

ATHLETES OF THE WORLDGAMES



No telling whether they will be able to defend their titles in 2005; it's not even certain that they will qualify to participate in the next edition. But in 2001 Akita they were at the very top of their games ...

So far sergeant major **Marco Pflüger (GER)** accumulated some 8'000 jumps in his impressive parachuting career. It got started east of the wall which divided Germany, just two years prior to the unification, and it continues to thrive ever since.

In 1994 he became a fulltime soldier and a professional athlete. Jumping out of perfectly good aircraft became his permanent assignment. And that could well explain why he does it so much better than most others. As a member of the armed forces' sports unit, *Bundeswehr Sportfördergruppe*, he can focus on the mission of winning titles.

Perennial World and World Cup Champion since the mid 1990s, Pflüger won the accuracy landing event in 2001 Akita too. On eight out of the ten landings he managed to strike the dead center, which measures a mere 3 cm, and on two he missed - by 1 cm each time.

Asked how he achieves such astonishing consistency, Pflüger replies: *"My field of vision narrows to the essentials. I can still see the crowd - and it was impressive in Akita - I can hear it react to the opponent's landing, sometimes I even see their scores. But once I'm on final approach, I focus on nothing but the circle, then the mat, then the disk and finally the dead center."*

Easy!



2001 Akita marked the debut of billiard sports in The World Games. **Jeanette Lee (USA)** defeated Karen Corr (GBR) in the finals of the women's 9-ball pool competition.

Jeanette Lee is probably best known under her nickname *'The Black Widow'* to anyone somewhat familiar with professional pool. *'The Black Widow'* because of her known ability to devour her opponents, along with her custom of dressing up in black during a tournament.

She began playing pool in 1992 and ascended to world # 1 in under two years. Currently ranked fourth in the world, she came off the worst finish in her entire career by placing 25th at the San Diego Classic in March of this year.

"I made a commitment that this will NOT happen again," she writes on her website jeanettelee.com, "and the only way to ensure that is to take responsibility for the fact that I'm not putting in the time on the table."

In 2002, Lee was voted third in the *'World's Sexiest Athlete'* poll conducted by the American sports network ESPN. She came in right behind tennis player Anna Kournikova (RUS) and track and field star Marion Jones (USA). Her success and exotic beauty have earned her major endorsement deals. Lee is managed by Octagon.