



## NEWSLETTER -SEPTEMBER 2004

# “2004 ATHENS OLYMPIC GAMES”

The 28<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games held in Athens are over. Perhaps one of the greatest Olympics ever held. The weightlifting training and competition venue in Athens was unquestionably the best venue the sport has ever had.

The weightlifting event in some categories produced some excellent performances whilst in some others the performances were not as high as expected.

The stringent and mandatory dope testing applied constantly by the IWF and also WADA has played a big part in bringing the standard of competition closer together.

It was pleasing to see in Athens for the first time smaller countries competing in some categories on par with the larger countries. For that the IWF must be congratulated for their continued war on doping. Even though the sport still attracts a lot of media attention when it comes to positive dope testing results, what it really means is that the IWF is very vigilant in its pursuit of doping offenders.

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The performances of the Oceania lifters and in particular the Pacific lifters were quite good. If we continue along this pathway I am convinced that by Beijing 2008, one or two Pacific lifters could be amongst the medal contenders.

Some of the outstanding performances at the Games were Dika Toua (PNG) in the 53kg category, clean & jerking 102.5kg and in doing so set a new Oceania Junior & Senior record. She placed 6<sup>th</sup> overall. This was the highest ranked performance by a Pacific athlete in all sports.

The Oceania countries and in particular the PNG contingent were ecstatic with Dika's performance even though a PNG reporter with no understanding of the sport wrote that Dika Toua "lifted exceptionally well to finish second last out of eight lifters"

In the sport of weightlifting, those who understand the sport know that well before the lifting commences countries make strategic moves up or down a category depending on the strength of that particular category. In this instance quite a few moved out due to the outstanding performances of athletes from Thailand and Indonesia, leaving in the final list the best eight competitors. There is no question whoever the reporter was, whether it was intentional or unintentional certainly degraded a magnificent performance by this young athlete placing 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

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Another lifter who performed well in Athens was Yukio Peter, (Nauru) in the 69kg category, snatching 135kg for a new Oceania Junior & Senior record and placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

Personal best performances were achieved by Sam Pera (Cook Islands) in the 105kg category, totaling 305kg. Manuel Minginfel (FSM) placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the 62kg category with a total of 272.5kg. Meamea Thomas (Kiribati) placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the 85kg he lifted extremely well as Kiribati made its debut at the Olympic Games. At only 16 years of age this young athlete has a great future ahead of him.

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Probably the biggest disappointment for the Oceania region was Sergo Chakhoyan (Australia) bombing out. We were all looking forward to a medal from Sergo as his training prior to the Games was superb and he was ranking number one going into the competition. Competing in the 85kg category, he snatched 175kg and that stage he was in third position. Unfortunately he missed his first and second attempt in the clean & jerk on 205kg which would have secured him a silver medal. He jumped to 207.5kg for gold on his third attempt, but again failed.

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Another disappointment at these Games for our region was the non participation of New Zealand. This was truly sad for the New Zealand lifters and New Zealand Weightlifting especially after working so hard to qualify at the Oceania Championships in Suva in May of this year.

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Other interesting points from the Games were the enthusiastic crowd attendance particularly during the 85kg category when Pyrrros Dimas competed.

The running of the competition was extremely professional and the Greek Weightlifting Federation should be congratulated for this as well as the IWF Secretariat for the technical service provided.

The referees generally did a good job although one or two referees should have been mindful of the fact that they are Category 1 referees. For example you do not give a white light when a lifter, witnessed by thousands of people, runs out of time or the lifter drops the bar outside the platform.

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These are the results and placing of Oceania's lifters in Athens:

| <b>MEN</b>      |                  |            |              |              |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Category</b> | <b>Athlete</b>   | <b>NOC</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Place</b> |
| 62kg            | Manuel Minginfel | FSM        | 272.5        | 10th         |
| 69kg            | Yukio Peter      | NRU        | 302.5        | 8th          |
| 77kg            | Uati Maposua     | SAM        | 280.0        | 21st         |
| 85kg            | Meamea Thomas    | KIR        | 292.5        | 13th         |
| 85kg            | Sergo Chakhoyan  | AUS        | 0.0          | DNF          |
| 105kg           | Sam Pera         | COK        | 305.0        | 14th         |
| 105kg           | Eleei Ilalio     | ASA        | 295.0        | 15th         |
| +105kg          | Itte Detenamo    | NRU        | 347.5        | 14th         |

| WOMEN    |                |     |       |       |
|----------|----------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Category | Athlete        | NOC | Total | Place |
| 53kg     | Dika Toua      | PNG | 177.5 | 6th   |
| 75kg     | Deborah Lovely | AUS | 207.5 | 13th  |
| +75kg    | Reanna Solomon | NRU | 220.0 | 11th  |
| +75kg    | Ivy Shaw       | FIJ | 185.0 | 12th  |

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation wishes to thank the OOTC program and in particular ONOC for the assistance provided to all the pacific lifters in preparation for Athens.

