

Issue 6

touchline

The journal of sport & risk with an international perspective

Norwegian Sport Examined

Interview:
Tom Maher
Head Coach of GB
Women's Basketball

Risk Management
FOCUS - New Regular Feature

Countdown to the World Cup
- we predict the winners!

plus + | insight | on track | sports shorts | profile | world news round up



A Very Happy 10th Birthday



Sportscover Europe Limited celebrated its 10th birthday on 1st March. Established as Sportscover UK in 2000, the first policy underwritten was for a Cricket Club at a premium of £323.81. The Club is still a client of Sportscover today and is being recognised for its loyalty by receiving a birthday present from Sportscover of 12 months free cover.

Sportscover UK grew to become a major insurer of sport in the United Kingdom and by 2006 the amount of sports and leisure business being underwritten from Europe had become significant. In recognition of this, Sportscover UK changed its name to Sportscover Europe.

Sportscover Europe has continued its impressive growth and is now a first choice for many brokers in placing their European sports and leisure business. During those eventful ten years for Sportscover Europe there have also been many significant sporting events – here are just some of the highlights:

- 2000** – The year of the Sydney Olympics – Cathy Freeman wins gold in 400 metres.
- 2001** – Tiger Woods becomes the first golfer in history to hold all 4 major championship titles at the same time.
- 2002** – Brazil win FIFA world cup held in South Korea and Japan; Canada win ice hockey gold medals in men’s and women’s events at winter Olympics.
- 2003** – England wins Rugby World Cup by beating Australia 20-17; Lance Armstrong wins the Tour de France; Australia win Cricket World Cup.
- 2004** – Athens Olympics - Australia win gold in field hockey; Detroit Pistons win first NBA title in 14 years, beating Los Angeles Lakers in a major upset.
- 2005** – Chicago White Sox win World Series for the 1st time since 1917
- 2006** – Italy win FIFA World Cup; Roger Federer wins US and Australian open and Wimbledon titles.
- 2007** – South Africa beat England 15-6 in Rugby World Cup; Australia win Ashes (5-0 whitewash) and Cricket World Cup.
- 2008** – Beijing Olympic Games – Usain Bolt wins 3 gold medals and breaks 2 world records.
- 2009** – Jensen Button wins F1 driver’s championship; England win the Ashes.
- 2010** – New Orleans Saints win first Super Bowl title.

Sportscover’s Great Sports Photo Competition

The 2010 Great Sports Photo Competition has been extended. We want to see all those great action shots - so keep them coming!!

Images entered must be recent (2009 - 2010) and photographed by the entrant.

The competition is open to all readers of Touchline and is a great chance for to see your photo published worldwide.

Winners of the top three photos will also WIN a gift voucher of the following values*:

First Place:	A\$500
Second Place:	A\$350
Third Place:	A\$150

Upload your photo to www.sportscover.com/photo-competition.asp

Please note, a high resolution photo is required for final judging.

* Or local currency equivalent. For full terms and conditions see our website at www.sportscover.com/touchline-photo-competition-terms-and-conditions.asp



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Harder line in drug testing welcome

Earlier this year three pieces of news confirmed an increasingly hard line against drugs in sport is being taken by sports authorities.

First, UK anti-doping officials achieved the first positive test for human growth hormone (HGH) when Wakefield rugby league player Terry Newton failed a test. Newton admitted the finding and he was handed a two-year ban. HGH, which has applications for endurance and power athletes, can only be detected by a blood test and evidence of its use fades within days.

Andy Parkinson, CEO of UKAD, commented that the finding sent a strong message to athletes in all sports ahead of the London Olympics that if they take HGH they now run the risk of being caught.

The second item was news that the Australian Football League has signed a groundbreaking agreement with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority whereby AFL players will become the first sportspeople in Australia to be tested for HGH and a new type of the endurance-enhancing hormone erythropoietin (EPO).

AFL football operations manager Adrian Anderson also said the league would conduct extensive blood testing and profiling and freeze samples obtained from players for a period of up to eight years. He said the new measures were being taken to ensure the integrity of the sport was not threatened.

And third, the International Rugby Board announced that the number of drugs tests reached record levels in 2009. 1293 tests was undertaken throughout the year and despite the record number of tests, IRB Anti-Doping rule violations fell from 13 in 2008 to 4 in 2009. That amounts to 0.3% of the total testing regime.

This is excellent news as there is no place in sport for drug cheats. However, all sports disciplines must remain vigilant.

There is a tendency to think that drugs are more prevalent in the strength or endurance type of sports such as weightlifting, track and field and cycling. However, a few years ago official figures from an internal IOC



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report show the sport with the highest percentage of anti-doping violations was, surprisingly, golf. Baseball was second followed by karate, archery, rollersports, track and field, table tennis.

So it is important that all sports continue to impose strict anti-doping rules to stamp out this practice in their sport.

Nevertheless, despite the best efforts of the sports authorities, there are still examples of sportsmen and women involved in doping. In March this year, American Wayne Odesnik, world No 98 tennis player, pleaded guilty in an Australian court to importing HGH. Eight vials of HGH were found in his luggage before he planned to play in Brisbane and at the Australian Open.

Also, UK Athletics had its third drug case in a month after 110 metre hurdles athlete Callum Priestley, one of Britain's most promising prospects for the Olympics, tested positive for the banned drug clenbuterol. This follows two young British shot putters, Kieren Kelly and Jamie Stevenson, who have been charged with a doping offence after refusing to take a drug test.

However, in an announcement that is bound to be welcomed by all fair minded sports lovers, the British 4x400 relay team of Roger Black, Jamie Baulch, Iwan Thomas and Mark Richardson have finally been awarded World Championship gold medals thirteen years after they were beaten by a drug-tainted US team. The International Association of Athletics Federations, stripped the US team of Pettigrew, Jones, Washington and Young of their 1997 World title in November 2008 after Pettigrew admitted using drugs.

Good news for the British relay team and good news for sport!

Sport in Norway

Ascending to a Peak

Nearly half of Norway's population of 4.8 million are members of the Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) and three out of four Norwegian children regularly take part in sporting activities. It is therefore not surprising that Norway punches above its weight at the Winter Olympics and that its athletes regularly win gold medals and world championships in winter sports disciplines.

However, whilst Norway particularly excels at Winter sports, which is not unexpected given its location, topography and climate, Norwegian athletes have won international championships in a wide range of other sports such as boxing, cycling, dancing, athletics, karate, orienteering, canoeing, rowing, sailing, shooting, weight-lifting, swimming, rally car driving and women's football. And, whilst not a sport exactly, Norwegian student Bjørn Halvard Knappskog is the current Monopoly World Champion having won the championship in Las Vegas in October last year! However, probably the most popular of the non winter sports are football (soccer) and handball and Norway has produced some high quality players in both sports.

However, it is largely in winter sports that Norwegians have been world beaters. Norwegian speed-skaters, biathlon competitors, skiers and ski jumpers have a long tradition of being among the world leaders as have Norway's curling teams.

The popular participation in and widespread distribution of sports in Norway distinguish Norway as a sporting country. Regular physical activity is engaged in by over 40 per cent of the adult population. Fifteen per cent take part in competitions, and 3 per cent are top-flight competitors. The sports movement is the country's predominant popular movement.

So why is sport so popular and how is it organised?

In principle, responsibility for sport is shared in Norway. The Department of Sport Policy is administered under the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs. The aim of all the department's activities is to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to engage in sport and physical activity. Norwegians are actively encouraged to engage in regular sporting activities.

The Department contributes towards planning, prioritising, construction and rehabilitation of facilities for sport and outdoor activities. The Department also administers the part of the profit from the state Lotteries.

The Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) is an umbrella organisation which organises all national sports federations in Norway (both amateur and elite clubs). NIF has 1.88 million memberships and consists of 55 national federations, 19 regional confederations, over 7,000 sports councils and more than 12,000 clubs.

The sport federations promote competitive sport and the district associations ensure that sport is accessible for all. The sports clubs spread all over Norway attract a volume of voluntary workers who provide the backbone of Norwegian sport.

