

November 2004



Mermet Cup

The Mermet Cup held in Melbourne on October 30th, produced some good results keeping in mind that this was the first tournament held after the Olympics and therefore quite a few lifters were just coming back.

Sergo Chakhoyan from Australia lifted quite well totaling 355kg and winning the best lifter prize. Yukio Peter from Nauru, just returning from the Olympic Games produced a respectable total in the 77kg category with 310kg. In the process he set a new Oceania Junior Snatch record with a 136kg snatch.

Another impressive performance was put up by Sam Pera from the Cook Islands. This athlete improves tournament after tournament. At this tournament he did 307.5kg, 2.5kg more than he did at the Olympic Games, producing his best ever total. When you consider Sam Pera has never had the opportunity to train on a full time basis, his achievements so far have been outstanding with limited training. Can you imagine if did train full time? It certainly would mean medals at the Commonwealth Games in 2006.

New Zealand weightlifters also produced some very good performances. Mark Spooner, still a junior, totaled 262.5kg in the 69kg category. Richard Patterson did 280kg in the 77kg category.

In the female section of the tournament, a great performance was set up by Erika Yamasaki from Australia with a 155kg total in the 53kg category. Erika is only 17 years old. The best female lifter of the tournament went to Doreen Heldt from the USA who lifted brilliantly in the 75kg category. She totaled 210kg.

Marshall Islands

The new elected President of the Marshall Islands Weightlifting Association is Mr. Rais Aho. The new General Secretary is Mr. Eugene Muller. Congratulations to both gentlemen on their appointments.

Tonga

Tonga has a new General Secretary of Weightlifting. Mr. Po'oi T. Puloka, who for many years he has been a weightlifting official. More important Po'oi has now been elected the new General Secretary of the Tonga National Olympic Committee. Congratulations Po'oi.

Nicu Vlad

During the Mermet Cup it was nice to see the President of the Romanian Weightlifting Federation and also coach of Romania and one of the greatest weightlifters in the world, Nicu Vlad. Nicu was in Melbourne for a short visit and he took time to attend the Mermet Cup.

Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands Weightlifting Federation completed on the 12th November, a coaching and referee workshop and at the end of the course they ran a successful weightlifting tournament. Solomon Islands under the leadership of the President of the National Olympic Committee and President of the Weightlifting Federation, Charles Dausabea are making all efforts to develop the sport of weightlifting and to take it into a new era. Congratulations also to its General Secretary, Joel Benjamin, for the great job he is doing in the Solomon Islands.

Indian Weightlifters suspended

It has been reported from New Dehli on 29th September, that weightlifters Pratima Kumari 63kg, Sanamacha Chanu 53kg, who both tested positive at the recent Olympic Games in Athens and coach Pal Singh Sandhu were all suspended for life by the Indian Olympic Association. Also banned for life was weightlifter Sunaina who tested positive at the last Asian Championships at Almaty last April. The Indian Olympic Association took the landmark decision to ban the lifters and coach after the second, or B sample, of the weightlifters also tested positive.

Commonwealth Youth Games

On the 30th November to 3rd December 2004, the second Commonwealth Youth Games will take place in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. The Oceania region will be well represented at these Games with lifters coming from:

Australia: David Sarkisian 69kg, Mark Woodford 77kg, Lee Saxton 85kg,
Erika Yamasaki 53kg, Belinda Van Tienen 69kg
Fiji: Marion Jiuta 75+kg
Nauru: Itte Detenamo 105+kg, Sheba Deireragea 75kg, Suzanne Hiram 53kg
Cook Islands: Sam Pera Jr. 94kg
New Zealand: Cameron Sinclair 62kg, Andrew Rogers 77kg, Darren Totorewa 105+kg
Sharleah Baker 75+kg
Kiribati: Tekaei Temake 56kg, Meamea Thomas 85kg, Taatia Riino 75+kg
Samoa: Faranisisi Teo 62kg, Tia Falesoani 77kg, Fiafia Fiafia 77kg
Solomon Is. 2 lifters to be named

Other countries taking part in weightlifting are Canada, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Nigeria.

The Oceania region is expecting quite a lot of medals at these Games from our young athletes.



October 21,2004

- ◆ The **MERMET CUP INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT** to be held in Melbourne – Australia on October 29-31, 2004, has attracted many top class lifters. The lifters competing are as follows;

MEN

56Kg Starron Dowabobo - **Nauru**

62Kg Yurik Sarkisian- **Australia**

69Kg Yukio Peter – **Nauru**, Mark Spooner-**New Zealand**

77Kg Lance Frye –**USA**, Renos Doweiya-**Nauru**, Ben Turner- **Australia**, Richard Patterson-**New Zealand**, Caleb Symon- **New Zealand**.

85Kg Sergo Chakhoyan- **Australia**

94Kg Alex Karapetyn –**Australia**, Robert Murphy- **USA**, Simon Heffernan- **Australia**, Grant Cavit- **New Zealand**.

105Kg Peter Kelly-**USA**,Casey Burgener-**USA**, Phillip Christou- **Australia**, Sam Pera-**Cook Islands**.

105+Kg Corran Hocking- **Australia**, Itte Detenamo- **Nauru**, Damon Kelly- **Australia**

WOMEN

48Kg Jodi Wilhite –**USA**, Nadeene Latif- **Australia**

53Kg Dika Toua – **PNG**, Erika Yamasaki- **Australia**

58Kg Jackie Berube – **USA**, Natasha Barker- **Australia**

63Kg Carissa Gordon- **USA**, Jacquie White- **Australia**, Kristie Amadio- **Australia**

69Kg Belinda Van Tienen – **Australia**

75Kg Doreen Heldt –**USA**, Sarah Stranan- **Australia**

75+Kg Keisha-Dean Soffe- **New Zealand**

The program is as follows;

Saturday, October 30th 11:00 Men 56Kg, 62Kg, 69Kg, 77Kg & 85Kg.
13.30 Women all categories
16:00 Men 94Kg, 105Kg & 105+Kg
19:30 Closing function

- ◆ These are some of the Pacific Island young lifters who are likely to be entered by their Federations to compete at the forthcoming Commonwealth Youth Games to be held on November 29th to December 4th, 2004, in Bendigo (Victoria) Australia.

Cook Islands: Sam Pera Jr. 94kg

Samoa:3 lifters in these categories: 62Kg, 77Kg & 85Kg.

Fiji: Mary Anne Jiuta 75+kg, Norman Daunoco (Men 69kg)

Nauru:Susan Hiram 53kg, Sheba Deireragea 75kg, Itte Detenamo 105+kg