#### Oceania Lifters in Athens



Reanna Solomon



Itte Detenamo



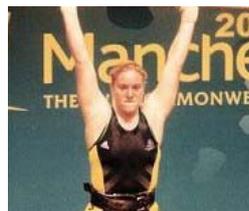
Yukio Peter



Manuel Minginfel



Dika Toua



Deborah Lovely



Sam Pera



Ivy Shaw



Meamea Thomas



Uati Maposua



Eleei Ilalio



Sergo Chakhoyan

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#### MERMET INTERNATIONAL CUP

The Mermet Cup Weightlifting International Tournament will be held in Melbourne on October 30th. Apart from Australian and New Zealand lifters, the national team of USA will take part.

From the Pacific region Yukio Peter and Itte Detenamo (Nauru) will be competing and we hope also that Dika Toua (PNG) will be competing as well.

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## 2004 COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES

The second Commonwealth Youth Games for athletes 18 years and under will be held in the City of Bendigo from the 29th November to the 4th December. The competition itself will be held on the 1st December to the 3rd December.

Countries that have indicated their participation are the Cook Islands, England, Fiji, India, Kiribati, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, PNG, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Wales and of course Australia.

I will provide more details to all the Oceania countries as the event gets closer.

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## AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Australian Olympic Committee in January of next year will be hosting the 2005 Australian Youth Olympic Festival. The Festival will be held in Sydney on January 19-23. Weightlifting has been included in the program. The age limit for the weightlifters is under 21 years. In other words on the day of the competition the lifter must be under 21 years of age.

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation has been asked to enter a male and female team (excluding Australia and New Zealand). These two countries will enter their own teams. Other countries taking part will be the USA, Chinese Taipei and South Africa.

The Oceania team selected for this international event is as follows:

| <b>MEN</b>      |                  |            |                      |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>Category</b> | <b>Athlete</b>   | <b>NOC</b> | <b>YEAR OF BIRTH</b> |
| 56              | Starron Dowabobo | NRU        | 1984                 |
| 62              | Temake Tekaei    | KIR        | 1986                 |
| 69              | Yukio Peter      | NRU        | 1984                 |
| 77              | David Katoatau   | KIR        | 1987                 |
| 85              | Meamea Thomas    | KIR        | 1987                 |
| 94              | Sam Pera Junior  | COK        | 1989                 |
| 105             | Tavita Palailii  | SAM        | 1984                 |
| +105            | Itte Detenamo    | NRU        | 1986                 |

| <b>WOMEN</b>    |                    |            |                      |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>Category</b> | <b>Athlete</b>     | <b>NOC</b> | <b>YEAR OF BIRTH</b> |
| 48              | Rita Kare          | PNG        | 1989                 |
| 53              | Dika Toua          | PNG        | 1984                 |
| 58              | Alexandra Patris   | PLW        | 1989                 |
| 63              | Alexandrina Patris | PLW        | 1989                 |
| 69              | Sera Tawai         | FIJ        | 1984                 |
| 75              | Sheba Deireragea   | NRU        | 1986                 |
| +75             | Sioe Haioti        | NIU        | 1985                 |

**TEAM OFFICIALS**

|                |                   |                    |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Manager        | Tony Hole         | Cook Islands       |
| Head Coach     | Paul Coffa        | OWF Institute Fiji |
| Coach (Male)   | Rokete Toganang   | Kiribati           |
| Coach (Female) | Lorri Ann Bernado | Palau              |

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**ARAFURA GAMES incorporating the OCEANIA & SOUTH PACIFIC JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Next year, for the first time weightlifting will be part of the Arafura Games. The competition will be held in Darwin. At this stage the date of the competition is set for May 15-17, 2005

This tournament will be by far the biggest weightlifting tournament ever held in the Northern Territory and the local weightlifting association should be congratulated in staging this event. I urge all countries of the Oceania region to take part in this first ever Arafura Weightlifting Event.

Information will be sent to you in the near future by Andrew Forrest, President & Coach of the Northern Territory Weightlifting Association.

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Finally the OWF will be setting up a new website soon which will be monitored from its headquarters in Fiji. I will advise you as soon as this website is on line.

**PAUL COFFA MBE**  
GENERAL SECRETARY