The result of the work of these organisations is that Norway has a much higher proportion of participation in sport by its population than most other countries and this leads to a highly successful sporting culture.

Winter Olympics - Thanks to Norway

For the size of its population, Norway's performance at the Vancouver Olympics was remarkable, finishing 4th in the medals table with 23 medals. However, in comparison with the historical performance of the country at the Winter Olympics, many would regard 4th place as a disappointing result. In 2002, Norway finished top of the gold medal table with a record equalling 13 gold medals, whilst in 1998 Norway was 2nd with 25 medals and topped the table with 26 medals when hosting the Olympics in 1994.

And if it hadn't been for Norwegians many of the current winter games would not have been invented.

According to legend, Norwegians are born with skis on their feet. When one takes stock of the sports that were invented in Norway, one can't help but wonder if this legend should be taken literally.


Discoveries made in Northern Norway dating back 4,000 years describe men

on skis made from wooden boards; very similar to what are used today.

Ski jumping was born in the 19th century in the Norwegian city of Morgedal. Though the first known ski jumper was Olaf Rye, a Norwegian lieutenant who jumped 9.5 metres, the founder of this sport seems to be Sondre Norheim, who had practised using special skis. The sport became so popular that the Norwegian Royal Family decided to organise the Royal Cup, which first took place at Holmenkollen in 1892. We can also thank the Norwegian military for the biathlon which combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting. From the 15th-17th centuries, the biathlon's evolution had strong ties to the military environment. In 1767, a group of soldiers held the first biathlon competition. In 1861, the first ski club in the world was founded at Trysil to help local territorial defence. Until 1960 biathlon was called

military patrol in the Winter olympics.

Similarly, the Nordic combined was first practised in Norway. Throughout the 1800s, Norwegian skiers gathered every winter for a series of ski carnivals. To create new challenges, the skiers combined ski jumping and cross-country skiing. Nordic combined was one of the first sports introduced at the Olympic Games in 1924.

Although the elegance of alpine 

Norway's Birkebeiner Race Unites CEOs and Inmates

The Birkebeiner, Norway's annual cross-country ski race completed in mid-March, attracted a record turnout, with chief executive officers and prison inmates amongst the 16,150 participants. Skiing remains a favoured sport in Norway where many get their first ski set at the age of three.

Pareto AS Chief Executive Officer Svein Stoele, former Aker Exploration ASA Head Lars Thorrud, 48, and First Securities ASA's 51-year-old Chief Strategist Peter Hermanrud, ranked second in Kapital magazine's list of Norwegian analysts this year, completed the 54-kilometer (34-mile) race along side seven inmates from Norway's Hassel prison.

The event, which has links back to the country's 13th Century civil war, runs from Rena to Lillehammer in eastern Norway and rises from 280 meters (919 feet) to almost 1,000 meters above sea level.

"It's a dead-hard race, really tough," said Martin Moelsaeter, chief investment officer of Ferncliff Asset Management AS who is competing in the Birkebeiner for the second time.

Racers carry a 3.5 kilogram (7.7 pound) backpack that symbolises the infant prince Haakon Haakonsson. A legend says the two-year-old future King was taken to safety in 1206 by two skiers in the Birkebeiner faction during the civil war. The group's name means birch leg because members sometimes used bark as foot covering.

The first race was held in 1932 with 155 participants. Women were admitted in 1976 and today account for about 20 percent of the contestants, according to Rune Bergsodden, managing director of Birkebeinerrennet AS, which organises the event.

"The typical Birkebeiner is a man who is 43," Bergsodden said in a telephone interview.

Pictured: Norway's Moan Magnus competing in the 2010 World Cup Nordic Combined. Chaux Neuve, France. © Grosremy | Dreamstime.com



skiing is attributed to the Austrian Mathias Zdarski, alpine skiing is probably based on Telemark. The only thing Zdarski did was to find an alternative to the Telemark style, by improving the "stop and go" technique.

And Stein Eriksen is the Norwegian creator of one of the most spectacular Olympic sports called aerials; a branch of freestyle skiing. He moved to the US at the end his career, where he became ski instructor

and coach. It was then that he came up with the idea of a more spectacular style of skiing specifically for young people. He developed new ways of jumping, twisting and somersaulting, which sparked a great wave of enthusiasm, leading to the creation of new school freestyle.

As you can see, we have a lot to thank Norway for when it comes to our Winter Olympic entertainment.

Something to live for

Ann Kristin Bogen is an amazing and determined woman. A lawyer with her own practice in Hamar, 120 kilometres north of Oslo in Norway, she has taken up skydiving to give her something to live for since the tragic death of her daughter following a car accident a year ago.

Her story recently appeared in a Norwegian publication and Touchline spoke with Ann Kristin to find out more about how this extreme sport has helped her come to terms with her grief.

Right from the outset of our conversation, Ann Kristin comes across as a highly intelligent, well adjusted and determined woman. She has built up her own general law practice that ranges from family law to criminal law, with a focus on bankruptcy, and has clients from all over the country. Her English is impeccable as she tells me more about the reasons why she has taken up skydiving. She appears to be someone with a real zest for life and her determination comes through in her initial comments.

"I don't know how to quit and if people say you can't do something, I am determined to do it," she says.

Yet almost exactly a year ago she thought that there was no longer anything to live for when her daughter, Ann Lill, tragically died in a road accident.


"I needed something to make life go on," she says, "I was all alone, no family living close to me, and felt empty. I needed something else."

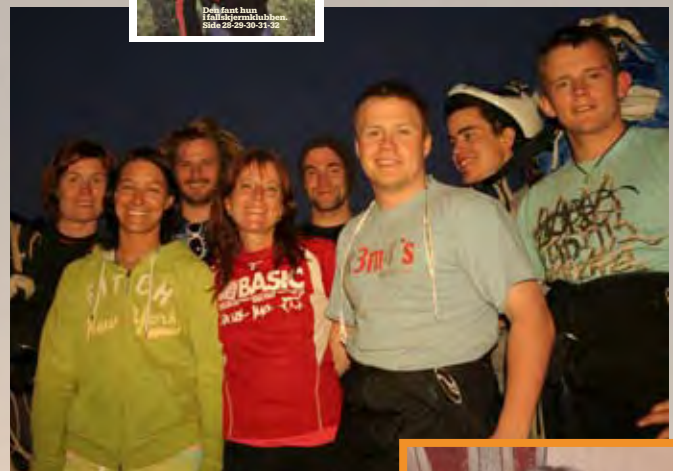
Shortly afterwards, a legal client who was a skydiver himself, suggested that he knew exactly what would give Ann Kristin the will to continue to live - skydiving.

"My daughter wanted to go skydiving and I had wanted to do so since I was 20 but never did anything about it. I was scared to die but after losing my daughter, I felt I had nothing to lose. I scared the hell out of the guys at the skydiving club when they found out why I was skydiving, because they thought that I wanted to kill myself!" she says with a laugh.

In the few months since Ann Kristin took up skydiving she has managed to complete 74 jumps and asserts "I will continue to jump until I die." She jumps whenever she has any spare time as it gives her something to focus on, although she admits that the pain is there all the time.

"Skydiving hasn't removed the pain but it helps. I have become a stronger person."

Ann Kristin has travelled to Spain and the USA to take opportunities to skydive, and has also been to England for training in a wind-tunnel. She intends 



Pictured from top: the Norwegian profile on Ann Kristin - the translated title reads "The joy of life exists in the sky"; Ann Kristin (in red) with members of her skydiving club: Dennis Barstad, Cpt Hero, Kjetil Rookie Nordin (NT) Marianne Nordlund (NT) Invild Bøe Stårvik, Tore Granmo (NT) and Yngve Haugom (NT); Ann Kristin's daughter, Ann Lill Bogen; below and over page: up in the air with members of the FS [parachute] Norwegian National Team.



Photo by: Lars Erik B Syvertsen

Lars-Petter Myklebost CEO AGS Forsikring AS

This month Touchline profiles Lars-Petter Myklebost, Chief Executive Officer and Partner at AGS Forsikring AS. Based in Oslo, Myklebost is an avid cross country and downhill skier, a football fan and father of four. He is an integral part of the Sportscover network due to his outstanding reputation in the sports industry in the Nordic region.

