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We Are Basketball

FASTBREAK

DIGITAL

June 15-30, 2008



GRAT START FOR BEACH BASKETBALL

A beach in the city of Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, served as backdrop for the Beach Basketball's 3-on-3 modality, organized by FIBA – Americas.

FIRST-CLASS QUALITY ON 3X3

As part of the Project first started in 2006, FIBA – Americas keeps on moving towards making “Beach Basketball” a reality, in a specialty known as “3 on 3”.

In charge of this Project is Horacio Muratore, President of the Argentinean Basketball Confederation, who held a meeting with people interested in further developing the concept.

In that meeting, Mariano Vazquez, (Argentina); Roberto Beck, (Brazil); Hector Martinez (Puerto Rico); Jose Baquerizo, (Ecuador); Fernando Marquez, (Venezuela); and Joan Barcelo (Dominican Republic) were in attendance. The first test-competition took place in the Dominican Republic, wherein the “Duarte con Paris” defeated “Amigos de Mauricio Baez”, taking with them 60,000 pesos.

It was a close game that finished, 21-18, and that was held in a costumed-made court located in a public beach. With the win, “Duarte con Paris” secured a place representing the country in future, same-nature international tournaments of FIBA – Americas.

The members of the winning team were Persio Oviedo, Marcos Soto, Kendry Peralta, and Manuel Fortuna. For the losing team: Rigoberto Solano, Victor Estrella, Jose Guzman, and Emil Ramirez; they in turn received a bonus of 40,000 pesos.

In third place, “Los Swatt” lost in semi-finals with “Amigos de Mauricio Baez”, 10-21. “Los Malcriados” finished in fourth place.

Julio Subero, President of FIBA – Americas, awarded the final prize to the champions of the tournament, which was supported by local sponsors.

There was also a competition for members of the press, which was finally won by “Los Macos”, integrated by Odalis Sanchez and Carlos Alonzo. “Los Macos” defeated “Los Pempen”, integrated by Oscar Piña and Vladimir Valdez.

This test allowed top directives from the International Basketball Federation in Americas (FIBA – Americas), present in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, for a three-day congress, to witness different aspects of this modality of beach basketball.

Furthermore, this competition was part of the national eliminator to choose the team that will be representing the Dominican Republic at the Pan-American Tour, which is scheduled to be held in some nations around the Continent.



BRASIL, AT THE TOP



The "South American Championship for Women XXXI Edition" has a new ruler, Brazil, who having defeated Argentina in the last game of the competition, won the right to call themselves Champions.

Chile, third place

The first game to be played the last day of this championship was between the teams from Chile and Venezuela. In their last games, Chile made an impressive recovery and again showed their skill and strong spirit. They would again meet against Venezuela who defeated them in the second day of the games. Even as Chile dominated the game since the first few minutes, Venezuela did not throw in the towel and fought tooth and nail for every basket attempted against them. The Chilean squad, who came to the court with a very tight defense, rallied in the last minutes and managed to win the game and grab the third place.

The Champion: Brazil

Brazil and Argentina played the most important game of the evening. Both teams have won a ticket for the FIBA Americas Championship for Women next year. Last night they played for the honor of being the Champion of this edition of the South American event. It was the classic bout between these two giants of the sport. Argentina had already met with Brazil in the third day of the event and lost.

The first few minutes of the game were for Argentina, who came in strong into the court and took advantage of some of the mistakes by Brazil and managed to score several baskets due to that. After a few tactical changes by Brazil head coach, Paulo Bassul, helped the team get on its feet and fought and won the advantage from then on. Even with Argentina making adjustments and playing a very strong offense, Brazil managed to convert

on errors made by them. The first half ended 43 a 26 in favor of the Brazilian squad. With a third quarter firmly under the control of Brazil, things were continued to flow in Brazil's way. Argentina made a valiant effort to catch up but in the end Brazil won, for the second time in this event, the game and thus the first place of the Championship. The final score was 84 to 67.

Final Standings

- 1st. Place: Brasil
- 2nd. Place: Argentina
- 3rd. Place: Chile
- 4th. Place: Venezuela
- 5th. Place: Colombia
- 6th. Place: Ecuador



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RULE CHANGES PART 1

The FIBA Central Board, the highest executive body of the International Basketball Federation, met in Beijing, China, approved some major and historic decisions with regards to the rules of the international game. among were moving of the 3-point line from 6.25 meters to 6.75 meters, and replacing FIBA's traditional trapezoid lane with the rectangular lane.

