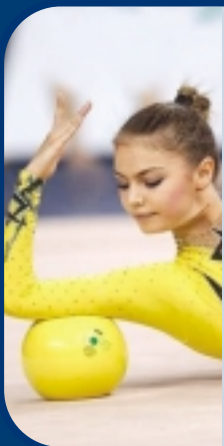


QUALIFYING FOR GAMES



The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) had two of its most recent world championships serve simultaneously as qualifying events for the Athens 2004 Olympics and The World Games 2005 Duisburg.

While the best groups – per placing in the 2003 World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Budapest (HUN) – qualified for Athens 2004, the best individual athletes in the highly aesthetic all-women sport secured their rights for participation in the upcoming edition of The World Games. In Budapest, on September 27, the first three places of the individual all-around – the compilation of results in all four apparatus: hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon – went to athletes who have dominated the sport in the past. Alina Kabaeva (RUS) took first, Anna Bessonova (UKR) second and Irina Tchachina (RUS) third place.

In trampoline, during the 2003 World Trampoline Championships in Hanover (GER), FIG took a different approach: the individuals were to qualify for Athens, the “groups” – consisting of only two athletes in the synchronized trampoline – for Duisburg. Places in the FIG contingent for The World Games 2005 were also contested in double-mini trampoline and tumbling. The 23rd World Championships were an unqualified success and drew capacity crowds at the Stadium Sports Hall. Germany placing well in nearly all events might have helped that somewhat. While many had expected World Games champion Anna Dogonadze (GER) to end up on the podium, Henrik Stehlik (GER) winning over Alexandre Moskalenko (RUS) in individual trampoline was the surprise of October 19.

IF IT WORKS ON SNOW ...



“With you as a partner it is time to launch the Water Ski World Cup (WSWC).” This is how Kuno Ritschard (SUI), President of the International Water Ski Federation (IWSF), welcomes potential hosts and sponsors to waterskiworldcup.org, a site announcing the creation of a new event series and IWSF property.

From 2004, the IWSF envisions six individual WSCW events to take place annually – from May through September – at different locations on three continents. The concept is based on increasing cohesion between open national championships and thus creating a new and global competition for the best skiers to fight for overall titles.

The IWSF is determined to stage these events in or around major cities and with a particularly attractive format – for the public in attendance as well as the media. Commercial partners, host cities and sponsors, are now sought to get the WSCW off to a

high-flying start by May next year, with the first event scheduled to take place somewhere in the USA. The marketing plans for the WSWC are drawn up. The IWSF makes a variety of packages available: from a US\$ 1.5 million title sponsorship down to US\$ 10,000 for the lowest-tier exposure levels. A host city will have to come up with US\$ 50,000 for the IWSF sanction. After an identical concept has worked successfully for 25 years on snow – the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup – why shouldn't it work on water too? The pitch to potential partners seems convincing enough.



MORE QUALIFYING



Other recent world championships were also declared qualifying events for The World Games 2005 Duisburg by their international governing bodies. In its qualification criteria, the World Squash Federation (WSF) stipulates that the top 14 nations at the 2003 World Men's Team Squash Championships are entitled to field one player each – the highest ranked in 2005 – in World Games competition, while two wild cards will get selected by WSF. The men's biennial World Team Squash Championships concluded on October 25 in Vienna, AUT. Top seeds Australia defended their title over first-time finalists France with a convincing 3-0 win. A record 30 nations had entered the event in Austria.

The Boule Lyonnaise World Championships - held in Nice, FRA, between October 7 and 12, 2003 - determined the 16 qualifiers for the Precision Throw and Shuttle Progressive Throw events of The World Games 2005 Duisburg. In accordance with the criteria established by the World Confederation of Boules Sports, the following nations have qualified to field their top athletes in 2005: Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovenia, Tunisia. The 2003 World Championships in Boule Lyonnaise were

another milestone in the game's quest to become truly international. Whoever considered “Lyonese Bowl” a game played hardly anywhere outside of France better think again: 34 nations were present in Nice. China, India, Toga, Mauritius had entered athletes for the very first time.



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