“Skydiving hasn’t removed the pain but it helps. I have become a stronger person.”

to continue to travel around the world skydiving and the number of jumps that she will do is only limited by her spare time and money. “It can be expensive to start with buying equipment and a parachute, but after that it is not too bad.”

Ann Kristin recently completed her B certificate and aims to keep on progressing, “I don’t think of skydiving as an extreme sport although you do realise how dangerous it is. Every successful jump makes you realise what could go wrong. But I want to become really, really good.”

She describes skydiving as “therapy, beautiful. Makes you feel alive. I’m not after the adrenaline rush – I just want to get out of the plane and fly.”

But she also says that she doesn’t know where she would be without the people with whom she skydives. “They are wonderful people and have kept me alive.”

Ann Kristin is determined to have completed 200 jumps by Christmas. That’s some target and we will let you know if she achieves it.

Interview by Steve Boucher, Editor



Myklebost began his career as a member of the Forsvarets Spialkommando (FSK), a special forces unit of the Norwegian Ministry of Defence. Established in 1981, the FSK was a response to the increased risk of terrorist activity against Norwegian interests, notably the oil platforms in the North Sea. Following his public service, Myklebost moved into a consulting role at KPMG AS and later worked his way through the ranks at Gjensidige, one of the leading players in the Nordic general insurance market. In 1999, Myklebost became a director of Affinity, Aon Grieg AS and ultimately became its Chief Operating officer in 2005.

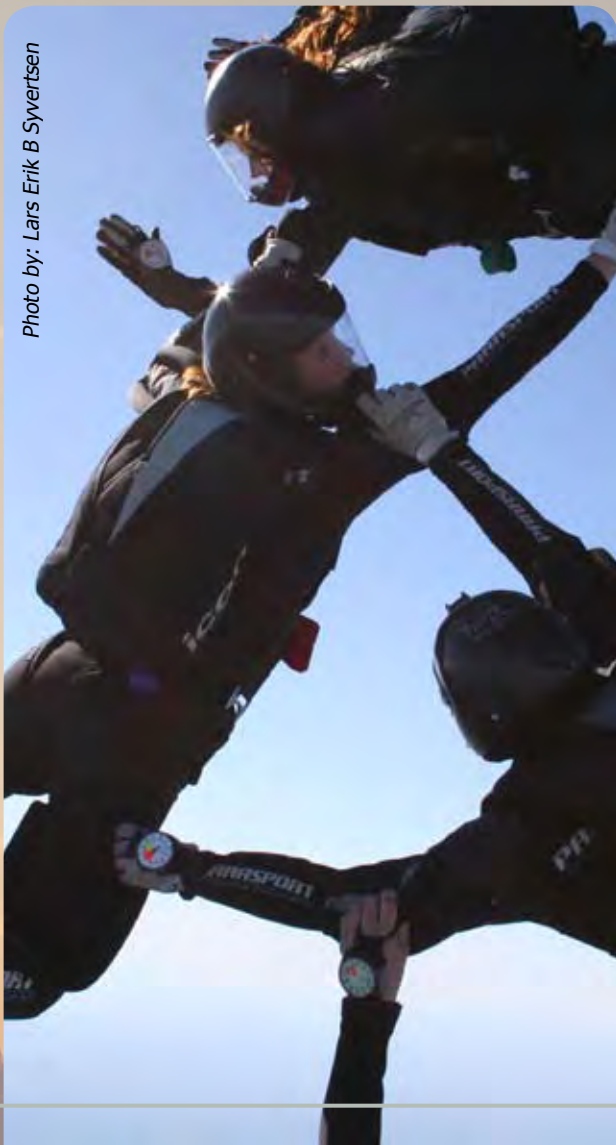
In 2008 Myklebost established AGS Forsikring where he specialises in contingencies, product enhancement and all risk. The company is an independent insurance intermediary that offers safe and good insurance solutions for selected customer groups.

Myklebost is most proud of the reputation and recognition AGS Forsikring has built in the sports industry. He regards working with excellent people in a continuously changing environment one of the best aspects of his job. He also enjoys the opportunities presented in the local sports market and has fostered a great relationship with Sportscover as their representative in the Nordic region.

His ability to authentically listen to people and understand their needs and concerns have contributed to Myklebost’s success in the insurance industry. He is able to convey his genuine interest in individuals and his indisputable care for their welfare. While he counts his weaknesses to be impatience and impulsiveness, these qualities may just contribute to his business success.

When asked about a motto that inspires him, Myklebost cited, “Happy are those who dream their dreams and are willing to pay the price to see the dreams come through.” He has shown his capacity to live this statement through his pioneering role in a successful and vibrant business.

Photo by: Lars Erik B Syvertsen



World Sports News Roundup

Africa: 2010 Africa Cup of Nations UNINSURED

The UK's Sunday Times Newspaper has reported that most of the footballers that played at the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations were uninsured by their national associations for "catastrophic" events such as terrorist attacks and kidnapping.

The responsibility for that type of insurance would therefore fall on individual clubs. In the event of an incident such as the one when gunmen shot at a bus carrying the Togo squad — killing three people and injuring six others, including two players — Premier League players would not be able to claim compensation from their associations. Neither, in the event of a fatality or a career-ending injury, could their clubs claim for the loss of assets, worth large sums of money.

The tournament of 16 nations was held in Angola, where it began on 10 January 2010 and concluded on 31 January. The withdrawal of Togo after the terrorist attack reduced the number of participating nations to 15. Egypt won the tournament, their seventh ACN title in history and an unprecedented third time in a row, beating Ghana 1–0 in the final.

The English Football Association are believed to be the only governing body in the world who routinely cover all of their players on international duty. If a player is injured or otherwise incapacitated while with England, the FA's policies allow payments to the club of up to £100,000 a week for up to 100 weeks.

UK: London to bid for 2015 World Champs

London is among three cities in the running to host the 2015 World Athletics Championships, the International Association of Athletics Federations have revealed. The other two cities to challenge for the right to stage the IAAF's flagship event are Beijing and Polish city Chorzow. The chosen city will be revealed in November. The World Athletic Championships is held biannually and will be hosted by Daegu in South Korea next year and in Moscow, Russia in 2013.

USA: Plan to introduce New York F1 race by 2012

Bernie Ecclestone has stated that he would like to host a grand prix in New York by 2012, sighting the New York skyline as the perfect backdrop: 'I'm trying for 2012, opposite Manhattan in New Jersey with skyscrapers in the background. Fifteen minutes from the centre of New York to the circuit.' he said.

Nine circuits have previously staged an F1 race in the United States – the last one being Indianapolis in 2007.

Australia: Payout for injured cricketer

A former Australian junior who sued Cricket Australia over a shoulder injury nine years ago has been compensated out of court. Matt Berriman was 16 when he dislocated his shoulder at a cricket academy water polo training match in Adelaide. He claims the injury ruined his promising career.

It was reported by the Sunday Herald Sun that Cricket Australia agreed in the past week to pay Mr Berriman several hundred thousand dollars. Cricket Australia spokesman Peter Young confirmed the matter had been settled out of court, but would not say how much money had gone to Mr Berriman, now 26.

In a Supreme Court affidavit in 2007, Mr Berriman claimed he injured his shoulder when he was 15, but was encouraged to keep playing, resulting in the dislocation that caused long-term damage. He claimed the Adelaide branch of the Australian Cricket Academy knew about his previous shoulder injury and could have prevented him from playing water polo. The talented junior said he was reduced to household tasks as his shoulder eventually worsened, dashing his sporting ambitions.

China: Nanjing to host Youth Olympics 2014

Nanjing has been elected host city of the Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2014, receiving 47 votes to edge out Poznan, Poland, which received 42 votes at an IOC meeting in Vancouver. 3,600 athletes ranging in ages from 15 to 18 are expected to compete at the Summer Youth Olympic Games.

