, as well as their families to attend the events..... or just spend a vacation on their island. More information can be obtained about the upcoming events at cor@ysna.info



Young sailors in the Netherlands Antilles

OLYMPIANS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA EDUCATING ATHLETES ON DOPING

Formed almost two years ago, the Olympians Association of Jamaica has been on the go.

The Olympians Association of Jamaica (OAJ), more than 300 strong of which about 40 live in Jamaica, has assisted in the organization of the Island Games in New York.

Through the World Olympians Association (WOA) Office of the Americas, the local group secured a chiropractic scholarship for Olympian Neil Gardner and backed another Olympian to retool as a sports masseur.

OAJ President Vilma Charlton told the Sunday Observer that the association has also been involved in mentoring and motivating young athletes.

The Olympians had a role in the Children's Art Contest in the Americas, and worked with the Bustamante Children's Hospital where Cathy Rattray was guest speaker at a presentation ceremony.

The Olympians, most of whom are former track and field athletes, have also been busy with fund-raisers and have received tickets from Palace Amusement for movies such as "Munich". Now, they are focused on crafting a mission statement for their body, educating athletes on doping, and seeking to devise a suitable fund-raising event for themselves to be held annually. The association is also working on a Blue Cross health plan for Olympians.



President of the Olympians Association of Jamaica Vilma Charlton (left) presents one of the Association's ties to president of the WOA Pal Schmitt (third left) recently. Others from left are Olympians Keith Gardner, Juliet Cuthbert, Neville Myton, and Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA) president Mike Fennell.

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