

# FIG FLASH

Nr 78 – July / August 2008



## FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE

### FIG TOP NEWS



#### Launch of New FIG Website

*FIG:* Just prior to the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games, the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) has launched its Olympics microsite which provides news, quotes, interviews, schedules and behind the scenes information on Gymnastics at the Olympic Games: <http://www.figbeijing2008.sportcentric.com/>

This additional microsite is designed to coordinate with the new FIG website, which will open its doors soon. Until then, Gymnastics fans can still find all relevant information at <http://www.fig-gymnastics.com>.

### OLYMPIC GYMNASTICS BEIJING 2008

#### Olympic Gymnastics Venues in Beijing

*Olympic Review Issue 67 (IOC):* Two venues will be used in Beijing for Gymnastics events: the National Indoor Stadium on the Olympic Green will be used for Artistic and Trampoline Gymnastics events, while the Beijing University of Technology Gymnasium, to the south-east of the city, hosts Rhythmic Gymnastics. The Indoor Stadium has a capacity of 19,000 and the University of Technology venue seats 7,500 spectators.

#### 2008 Summer Olympic Games Preview - Gymnastics

*PHILADELPHIA, July 17, 2008 (Sports Network):*

<http://www.canada.com/topics/sports/tsnstory.html?id=6375040>



#### Russia, China and Others Set for Olympic Glory

*HAMBURG (dpa) -* The Russian and American gymnastics teams are expected to dominate the sport's disciplines at the Beijing Olympics, although host country China remains confident of a breakthrough.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/sportsplus/sportsplus.php?id=129024>

#### Beijing - Rhythmic Gymnastics Preview: Russia's "dream team" unbeatable, Chinese seek breakthrough

*BEIJING, July 20, 2008 (Xinhua):* Russia's "dream team" of world-class rhythmic gymnasts is widely expected to stage a perfect gold-winning show at the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games, as host China seeks breakthrough in team event. Russia, a traditional rhythmic powerhouse, has proved to be unbeatable in nearly all major international events in recent years, and many believe the Beijing Olympics will be no exception.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/20/content\\_8587645.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/20/content_8587645.htm)

## FIG HEADQUARTER NEWS

### FIG Officials visit Gymnastics Training Centre in Siberia

LAUSANNE, July 15, 2008 (FIG): Following an invitation by Mr Andrey Kostin (RUS), President of the Russian Gymnastics Federation, FIG President Prof Bruno Grandi (ITA) and FIG Honorary Vice-President Mr Norbert Bueche (SUI) visited the Gymnastics training centre in Leninsk – Kouznetsky (RUS) on June 15, 2008. The centre is not only important to the development of Gymnastics in the region, but it provides a place for the Russian Gymnastics elite to train. Thus, in preparation of the Beijing Olympic Games, the Russian national Artistic Gymnastics team (men and women) train in Leninsk – Kouznetsky.

### 2008 FIG Events - Media Accreditation

LAUSANNE, July 31, 2008 (FIG): The accreditation desk on the FIG website is now open for the following events in 2008:



9 <sup>th</sup> Trampoline Gymnastics World Cup Final	Togliatti	RUS	Sept 19-20
7 <sup>th</sup> Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup Final	Benidorm	ESP	Oct 3-5
21 <sup>st</sup> Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships	Glasgow	GBR	Oct 10-12
77 <sup>th</sup> FIG Congress	Helsinki	FIN	Oct 17-19
14 <sup>th</sup> Artistic Gymnastics World Cup Final	Madrid	ESP	Dec 13-14

To register (create a new account) or to log in (if you already have an account), please visit:

<http://www.fedintgym.com/mediamanager/>

We kindly remind you that the accreditation process is required for a valid credential. Should you have any questions regarding transportation or accommodations, please feel free to ask the Media Contact on site.

### FIG Congress

Debates held at the FIG Congress in Helsinki will not be made public, in keeping with Federation Statutes. However, the opening and closing remarks, along with daily media quotes/meetings will give the press an opportunity to follow both the decision-making process and the elections.

### The Pursuit of Excellence



MONTREAL - LAUSANNE, July 8, 2008 (FIG): The Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique and the Cirque du Soleil are pooling their efforts in an exclusive partnership aimed at helping high level gymnasts having come to the end of their careers in sport to forge their way in the workplace. A four year agreement, the FIG / CDS partnership will foster a climate of exchange between the two organisations, focusing on image and strategy. The joint objective of the CDS and the FIG is to coordinate efforts geared toward assisting athletes in the decisional process while respecting the rules and ethical principles of sporting competitions with all transparency.

## FIG DISCIPLINES



### **Bulgaria's Jovtchev may postpone retirement**

*SOFIA, July 23, 2008 (Reuters):* Bulgarian gymnast Jordan Jovtchev may reconsider his decision to retire after next month's Olympics, although the Beijing Games look certain to be his last. In an interview with Reuters, 35-year-old rings specialist Jovtchev said he might still compete in a major championship.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/olympicsNews/idUSL2255746720080723>



### **Rhythmic Gymnastics is one of the most aesthetically stunning Olympic events**

*July 23, 2008 (Eurosport):*

<http://uk.eurosport.yahoo.com/23072008/58/beijing-2008-quick-guide-rhythmic-gymnastics.html>

- Final decision of the CAS in the Deriugina case
- LAUSANNE, August 3, 2008 (FIG): The Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (SUI) released its final decision concerning the appeal lodged by Ms Irina Deriugina on July 8th, 2008. The CAS confirmed the following sanctions taken by the FIG:
- To suspend Ms Deriugina from her function as a member of the RG TC and any other official function within the FIG immediately and until the end of the current cycle (31.12.2008), and to suspend her from any future official function within the FIG until the end of the 2009-2012 cycle.
- To exclude Ms Deriugina from participation in any FIG Committee or Commission activity effective immediately and until the end of the 2009-2012 cycle.
- To withdraw Ms Deriugina's RG judge's brevet immediately and until the end of the 2009-2012 cycle.
- The decision to suspend Ms Deriugina from participating in any official FIG event was lifted by the CAS. She will be allowed to participate in any official FIG event and Multi-sport Games, as a member of the Ukrainian Gymnastics Federation.
- The CAS also imposed a fine of CHF 2'000 to cover FIG costs.