India: 2010 Commonwealth Games Security

Australian Olympic triple gold medallist Stephanie Rice may not go for gold at the Commonwealth Games in India because of security fears. The swimmer has deferred her decision on whether to defend her two Commonwealth titles until she has a better idea of the security arrangements.

"It's something that I have to give serious consideration to," Rice told the Herald Sun newspaper, "And if there is any serious or credible risk, then that will prompt a rethink. I just want to see what transpires in coming months."

Meanwhile England's team chief Ann Hobgin also denied they will pull out of the event over security concerns, instead saying, "Our strong intention is to field a team in Delhi next year."

Organisers are preparing for nearly 8000 athletes and officials from 71 nations and territories for the October 3-14 Delhi Games.

New Zealand: Match fixing rocks lawn bowls

Four members of a New Zealand lawn bowls team have been found guilty of match-fixing. The NZ four of Gary Lawson, Shayne Sincock, Shannon McIlroy and Jamie Hill were been found by a judicial panel to have deliberately lost a match against Thailand at the Asia-Pacific Champions in Malaysia last August. Their 17-15 loss to Malaysia resulted in Canada's elimination from the championship playoffs and gave the NZ team what may have been a beneficial draw in the playoff rounds.

India: IPL offers renewed security plan

Security concerns were threatening to overshadow the current season of the Indian Premier League but the organisers of the major cricket tournament have given new commitments over ongoing security.

Security fears reached a peak when media reports published a message reportedly from the 313 Brigade, an operational arm of Al-Qaeda, that threatened the IPL, Commonwealth Games and Hockey World Cup. This followed a threat against Australian players competing in the IPL from the right-wing Hindu group Shiv Sena.

This led to the threat of mass player withdrawals from the lucrative tournament until players' unions received assurances that the IPL security plan will be implemented at each venue.

Tim May, chief executive of the Professional Cricketers Association, had warned there could be a host of withdrawals, while a number of players admitted they were having second thoughts about attending.

May said: 'We have a significant amount of information we did not have previously, which will assist players making far more informed decisions about whether to go or not. 'We haven't reached utopia yet, but the new information has given us greater confidence.'

South America: Argentina to join Tri-Nations

Argentina will join the Tri Nations in 2012 after the International Rugby Board confirmed that it will provide a funding package of around US\$2 million for the project. The funding remained the final obstacle in Argentina's bid to join the tournament that consists of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

CANADA: PARENTS CAN'T SIGN AWAY CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO SUE

The British Columbia Supreme Court has delivered an unprecedented decision that a parent did not have the right to waive her child's right to sue by signing a commonly used release. The case, *Wong v. Lok's Martial Arts Centre Inc.*, 2009 BCSC 1385, came about when the infant Plaintiff alleged that he suffered injuries during a martial arts lesson. He claims that his injuries were caused, in part, by the negligence of the martial arts school and its principal.

The infant's mother signed a release when she enrolled her son at the school. The release clearly stated that the school shall not be liable for injuries, damages, actions or causes of actions whatsoever, including without limitation those resulting from acts of negligence on the part of the school.

The infant alleges that he suffered the injuries during a sparring match with another student (also named as a defendant). The allegations against the school and its principal include failing to screen and instruct participants, require suitable protective gear,



and supervise the sparring matches.

The school and its principal brought a summary application to dismiss the claim against them based on the release signed by the infant's mother. The mother, who admitted she did not have any difficulty understanding English, said she signed the waiver but did not read it carefully and had no intention of waiving her son's right to sue for injuries resulting from the school's negligence.

The main issue before the court was whether a parent can effectively execute a pre-tort release on behalf of a minor.

The court turned to the Law Reform Commission of British Columbia Report on Recreational Injuries: Liability and Waivers in Commercial Leisure Activities (October 1994) for guidance. The Commission expressed the view that signed waivers in connection with minors' participation in sports activities are unenforceable under the *Infants Act* [RSBC 1996] c. 223 (the "Act"). The Act prohibits parents from releasing infants' claims after a cause of action has arisen. It does not specifically address pre-tort releases.

The court held that the legislature intended the Act to establish the sole means of creating contractual obligations that bind minors (with the exception of parents' consent to health care). The court found the Act's rationale, prohibiting parents from releasing infants' claims after a cause of action has arisen, applies to pre-tort releases as well.

Sky's the limit...

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LLOYD'S

Vancouver 2010

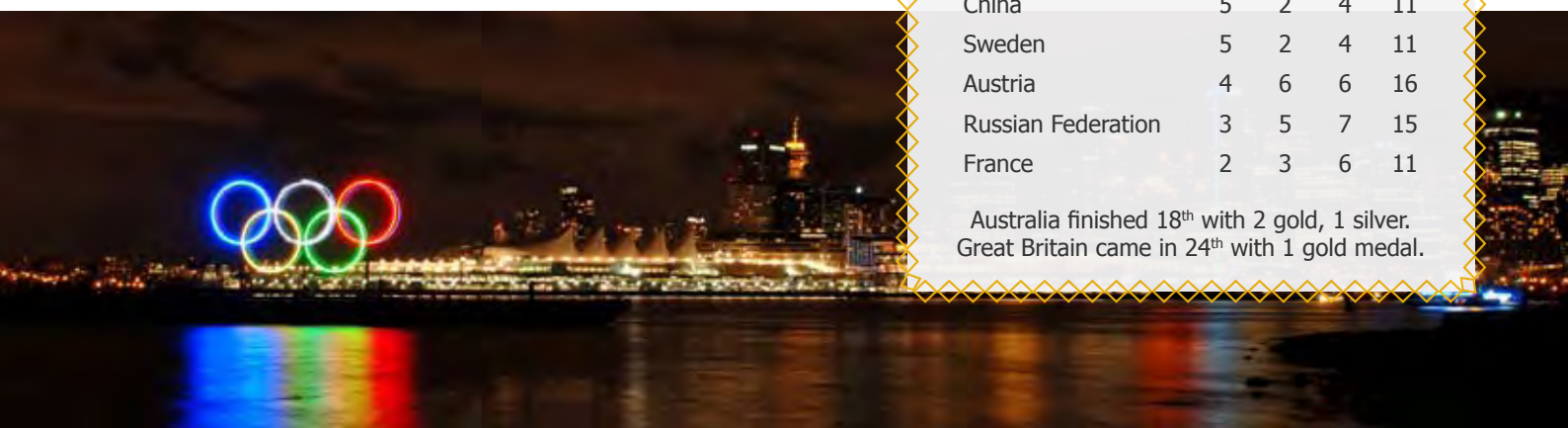
After 17 days of thrilling displays of sportsmanship covering 15 sporting disciplines, the 21st Olympic Winter Games came to a close on 28 February 2010. In that time 2,632 registered athletes from 82 nations participated in 86 events. The 2010 Winter Olympics were the third Olympics hosted by Canada, and the first by the province of British Columbia. Previously, Canada hosted the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, Quebec and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta.

Canada clinched first place in gold medal wins with 14 and became the first host nation since Norway in 1952 to lead the gold medal count. Canada broke the record for the most gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics. The United States won the most medals in total with 37 and broke the record for the most medals won at a single Winter Olympics.

Top 10 Medals table

Country				Total
Canada	14	7	5	26
Germany	10	13	7	30
United States	9	15	13	37
Norway	9	8	6	23
Korea	6	6	2	14
China	5	2	4	11
Sweden	5	2	4	11
Austria	4	6	6	16
Russian Federation	3	5	7	15
France	2	3	6	11

Australia finished 18th with 2 gold, 1 silver.
Great Britain came in 24th with 1 gold medal.



10 memorable moments from the 2010 Winter Olympics

Canadian newspaper, *The Province*, listed the following as the most unforgettable moments of the Winter Olympics. The list shows a strong Canadian bias, but it was their Olympics after all.

