

OCEANIA WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION



27th July, 2006

APIA - THE NEW WORLD OF WEIGHTLIFTING



The crowd



On July 11th – 15th, Apia, Samoa, played host to 30 countries during the Commonwealth, Oceania and South Pacific Championships, (Junior & Senior) and also the 1st Pacific Rim International Tournament.

The new weightlifting stadium where the Oceania Weightlifting Institute is based came alive at 5.00pm on July 12th, when a packed stadium welcomed the 30 countries to Samoa and set up a new era for the sport of weightlifting in this region.

A very proud, Prime Minister of Samoa and Patron of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, the Hon Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi praised the Oceania & Samoa Weightlifting Federations on producing such a world class event and in doing so creating a path whereby next year the weightlifting event of the South Pacific Games will be of equal standard.

This international event was supported by the Government of Samoa through the South Pacific Games Authority as these championships were a test event for the South Pacific Games next year.

The Championships was sponsored by Telecom Samoa and was a direct live telecast by SBC. The telecast was on for three and half days. It was also telecast live to quite a few countries in the Oceania region but more important it was telecast live three hours a day to China with an estimated viewing audience in excess of 300 million.



The two national newspapers, Samoa Observer and Newsline made a superb coverage for the duration of the Championships. With front page, back page and inside pages all carrying stories and pictures of the event. Mr. Anthony Upton, from the Samoa Observer was highly praised by Dr. Tamas Ajan, President of the IWF, for his contribution to weightlifting.

The lifting itself produced some excellent performances in particular from China who thanks to the Chinese Weightlifting Association President, Mr. Ma Wenguang who made it possible for China to be here with a large delegation.



From the Oceania perspective undoubtedly the best performance came from Manuel Minginfel from FSM winning the 62kg category with his best ever total of 284kg. He narrowly missed 165kg clean & jerk, which would have given him a 293kg total. He finished up winning his category with a total of 284kg defeating Zheng Zhisheng from China with a total of 273Kg.

Another outstanding performance was put up by Yukio Peter in the 77kg category. Yukio would have defeated Liu Haihua from China if he had succeeded with his second and third attempt on 194kg which he narrowly missed both times. He came second with a total of 330kg. Liu Haihua won with 343Kg.

Other outstanding performances from the Oceania region came from Richard Patterson of New Zealand winning the Commonwealth Championships in the 85kg category with a total of 305Kg, Nuisila Opeloge of Samoa also winning the Commonwealth Championship in the 105kg category with a total of 320Kg and at junior level, Sam Pera Junior from the Cook Islands in the 105Kg produced his best ever total of 311kg.



In the women section an outstanding performance was put up by Keffilini Tualau from Tonga in the 75+kg category with a total of 215Kg, and the new superstar on the horizon Ele Opolege from Samoa with only six months of training produced a great total of 210kg also in the 75+Kg. Nadeene Latiff from Australia lifted very well in the 53kg category winning the Pacific Rim Tournament with a total of 153Kg.



The overall winner by Sinclair formula was Liu Haihua from China in the men section 77Kg Category winning AUD\$3,000 whilst in the female section the best lifter was Shu Jie'an from China in the 63Kg category also winning AUD\$3000.

A technical workshop was also held during the Championships on behalf of the IWF to upgrade the standard of referees in this region.

The President of the International Weightlifting Federation, Dr. Tamas Ajan and Mrs. Marta Ajan were in attendance. Dr. Ajan opened the Oceania and Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation Congresses. Some of the decisions made at the Oceania Congress were as follows:

2007 - Oceania & Commonwealth Junior Championships to be held in Darwin, Australia in conjunction with the Arafura Games to be held in the month of May.

2007 - Oceania & Commonwealth Senior Championships and the second Pacific Cup tournament to be held in the month of November 2007, in Apia, Samoa.

2008 - Oceania & South Pacific Championships (Senior & Junior) to be held in Auckland as part of the Olympic Qualification event.

Other matters:

- Mr. Tony Hole from the Cook Islands was elected 1st Vice President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation.
- The Hon. Marcus Stephen was elected Vice President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation.
- Tokelau Weightlifting Federation was unanimously accepted a member country of the OWF. Hence the OWF now has 23 member countries affiliated.

Paul Coffa MBE

GENERAL SECRETARY

Photos taken by Miles Wydall. Thanks Miles.