Upon recommendation of the FIBA Technical Commission (the group of experts that deal with the game rules), the FIBA Central Board approved several amendments to the Official Basketball Rules.

The recommendations by the FIBA Technical Commission and the decisions taken by the Central Board were led by the attempt to further unify all existing game rules and to have, in the future, only one set of rules for the game of basketball worldwide.

Below is a summary of all approved rule changes, which include historic amendments like the extension of the 3-point line (in place since 1984) and the change of the trapezoid restricted area (in place since the 1950s) to a rectangular one.



Referee's, necessary key on the new FIBA reglamentation approval.

Official Basketball Rules 2008:

All below-mentioned rules will come into effect as of 1st October 2008, i.e. after the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Art. 4.3 Uniforms

The provision that T-shirts may be worn by players under their game uniforms is not valid anymore.

Art. 25.2.3 Player falling on the floor

It is legal when a player falls and slides on the floor while holding the ball.

Art. 28.1.3 Ball goes into team's frontcourt

The ball goes to the teams' frontcourt when, during the dribble from backcourt to frontcourt, both feet of the dribbler and the ball are in contact with the frontcourt.

Art. 30.1.2 Ball returned to the backcourt

It will not be a violation anymore if a player, who jumps from his frontcourt, establishes a new team control while still airborne and then lands in his team's backcourt.

Art. 31 Goaltending and interference

If a player reaches through the basket from below and touches the ball, it is an interference (and not a simple violation) with all the relevant rule consequences.

Art. 36.1.4 Unsportsmanlike foul

If a defensive player causes contact with an opponent from behind or laterally in an attempt to stop a fast break and there is no opponent between the offensive player and the opponents' basket, then the contact shall be judged to be unsportsmanlike.

Art. 38.3.1 Technical foul

A technical foul can be called on a player for excessive swinging of elbows (without contact).

WILL CONTINUE...

ONE ON ONE



**WITH
JIM TOOLEY
(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR USA-BASKETBALL)**



1- YOU SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE USA BASKETBALL MEN'S PROGRAM SINCE JANUARY OF 2001, WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN DUTIES?

Mis responsabilidades principales son el supervisar las operaciones diarias de la organización; incluyendo los programas Masculino y Femenino, aspectos de negocios y relaciones internacionales.

2-HOW WELL PREPARED WILL THE NATIONAL MEN'S TEAM BE TO FACE THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES? WILL THEY BE READY TO TAKE THE GOLD?

Comenzamos los trabajos con el Equipo Nacional masculino en el 2006, y para cuando lleguemos a Pekín tendremos una continuidad considerable, lo que nos beneficiará como equipo. El nivel de competición en las Olimpiadas será tremendo, con muchos equipos de muy buen nivel. Estamos listos para el reto y esperamos poder regresar a casa con la medalla de oro.

Adicional a esto, nuestro Equipo Nacional femenino está en busca de su cuarta medalla de oro consecutiva en una Olimpiada. Ellas también estarán listas para enfrentar el reto de enfrentarse a los mejores equipos del mundo en el 2008. Al igual que la competencia masculina, esta competencia olímpica promete ser la más competitiva hasta la fecha.

3- HOW ARE YOUR RELATIONS WITH FIBA AND NBA GOVERNING BODIES?

Las relaciones de USA Basketball con FIBA nunca han estado tan sólidas como ahora. Deseamos ser un buen socio de FIBA, ayudando con el continuo desarrollo de este extraordinario deporte. Nuestra relación con la NBA, y sus equipos (incluyendo la WNBA) es también muy sólida. Trabajamos juntos en muchas áreas, en particular todo lo relacionado a la confección de nuestros equipos nacionales de mayores. Esperamos continuar trabajando de manera positiva con FIBA y la NBA en los años por venir.

4- DO YOU LIKE THE FIBA RULE CHANGES THAT WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN 2010?

Me gustan mucho los cambios a las Reglas de FIBA, que entrarán en efecto luego del Campeonato Mundial del 2010. Estos cambios serán tendrán un gran significado de camino a la unificación de las reglas de baloncesto a nivel mundial.