- Even before the Games officially began, tragedy struck as Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili crashed into a pole at the finish. Controversy surrounded the response of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). While they built a wall to prevent further accidents, they blamed Kumaritashvili for his own death. Eventually, the IOC promised Kumaritashvili's family a life-insurance settlement. A luge track will be built in his home country.
- Canadian Alex Bilodeau -- with brother and personal inspiration Frederic, who has cerebral palsy, wildly cheering him on -- skis to the first Canadian gold on Canadian soil.
- Japanese sledge-hockey goalie Mitsuru Nagase sheds tears of joy and amazement as his team -- most didn't know what hockey was a few years ago -- astounds the overpowering Canadians 3-1 in a crucial semi-final.
- Swedish skier Anja Paerson sails 180 metres over a jump in the downhill and crashes spectacularly, an instant YouTube sensation. Amazingly, the next morning, she straps on her skis and speeds down the same treacherous downhill run on her way to a bronze in the combined downhill/slalom race.
- In short-track speed skating, Charles Hamelin avoids mayhem all around on his way to two slippery wins, Canada's only double-gold Olympic medallist.
- Aging U.S. skier Bode Miller was shut out in Torino in 2006, critics said he was too brash, too cocky, and too old to ski with his younger rivals. Miller shows up his critics by winning three ageless medals -- a gold, a silver and a bronze.
- After Canada took home gold in women's hockey, it was left to overtime hero Sidney Crosby to deliver Canada's most cherished medal -- men's hockey gold.
- Canadian Devon Kershaw in the Olympics' most gruelling event -- more than two hours of poling a mind-boggling 50 kilometres on skis -- finished 1.6 seconds behind gold medallist, Norway's Petter Northug, and wound up in fifth place: "It hurts -- a second-and-a-half from gold. It's a great result, but you're thinking, 'So close, so far.'"
- Slovenian cross-country skier Petra Majdic broke four ribs and suffered a collapsed lung when she crashed off the course the day of her women's sprint race. Ignoring her coach's advice, Majdic ran three preliminary races to qualify for the final. Crossing the line totally spent, Majdic collapsed and was carried away by two coaches, and had to be helped on to the podium to collect her bronze medal.
- Lauren Woolstencroft had five golden moments all her own. The North Vancouver para-alpine skier took home five golds in her five events, winning her races in runaway style.





Vancouver 2010 Breaks Viewing Records

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) estimated that half the world's population – about 3.5 billion people – watched at least some of the Vancouver Winter Games, 47% more global television coverage than for the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

Timo Lumme, managing director of IOC TV, said that the digital revolution had changed the way people consume events like the Winter Olympics.

"In four short years from Torino to Vancouver, we've had the continuing digital explosion," he added. "We've had huge growth in this area – in fact, we now have the same amount of hours globally covered on digital media as we have on the old broadcast media."

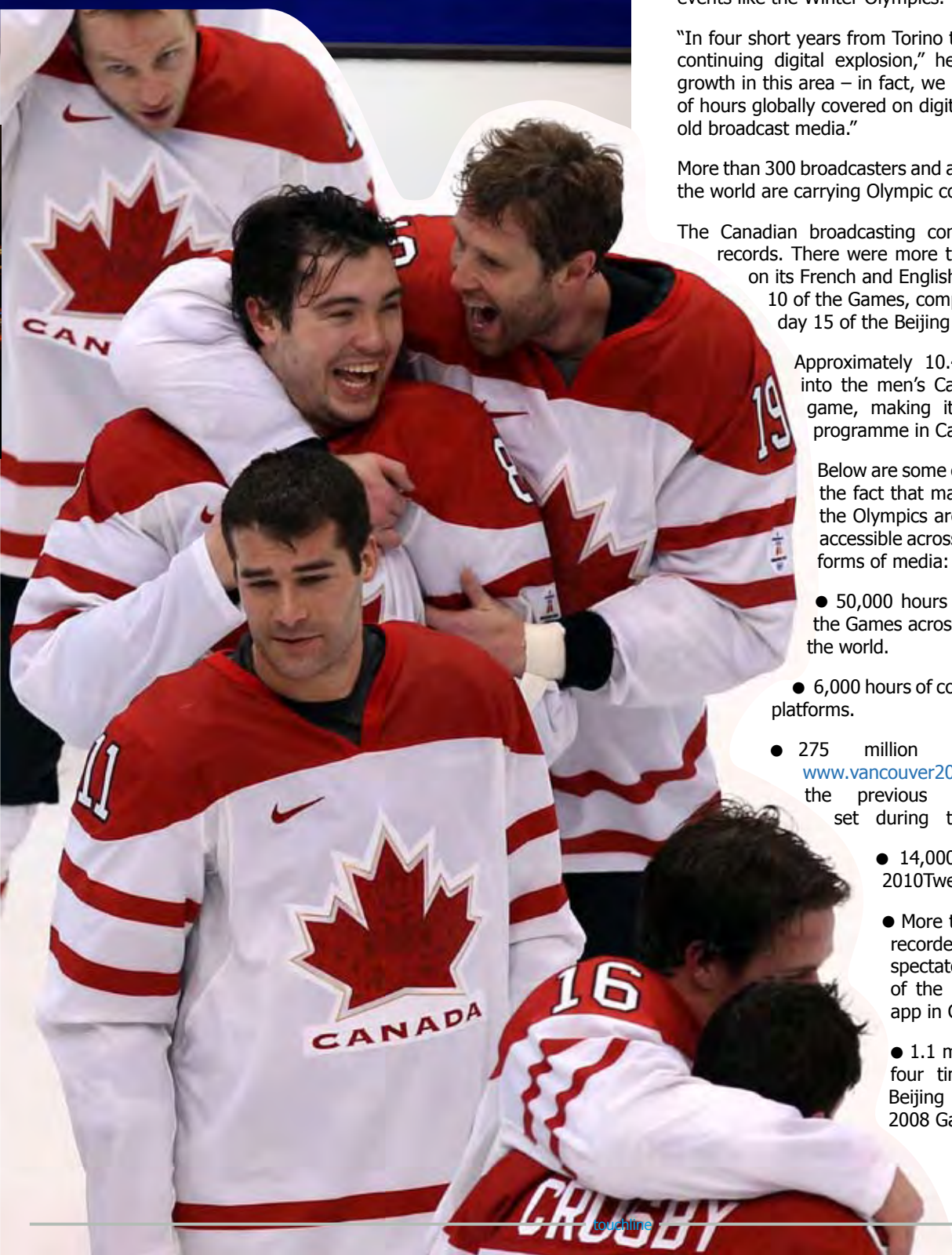
More than 300 broadcasters and another 100 websites around the world are carrying Olympic coverage.

The Canadian broadcasting consortium also broke digital records. There were more than 110 million page views on its French and English websites at the end of day 10 of the Games, compared to similar numbers on day 15 of the Beijing Olympics.

Approximately 10.4 million Canadians tuned into the men's Canada-United States hockey game, making it the most-watched sports programme in Canadian history.

Below are some other statistics that reinforce the fact that major sporting events such as the Olympics are becoming more and more accessible across the globe through different forms of media:

- 50,000 hours of total broadcast hours of the Games across all media platforms around the world.
- 6,000 hours of coverage worldwide on mobile platforms.
- 275 million visitors in total to www.vancouver2010.com, shattering the previous record of 105 million set during the Beijing 2008 Games.
- 14,000 followers on Twitter.com/2010Tweets.
- More than 1.25 million downloads recorded for the official mobile spectator guide, which for 10 days of the Games was the No. 1 free app in Canada.
- 1.1 million Facebook fans, nearly four times the total amount for Beijing at the conclusion of the 2008 Games.



Countdown to the World Cup



The greatest show on earth brings together 32 countries to battle it out to take away the World Game's greatest prize. Yet despite the possibility of a fairytale finish for one of the less fancied teams, since it began in 1930 the World Cup has only been won by 7 countries. Brazil, with 5 wins, leads the pack from Italy (4 wins), Germany (3 wins), Argentina and Uruguay each with 2 wins. The only other countries that have won are England and France. Could this be the year that another nation takes the trophy or will one of the previous winners reign supreme?

With the World Cup less than two months away, Touchline has taken out its crystal ball and come up with the following predictions for the world cup. You may not agree, but only time will tell if we are right!

