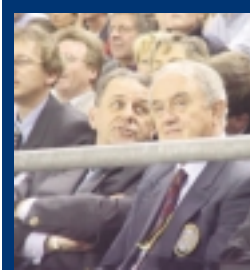
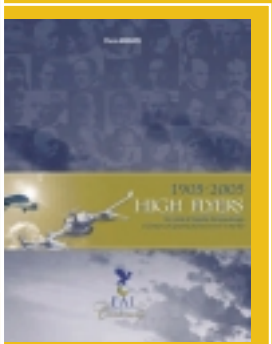
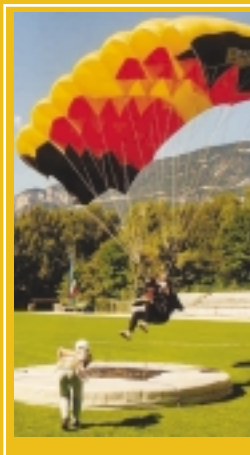


OLYMPIC ORDER



The President of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), Prof. Bruno Grandi, was awarded with the Olympic Order for his efforts in "constructing a better world by way of sport and its pedagogical values". The uncontested highlight of the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Congress 'Sport for All' – which was held in Rome, Italy, from November 11 through 14 – was the presentation of the Olympic Order, crowning Grandi's devotion to sport, youth and education. The IOC President, Dr. Jacques Rogge, himself rendered the homage to the FIG President.

THE FIRST 100 YEARS



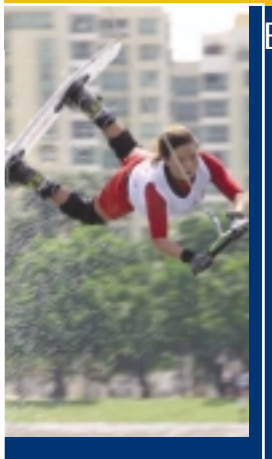
The World Air Sports Federation (FAI) will celebrate its first century of existence during 2005. The FAI was founded on October 14, 1905, in Paris. From there, its world headquarters were moved to Lausanne, the Olympic Capital, in 1998. To mark its special connections with both cities, FAI will hold several events throughout 2005 in Paris and in Lausanne. However, the Centenary of FAI and air sports will be celebrated in other parts of the world as well.

The first event tied in with the centennial celebrations is the Haute Voltige – FAI Grand Prix in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. From January 24 to 28, 2005, the world's best aerobatic pilots will display their flying skills and artistry to commemorate 100 years of pioneering spirit.

The list of FAI Centennial Events includes many other highlights throughout 2005: The World Games in Duisburg – with parachuting and skydiving on the program – the FAI Centenary Air Show in Lausanne, the 98th General Conference and Air Sports Show in Paris, etc.

The 224-page book to the Centenary, HIGH FLYERS – A Century of Sporting Achievement in the Air, written by sports historian Pierre Morath will be released in March 2005. It recaptures the legend of air sports and the century-old history of the FAI

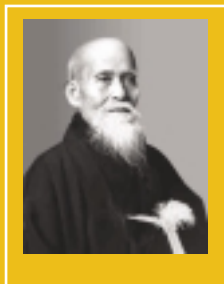
BIG AIR



Over 12,000 spectators enjoyed the sunshine, proximity to a body of water, and the spectacular sporting action on October 31, the final day of the 2004 Wakeboard World Cup's second leg, at the Bedok Reservoir in downtown Singapore. The event was another highlight of the inaugural International Water Ski Federation's (IWSF) World Cup circuit, which consists of top-level water skiing and wakeboarding competitions in seven major cities around the world.

One of the riders to perform at her absolute best in the women's division was Asian Champion Chen Li Li (CHN). The 17-year-old got the spectators on their feet with her series of tricks, winning for the very first time over the other contenders from Argentina and the USA. "I don't really like to wakeboard in choppy conditions," said Chen, who hails from Shanghai but spends nearly all of her time training in Sichuan. "I didn't expect to win, but the conditions were perfect and we had some pretty good wakes. I really enjoyed myself here and I hope to be back." But prior to her return to Singapore, Chen will ride in the final leg of the IWSF 2004 World Cup in Doha, Qatar, in mid-December. And – if she keeps performing like this – in The World Games 2005 Duisburg as well!

IN THE TEACHER'S SPIRIT



Aikido – the martial art developed by Morihei Ueshiba less than 100 years ago – features again in The World Games. In reverence to its founding father, the Great Teacher or O Sensei, the International Aikido Federation (IAF) refrains from having it included in the Official Sports Program. Demonstrations of the Art of Peace by collaborating partners are all one gets to see during 2005 Duisburg. There will be no bouts producing a winner and a loser, only dynamic simulations of highly effective joint locks and throws that could – if applied in earnest – put a final resolve to many martial situations. During The World Games 2005, the IAF invites the international community to take part in a series of seminars with aikido's most renowned tutors. Even Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba, the Great Teacher's grandson, confirmed his attendance.

2005: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SPORT

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, Roger Federer, tennis' world #1, and the UN Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, Adolf Ogi, launched the International Year of Sport and Physical Education in New York, USA, on November 5. "Sport is a universal language," Mr. Annan said during the press briefing on the launch of the Year, which will be observed throughout 2005. "At its best it can bring people together, no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs or economic status. And when young people participate in sports or have access to physical education, they can experience real exhilaration even as they learn the ideals of teamwork and tolerance."

The International Olympic Committee issued the following statement on the occasion: "The Olympic Movement reiterates its gratitude to the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, and his Special Adviser on Sport for Development of Peace, Adolf Ogi, for having initiated and launched the International Year of Sport and Physical Education, and guarantees its full support."