## IOC NEWS



### **Death of Mr Kurt Furgler, IOC Honorary Member since 2000**

*LAUSANNE, July 24, 2008 (IOC):* The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr Kurt Furgler, former President of the Swiss Confederation, at the age of 84.

Kurt Furgler was named Honour member of the IOC in 2000. He was a very active member of the IOC's Ethics and Nominations Commissions. Kurt Furgler's expertise and good judgment in legal and ethical affairs as well as his outstanding human qualities were recognised and appreciated by the Olympic Movement.

[http://www.olympic.org/uk/news/media\\_centre/press\\_release\\_uk.asp?id=2650](http://www.olympic.org/uk/news/media_centre/press_release_uk.asp?id=2650)

### **International Olympic Committee Brokers Agreement with Iraqi Government**

*LAUSANNE, July 29, 2008 (IOC):* An agreement between the Iraqi government and the International Olympic Committee clears the way for Iraqi participation in the Olympic Games in Beijing.

[http://www.olympic.org/uk/news/media\\_centre/press\\_release\\_uk.asp?id=2661](http://www.olympic.org/uk/news/media_centre/press_release_uk.asp?id=2661)

## FIG MEMBER FEDERATIONS



### Rhythmic Gymnastics, a sport brought to Israel by Russian immigrants

*July 16, 2008 (The Jerusalem Post):* Rachel Vigdorichik and Ela Samotalov are coaching the Israeli Rhythmic Gymnastics team. About 3,000 girls are training in gyms across the country, according to Rachel Vigdorichik. She oversees 300 of them at the gym she runs in Holon and at another branch in Jaffa for Arab girls. The language in the hall is predominately Russian; six of the eight rhythmic gymnasts are immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The two Israel natives are the daughters of immigrants. Vigdorichik, who moved to Israel in 1979, was scheduled to perform in the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, her hometown, but she stayed home when the Israeli team boycotted, along with other countries, in protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Now, she tutors Irina Risenzon and Neta Rivkin, who at 17 is the youngest member of the Israeli Olympic team. Ela Samotalov, the coach for the team event, came in 1991 from Minsk. She says she is still getting accustomed to Israel's more spartan sports culture.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1215330983205&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>



### Macedonia: Donation of new Gymnastics equipment

*FGSM:* Mr Dimitrios Dimitropoulos, President of the European Gymnastics Federation (UEG), visited the Macedonian Gymnastics Federation (FGSM) on July 9, 2008. The UEG donated new gymnastics equipment to FGSM to replace old equipment originating from the age of communism.

<http://www.fgsm.org.mk/>



### Namibia: Gymnastics season starts on a high note

*July 20, 2008 (Janna van Zyl):*

<http://www.namibiasport.com.na/?q=node/4833>



### Algeria: A promising future for Aerobic Gymnastics:

#### National Coaching Course in Aerobic Gymnastics, Algiers, June 27 - 29, 2008

*July 1, 2008 (UAG):* Organised by the Algerian Gymnastics Federation and directed by the AGF Technical Committee, the course had 34 coaches and 21 gymnasts participating. The guest lecturers and coaches were John Atkinson (GBR), President of the FIG Aerobic Gymnastics Technical Committee and Mireille Ganzin (FRA), member of the FIG Aerobic Gymnastics Technical Committee.

[http://www.uagym.org/francais/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=225&Itemid=24](http://www.uagym.org/francais/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=225&Itemid=24)



### Mr Sawat Sopa re-elected as President of Thailand Gymnastics Association

BANKOK, July 20, 2008 (AGU): Mr Sawat Sopa has been re-elected as President of the Thailand Gymnastics Association (GAT). The elections were held on June 9, 2008 at the Imperial Queenpark Hote in Bangkok, Thailand. See below the full list of the GAT Executive Committee new board for the 2008-2010 cycle:

- |    |          |         |                  |                   |
|----|----------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Mr       | Sawat   | Sopa             | President         |
| 2. | Mr       | Suchon  | Wattanapongvanit | Vice President    |
| 3. | Ms       | Jarupan | Kunapan          | Vice President    |
| 4. | Lt. Cdr. | Srayuth | Patanasak        | Secretary General |

<http://www.qatargym1.com/english-articlelive/articles/56/1/Mr-Sawat-was-re-elected-as-President-of-Thailand-Gymnastics-Association/.html>

## UPCOMING FIG EVENTS



Olympic Games

Beijing

CHN

August 8 – 24, 2008



9th Trampoline Gymnastics  
World Cup Final

Togliatti

RUS

September 19 – 20, 2008



7th Rhythmic Gymnastics  
World Cup Final

Benidorm

ESP

October 3 – 5, 2008



21st Acrobatic Gymnastics  
World Championships

Glasgow

GBR

October 10 – 12, 2008



77th FIG Congress

Helsinki

FIN

October 17 – 19, 2008



14th Artistic Gymnastics  
World Cup Final

Madrid

ESP

December 13 – 14, 2008

## FIG MEDIA CONTACT

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