Group Stage Predictions:

Group A

Group Prediction	World Ranking
France	8
Mexico	17
Uruguay	18
South Africa	88

Hosts out in first round

There will be no fairy tale story in Group A. South Africa are the second lowest ranked team of the tournament and their recent results do not suggest anything is going to change soon. France, who were winners in 1998 and runners-up in 2006, appear to be group favourites, but Raymond Domenech's side only reached the finals through the European play-offs, after the "hand of Henry" incident that beat the Republic of Ireland. However, Mexico are strong contenders for top spot and may just pip the French. Either way, the likelihood is that Uruguay will be heading for an early exit.

Star players

Thierry Henry (FRA), Florent Malouda (FRA), Franck Ribery (FRA), Giovanni dos Santos (MEX).

Group B

Group Prediction	World Ranking
Argentina	9
Nigeria	22
Greece	11
South Korea	49

Argentina come good

This group has pitted two-time winners Argentina against Nigeria, South Korea and Greece. Although Argentina were unimpressive in the qualifying stages Diego Maradona's squad has a host of world-class talent that should make progression to the knock out stages a certainty. Whilst Greece would appear on paper to be possible runners up in the group, the likely result is that Nigeria show their flair to take second spot. Unfortunately, for South Korea, Asia's most frequent participant in the World Cup, they look to be out after the first round.

Star players

Lionel Messi (ARG), Carlos Tevez (ARG), Juan Veron (ARG), Obafemi Martins (NIG).

Group C

Group Prediction	World Ranking
England	7
USA	16
Slovenia	29
Algeria	27

Could this be England's cup?

England go into their 13th World Cup as favourites to finish top and to progress further than they have at any time since winning the trophy in 1966. Yet so often hopes are high before the team splutters to a disappointing conclusion. Could 2010 be different? Certainly impressive in the qualifying stages, but they may not have everything their own way. The USA have upset England before and should progress, but it is unlikely they will top the group. Slovenia and Algeria are more than makeweights and may yet surprise the big two by taking the odd point off them, but the end result is little in doubt.

Star players

Wayne Rooney (ENG), Frank Lampard (ENG), Steven Gerrard (ENG), Landon Donovan (USA), Tim Howard (USA).





Group D

Group Prediction	World Ranking
Germany	6
Australia	19
Serbia	15
Ghana	31

Tough group, but never bet against the Germans

Possibly one of the toughest groups to predict and to play in. Germany, who share the record for most World Cup finals appearances with Brazil, must be favourites to top the group if only because they always do well at this level. However, all of the teams in this group finished top of their respective qualifying groups. Second place will probably be decided on goal difference, with Australia just edging out an unlucky Serbia. However, Ghana are also no pushovers, so it will be a nailbiting finish to the group.

Star players

Miroslav Klose (GER), Michael Ballack (GER), Lukas Podolski (GER), Tim Cahill (AUS), Harry Kewell (AUS).

Group E

Group Prediction	World Ranking
Netherlands	3
Cameroon	20
Denmark	34
Japan	45

Flying Dutchmen

The Dutch are firm favourites to top this group with a level of skill and flowing football that will push aside the competition. Qualifying with a 100% record, the Dutch are getting back to their wonderful best. Even with the flair and quality that Cameroon display, the Dutch are likely to take maximum points from the group.

No African team has more World Cup experience than Cameroon and they have rediscovered their confidence. They will take second place even though a well drilled Danish side will be difficult to beat. Japan will repeat their performance in 2006 and be heading home after the group stage.

Star players

Arjen Robben (NED), Dirk Kuyt (NED), Rafael van der Vaart (NED), Samuel Eto'o (CMR), Alexandre Song (CMR).

Group F

Group Prediction	World Ranking
Italy	5
Paraguay	23
Slovakia	33
New Zealand	79

Can Italy do it again?

The reigning champions and four-time World Cup winners are clear favourites to take top spot in Group F. Italy, like the Germans, regularly make the final stages of the tournament, even when they do not play the best football. It is unlikely that the current side can go all the way this time around, but they should certainly go through to the next round with ease. The competition for second place is between Paraguay and Slovakia. Paraguay put in their best ever qualifying performance and will probably edge out the Slovaks. As for New Zealand, it is unlikely that Ricki Herbert's men will trouble the others and gaining a point or two will be an achievement.

Star players

Gianluigi Buffon (ITA), Fabio Cannavaro (ITA), Daniele De Rossi (ITA), Roque Santa Cruz (PAR), Justo Villar (PAR),

Group G

Group Prediction	World Ranking
Brazil	2
Portugal	4
Cote d'Ivoire	25
North Korea	105

Latin flair wins the day

This is the group to watch for excitement. Five times world cup winners Brazil, Portugal and Cote d'Ivoire all have flair and skill in spades and Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka, Drogba etc. will be parading their genius. However, it is inconceivable that Brazil and Portugal will not win through in first and second place at the expense of the Africans. What a shame that the lowest ranked contenders, North Korea, were drawn in such a miss-matched group. It could be a drubbing!

Star players

Kaka (BRA), Luis Fabiano (BRA), Robinho (BRA) Cristiano Ronaldo (POR), Deco (POR), Pepe (POR).

Group H

Group Prediction	World Ranking
Spain	1
Chile	13
Switzerland	20
Honduras	36

European Champions the ones to watch.

The European champions will prove to be too strong for the other contenders in this group. The Spanish won all ten of their qualifying matches and play some powerful and imposing football. They will be very optimistic about winning the World Cup for the first time.

Chile are likely to give the Spanish a run for their money and will probably be runners up, but the Swiss are well organised and difficult opposition. Honduras could stage an upset but will end their world cup at the group stage.

Star players

Xavi (ESP), Andres Iniesta (ESP), David Villa (ESP), Cesc Fabregas (ESP) Humberto Suazo (CHI), Matias Fernandez (CHI). 

Predictions for Eliminations:

This is the knock out stage of the competition. In the Round of 16, the top team of one group play the runners up of the next group to determine who goes through to the quarter finals and so on. Following on from our group predictions the matches are (predicted winners are in bold type):

Round of 16

France v Nigeria	<i>France win through in tight match</i>
Argentina v Mexico	<i>Argentina prove too strong for Mexico</i>
England v Australia	<i>Repeat of the Ashes series result</i>
Germany v USA	<i>German experience counts</i>
Netherlands v Paraguay	<i>Dutch keep going</i>
Italy v Cameroon	<i>First major upset sees holders out</i>
Brazil v Chile	<i>Close call see Brazil go through.</i>
Spain v Portugal	<i>Spain win Iberian battle</i>

Quarter Finals

England v France	<i>England win on penalties</i>
Germany v Argentina	<i>German organisation beats latin flair</i>
Brazil v Netherlands	<i>Titantic battle see Brazil go through</i>
Spain v Cameroon	<i>Euro champs through to semis</i>

Semi-finals

England v Brazil	<i>Brazil edge it by the odd goal</i>
Germany v Spain	<i>Spain breeze through to the final</i>

The Final

Brazil v Spain	<i>A cracking final sees Spain win the World Cup for the first time.</i>
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So there you have it. **Spain crowned world champions. Now, to the real action.....**



A	South Africa v Mexico Fri, 11 June, 4pm Johannesburg, Soccer City
	Uruguay v France Fri, 11 June, 8.30pm Cape Town
	South Africa v Uruguay Wed, 16 June, 8.30pm Pretoria
	France v Mexico Thu, 17 June, 8.30pm Polokwane
	Mexico v Uruguay Tue, 22 June, 4pm Rustenburg
	France v South Africa Tue, 22 June, 4pm Bloemfontein

B	South Korea v Greece Sat, 12 June, 1.30pm Port Elizabeth
	Argentina v Nigeria Sat, 12 June, 4pm Johannesburg, Ellis Park
	Argentina v South Korea Thu, 17 June, 1.30pm Johannesburg, Soccer City
	Greece v Nigeria Thu, 17 June, 4pm Bloemfontein
	Nigeria v South Korea Tue, 22 June, 8.30pm Durban
	Greece v Argentina Tue, 22 June, 8.30pm Polokwane