ONE ON ONE



**WITH
HORACIO MURATORE
(PRESIDENT - ARGENTINA'S BASKETBALL FEDERATION)**

1- YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING SINCE JANUARY 1992, AS PRESIDENT OF THE CABB (ARGENTINEAN BASKETBALL CONFEDERATION). WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN DUTIES?

I was appointed as President of the CABB "Argentinean Basketball Confederation" in 1992. My duties include presiding over the Central Board of the institution, main regent body in charge of improving and developing basketball in our country; to administrate and coordinates the activities of each of our 24 provincial federations, Women's Federation, and National League; managing all of our national teams, and our School of Referees and Coaches; and also, organize the provincial championships, mini-basketball, junior and youth clubs' leagues within our country.

2- HOW WELL PREPARED WILL THE NATIONAL MEN'S TEAM BE TO FACE THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES? WILL THEY BE READY TO TAKE THE GOLD?

We have a training plan, as well as exhibition games just so we could get to the Olympic Games in the best shape possible. Our players were already summoned by our Coaching Staff, and the first training camp has been set for July 4th, in the city of Rosario, Santa Fe. Our main goal is to repeat the gold medal in Athens 2004.

3- HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GOVERNING BODIES OF FIBA AND THE NBA?

The "CABB" has an excellent relationship with FIBA; it is one of FIBA's founding federations and we feel permanently supported [by them] in our efforts.

Our relationship with the NBA is recent, and it's improving due to the participation of Argentinean players as an institutional, protocol relationship.

4- DO YOU LIKE THE FIBA RULE CHANGES THAT WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN 2010?

As part of basketball's evolution, some changes were needed in order to further improve the sport. I, as member of the Central Board of FIBA, have supported the implementation of these proposed changes.

SUCCESSFUL REFEREE'S CLINICS IN BARBADOS



Lubomir Kotleba and Anibal Garcia, Technical Directors of FIBA and FIBA Americas respectively, recently wound up a FIBA Certification/Recertification Referees Clinic in Bridgetown, Barbados for referees of the Caribbean Basketball Confederation's member countries. Mr. Kotleba and Mr. Garcia were assisted by local Instructor and CBC Vice President-Technical, Mr. Glyne Clarke.

The Clinic funded locally by the Barbados Olympic Association Inc. and the Barbados Amateur Basketball Association was held May 13-15, 2008 at the BOA Headquarters. 28 participants from 11 countries attended the Clinic; countries present were Antigua & Barbuda, British Virgin Islands,

Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, US Virgin Islands and host Barbados. 6 candidate referees and 22 revalidating their licenses, including four female referees from across the CBC region.

Mr. Kotleba and Mr. Garcia both lauded the local organizers and remarked that it was one of the most successful clinics on the region ever.

ARGENTINA, HOST BOTH FIBA AMERICAS U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fiba-Americas and the Basketball Confederation of Argentina announced Argentina as the host country for the next FIBA Americas U18 Championships for Men and Women.

The FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Men will be taking place from 14-18 July 2008 at the "Estadio Cincuentenario" in Formosa. National teams from Venezuela, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Dominican Republic, USA, Canada, and the host Argentina, will be present in the event; each competing to reach one of the 4 spots available for the FIBA World U19 Championship, to be held from 2 - 12 July 2009 in New Zealand.

The Basketball Confederation of Argentina will also be organizing the FIBA Americas U18 Championship for Women, from 23 - 27 July 2008, at the CENARD in Buenos Aires. Teams representing Brazil, Venezuela, USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Argentina will

bring to reach the four spots available for the FIBA World U19 Championship for Women to be held in July 2009, in Thailand.

CALENDARIO JUNIO 2008

Junio 9 al 15

Torneo clasificatorio femenino para Pekín, en Madrid

Junio 30 al 5 de julio

Campeonato Suramericano Masculino

AUSPICIADORES OFICIALES



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Fotos Archivos FIBA-Américas y diario El Nuevo Día

READY TO CERTIFICATION TEST FOR PLAYER'S AGENTS



On May 31st, 2008, at the Abasto Plaza Hotel in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the first FIBA Players' Agent test to take place in the Americas was held.