C	England v USA Sat, 12 June, 8.30pm Rustenburg
	Algeria v Slovenia Sun, 13 June, 1.30pm Polokwane
	Slovenia v USA Fri, 18 June, 4pm Johannesburg, Ellis Park
	England v Algeria Fri, 18 June, 8.30pm Cape Town
	Slovenia v England Wed, 23 June, 4pm Port Elizabeth
	USA v Algeria Wed, 23 June, 4pm Pretoria

D	Serbia & Montenegro v Ghana Sun, 13 June, 4pm Pretoria
	Germany v Australia Sun 13 June, 8.30pm Durban
	Germany v Serbia & Montenegro Fri, 18 June, 1.30pm Port Elizabeth
	Ghana v Australia Sat, 19 June, 4pm Rustenburg
	Ghana v Germany Wed, 23 June, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Soccer City
	Australia v Serbia & Montenegro Wed, 23 June, 8.30pm Nelspruit

E	Netherlands v Denmark Mon, 14 June, 1.30pm Johannesburg, Soccer City
	Japan v Cameroon Mon, 14 June, 4pm Bloemfontein
	Netherlands v Japan Sat, 19 June, 1.30pm Durban
	Cameroon v Denmark Sat, 19 June, 8.30pm Pretoria
	Denmark v Japan Thu, 24 June, 8.30pm Rustenburg
	Cameroon v Netherlands Thu, 24 June, 8.30pm Cape Town

F	Italy v Paraguay Mon, 14 June, 8.30pm Cape Town
	New Zealand v Slovakia Tue, 15 June, 1.30pm Rustenburg
	Slovakia v Paraguay Sun, 20 June, 1.30pm Bloemfontein
	Italy v New Zealand Sun, 20 June, 4pm Nelspruit
	Slovakia v Italy Thu, 24 June, 4pm Johannesburg, Ellis Park
	Paraguay v New Zealand Thu, 24 June, 4pm Polokwane

G	Ivory Coast v Portugal Tue, 15 June, 4pm Port Elizabeth
	Brazil v North Korea Tue, 15 June, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Ellis Park
	Brazil v Ivory Coast Sun, 20 June, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Soccer City
	Portugal v North Korea Mon, 21 June, 1.30pm Cape Town
	Portugal v Brazil Fri, 25 June, 4pm Durban
	North Korea v Ivory Coast Fri, 25 June, 4pm Nelspruit

H	Honduras v Chile Wed, 16 June, 1.30pm Nelspruit
	Spain v Switzerland Wed, 16 June, 4pm Durban
	Chile v Switzerland Mon, 21 June, 4pm Port Elizabeth
	Spain v Honduras Mon 21 June, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Ellis Park
	Chile v Spain Fri, 25 June, 8.30pm Pretoria
	Switzerland v Honduras Fri, 25 June, 8.30pm Bloemfontein

top 16

1	Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B Sat, 26 June, 4pm Port Elizabeth
2	Winner Group C v Runner-up Group D Sat, 26 June, 8.30pm Rustenburg
3	Winner Group D v Runner-up Group C Sun, 27 June, 4pm Bloemfontein
4	Winner Group B v Runner-up Group A Sun, 27 June, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Soccer City
5	Winner Group E v Runner-up Group F Mon, 28 June, 4pm Durban
6	Winner Group G v Runner-up Group H Mon 28 June, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Ellis Park
7	Winner Group F v Runner-up Group E Tue, 29 June, 4pm Pretoria
8	Winner Group H v Runner-up Group G Tue, 29 June, 8.30pm Cape Town

quarter finals

A	Winner Match 5 v Winner Match 6 Fri, 2 July, 4pm Port Elizabeth
B	Winner Match 1 v Winner Match 2 Fri, 2 July, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Soccer City
C	Winner Match 3 v Winner Match 4 Sat, 3 July, 4pm Cape Town
D	Winner Match 7 v Winner Match 8 Sat, 3 July, 8.30pm Johannesburg, Ellis Park

semi finals

I	Winner Match A v Winner Match B Tue, 6 July, 8.30pm Cape Town
II	Winner Match C v Winner Match D Wed, 7 July, 8.30pm Durban

THE FINAL

Winner Match I v Winner Match II
Sun, 11 July, 8.30pm
Johannesburg, Soccer City

2010 Fixtures

3rd Place

Loser Match I v Loser Match II
Port Elizabeth
Sat, 10 July, 8.30pm

All dates and times displayed here in time zone of venue - subject to FIFA confirmation.

AT "HOME ON THE RANGE."



Not many of us are fortunate enough to combine our passion with our job. Kathrin (Kate) Neal is an exception. You see Kate is an athlete who participates in the sport of clay target shooting, whilst her job is caring for the insurance requirements of Australia's Firearm Dealers, Gun Clubs, Pistol Clubs, and their various members. Kate is a member of Marsh Limited Adelaide based Schemes and Affinity Team, working with Rob Low in the Sports and Entertainment Division.

Kate who is mum to 20 year old Matthew and 17 year old Rebekah, is a member of the South Australian Clay Target Shooting team and the reigning South Australian State Ladies Champion, a title recently confirmed when she

won the sash for the second consecutive year at the State Titles last September.

Kate had a busy 2009 agenda for in addition to winning the South Australian Title, she also competed at the Australian Clay Target National titles and also the 31st FITASC Sporting Clay World Sporting Championships.

The social environment and camaraderie of shooting life together with the challenge to improve her skills drew Kate inexorably into the sport. Kate has progressed through various levels in the last 5 years of shooting and has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel all over Australia as well as overseas to Cyprus, Noumea, and New Zealand to compete. Kate has recently been placed

10th in the World Cup Ladies Clay Target shooting rankings after finishing off the 2009 shooting calendar. Kate's cumulative score over three shoots qualified her in the top ten world rankings of women clay target shooters.

Kate's Manager, Rob Low is also heavily involved in the sport both as an administrator and competitor. Rob also competes in shotgun, target pistol and target rifle shooting and when it comes to Kate's achievements he is very proud to have her on his Insurance Team.

Marsh Specialty Services and Sportscover Australia have teamed up to provide a tailor made range of Gun Club, Pistol Club and Firearm Industry insurance products delivered by brokers like Kate who combine their passion and knowledge of their sport with their insurance skills to provide clients outstanding service and security.

FITASC is LA FEDE INTERNATIONALE DE TIR AUX ARMES SPORTIVES DE CHASSE which is the world's peak body for shooting sports.



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FOCUS on Risk Management

At Touchline, we believe that a focus on safety issues should be an essential part of the work of any sports organisation. In many cases, potential dangers and risks can be eliminated, or at the very least minimised by careful use of risk management techniques. The application of risk management is a common sense approach to administering sport and most of the elements of a risk management plan are simple and straightforward to implement. Where many plans fall down is through non-adherence by members and staff which leads to a build up of potential risks.

Touchline is introducing a series of articles on risk management to help to raise awareness of the issues. This is not an exhaustive examination and does not eliminate the need for clubs and associations to seek their own advice which will be tailored to their own particular circumstances.

In this edition, Simon Cincotta, CEO of VRA Risk, examines the potential risks associated with playing surfaces.

Playing Surfaces

The modern amateur sporting club faces many challenges to ensure its survival. Lack of funds, aging facilities and equipment, more potential liabilities and insufficient volunteers and committee members are some of the major hurdles faced by clubs at the start of every season. The growing number of sports available to the sporting enthusiast depletes the number of players available and it's an uphill battle for a club of unpaid officials to remain viable. Add to this the adverse weather conditions being experienced throughout the world affecting the playing surfaces for most outdoor sports and the last thing on many club officials' minds is risk management - we just want to play the game, they say.

Risk management doesn't have to be nor should it be an onerous burden on any club. Instead risk management can be a key difference between a successful club and one that languishes or even ceases to exist. The most important thing is mindset; the way that risk management is perceived by the officials and the members. Educating everyone as to why risk management is important can give people a greater understanding as to why it is necessary and lead to people embracing what is required rather than complaining every time the subject is mentioned. Never make assumptions that everyone understands the purpose behind what you are doing.