23 candidates from all over the globe attended the test, alongside Mr. Zoran Radovic, FIBA Development Director; Mr. Alberto Garcia, Secretary General of FIBA - Americas; Mr. Horacio Muratore, President of the Argentinean Basketball Confederation; and Ms. Ana Duque, who was in charge of the event's logistics.

The activity, that took less than 2 hours, started with two presentations given by Mr. Radovic that served to inform everyone in attendance about the newest changes made to the Internal Regulations of FIBA.

This test, the first to be held in the Americas, is one of the six that have been held so far. As of this writing, three sessions have been held in Geneva: two in March and October 2007, respectively, and one on March 18th, 2008. Two more sessions have been held in Oceania, one in October 2007 and the other as recent as on May 2008.

The purpose of these tests is to provide a FIBA-approved certification for all those who are interested in act as Players' Agents alongside the member Federations, their leagues and clubs, in order for them to comply with the new requirements imposed by the Internal Regulations of FIBA regarding the relationship between player-club-agent. Moreover, this will further improve the way each of the Zones of FIBA deal with the International Transfers of players.

The main goal of FIBA is to have, within the next two years, every agent around the World acting as a FIBA-certified agent, in order to secure the proper implementation of the FIBA regulations.

Below is a list of the agents that pass the test, and were therefore certified as FIBA Players' Agents:

Hend Abufarie - JOR
Javier Caballero - ARG
Juan Pablo Da Pra Barreiro - URU
Sergio Dans Perez - URU
Javier De La Fuente - ARG
Miguel Ángel Ferreyra - ARG
Gustavo Gorini - ARG
Peter Holy - SVK

Raúl Molinaroli - ARG
Gustavo Monella - ARG
Daniel Morales - UUR
José Nassar - BRA
Kevin Owens - USA
Claudio Pereira - URU
Carla Rimoli De Yacullo - ARG
Carlos Roca - URU

David Rodriguez Castro - ESP
Jesús Rostan - URU / ITA
Jiri Tichopad Sr. - CZE
Jiri Tichopad Jr. - CAN
Luis Traverso Sanchez - PER
Esteban Villar - ARG
Israel Wasserman - ISR

AMERICAS LEGENDS

By Carlos Uriarte González

RUPERTO HERRERA

Ruperto Herrera was already 6' 2" when he began his glorious basketball career at the age of 14 in Havana, Cuba. It was a career that spanned 18 years and five continents.

Herrera, now 57, was named captain of Cuba's national team in 1971 and remained at the helm until his retirement in 1982.

The 6-7, 215-pound Herrera was singled out for his defensive abilities versus bigger men in addition to his skills on offense.

"I had to defend versus the big man and maintain a certain scoring quota," said Herrera.

In addition to his current role as president of Cuba's Basketball Federation, Herrera is also vice president of the Cuban Olympic Committee and president of the Central American-Caribbean Basketball Confederation as well as a member of the FIBA Americas board.

His best moment was when he helped Cuba defeat the U.S. team in 1971 during the Pan Am Games in Cali, Colombia, as well as Cuba's bronze medal won at the 1972 Olympics in Munich. At the Olympics in Montreal Canada, Cuba finished in sixth place.

Herrera said he doesn't know how many games he played over his 18-year career.

"I don't remember the exact number, but I know with certainty that it was more than 500 and I think I scored more than 10,000 points," said Herrera.

Alejandro Urguells, Pedro Chappé, Tomás "El Jabao" Herrera were Ruperto's teammates on the Cuban national team from 1970-76 versus physically bigger and stronger teams. Herrera said Cuba's secret weapon was its defense.

"Cuba had a Lithuanian coach, who helped coach Carmelo Ortega," said Herrera. "He emphasized the defense as the key element for success. During the game versus the United States in 1971 we only turned over the ball three or four times. The strategy was to wear the other team down with our stamina."

Herrera, who was in Las Vegas last August to watch the FIBA Americas Championship, remembers fondly other legends such as Raymond Dalmau, (Puerto Rico) Arturo Guerrero, (México), Marcel De Sousa (Brasil) and Teo Cruz (Puerto Rico).

Herrera was given the FIBA Merit Award in 2002 and is a candidate for the FIBA Basketball Hall of Fame in Spain.

WILL CONTINUE...