For any club keeping the process simple, user friendly and meaningful is the key. Don't make things overly complicated or irrelevant, keep anything you do focused on what is important.

One of the biggest areas of concern for any club is the playing surface; is it safe to play on? Many national and international sporting bodies will have a guide as to what is a minimum acceptable standard for the playing surface of any particular sport; this is always a good starting point for any risk management plan. These standards will address issues of playing surface size, minimum run off distances and equipment requirements that are all specific to the nature of the game.

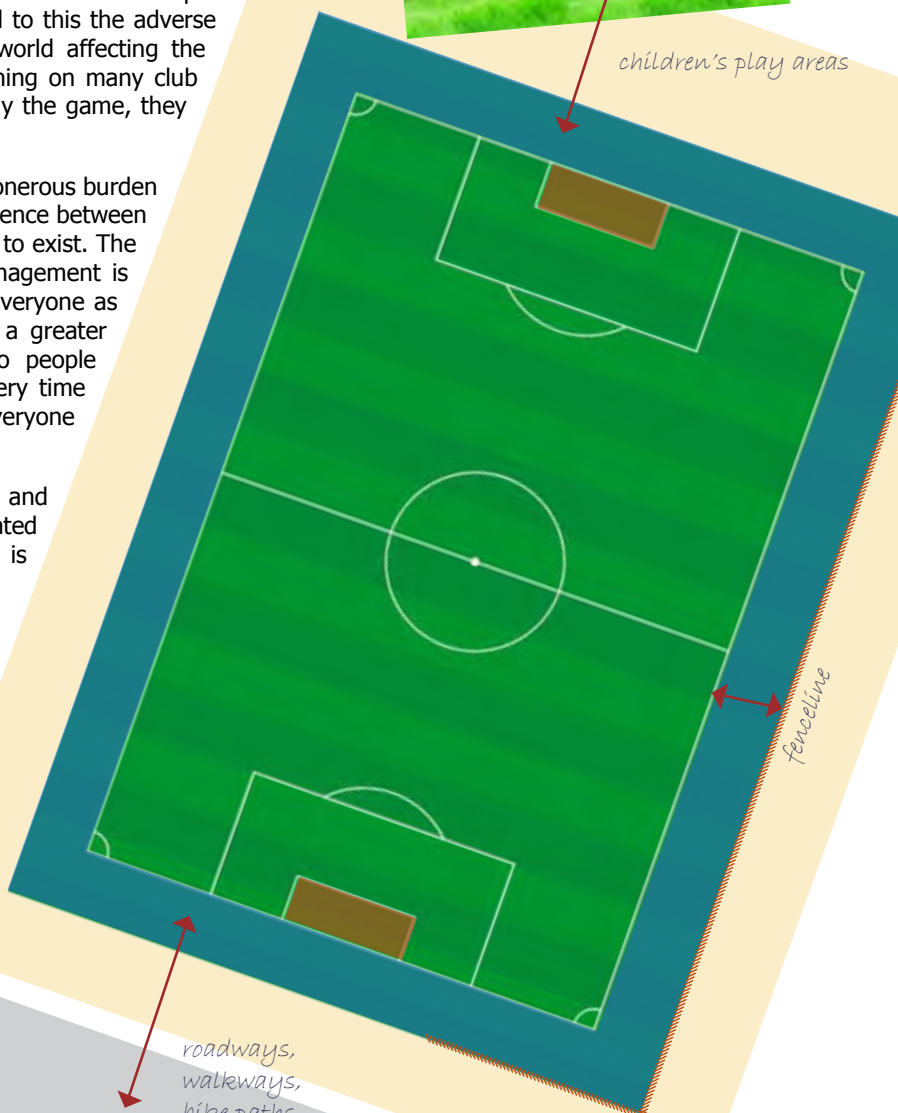
Regular inspections of the playing surface are an essential part of any risk management plan. A concise checklist acting as a guide for the pre-game inspection will help focus the inspection on the key areas you have identified. This should include the general condition of the playing surface (natural or artificial), looking specifically for any undulations, potholes, gaps in synthetic surface joins. Is it clear of general debris (rocks, glass, needles, faeces) and are sprinkler

Breaking the playing area down into key areas can help in the Risk Management process.

- Immediate playing surface.
- Run off area.
- Associated equipment.
- Surrounding area.



children's play areas



fence line

roadways, walkways, bike paths

heads appropriately covered? Depending on the sport a more detailed inspection could include the hardness of the surface itself. There is a list of cases that have been won by plaintiffs injured as a result of unsafe playing areas¹. These injuries and the legal actions have a dramatic impact on the player and club.

A variety of sports have players constantly exiting the playing surface and sliding or running into the runoff area between the outer perimeter fence and playing boundary. It is essential that this area is also clear of debris and that drains/grates are safely secured and level with the surface. Fencing also poses a major threat to players and officials with protruding wires, bolt heads and sponsor signage with sharp edges etc. all having the potential for inflicting serious injury. The actual material used for the fencing can present a threat to player safety if it is too rigid and players are constantly colliding with it. Other poles, walls or structures (such as staircases, scoring boxes etc) in close proximity to the edge of any playing surface should also be inspected and be at a safe distance, appropriately padded or removed if possible.

Often clubs focus attention on the playing surface only with the associated equipment being forgotten. Goals and netting are often the cause of injuries from quite innocent actions either in the setup or playing of the game. The general condition of the goals and netting should be inspected to ensure it does not fail during the game. Poles and posts should also have the appropriate padding applied. Protruding hooks, bolts and nails used to fix equipment have resulting in many severe injuries to players and officials, such as their wedding ring becoming caught and their finger being de-gloved (very nasty!). Along with general visual inspection it is a good idea to have pole and posts, fixing cables etc inspected for their integrity to avoid any failures as a result of fatigue.

Sporting clubs also have a responsibility to patrons of the venue and to the general public who may be injured through the poor positioning of the playing surface in relation to spectator areas, roads, pathways, children's play areas and car parking areas. Appropriate warning signs and netting should be installed if the close proximity of the playing surface to other public areas is unavoidable. There must be regular inspections of the netting, fencing and signage with close attention being paid to its effectiveness and

1. Cited example: *Williams v Latrobe Council* [2007] TASSC 2 - where a player landed on an irrigation tap cover, which was not flush with the playing surface.

changes made if necessary.

The aim of any risk management plan should ultimately be the safety of everyone involved including players, officials, spectators and the general public. Sport plays a major part in the community and provides not only a great way for people to stay fit and healthy but is also a social bond for everyone involved. Many injuries that occur are preventable with a good risk management plan in place which is adhered to by everyone involved in the club.



Main points relating to playing surfaces

The sports playing surface/field is the most important component of any sports game. Unfortunately too many clubs focus on getting their team on the field (enough players, equipment etc) and don't pay enough attention the surface the team will be playing on.

The condition of the playing surface should be:

- Regularly inspected – is the surface even (potholes/joins), clear of debris (rocks, glass, needles), clearly marked, are sprinkler heads covered, spoon drains level?
- A safe distance from neighbouring roads, houses/buildings, playgrounds and carparks.

Equipment

- Goals, goal posts, netting all pose risk to players and officials during the game. Inappropriate/ inadequate padding, exposed hooks or bolts, defective or inappropriate equipment, old or worn out nets, posts, supports etc. can result in failure of the equipment.

Other Issues

- What is the policy regarding bad/inclement weather policy – consider heat/cold, wind, rain, snow, lightning? Make sure that the rules are strictly adhered to.

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on track

QUICK NEWS TO KEEP YOU IN THE FAST LANE

Race driver causes largest UK Insurance Payout for Private Car

Gareth Jones, the owner of a Pagani Zonda S supercar has revealed that a professional racing driver was behind the wheel when it crashed on a country road, causing £300,000 worth of damage.

The accident in Aberdeenshire has resulted in one of the biggest motor insurance pay-outs in Britain, but Mr Jones, 58, the multi-millionaire owner of the vehicle, is philosophical about the expensive accident.

He said that hitting an electricity pole was an "appropriately humbling" experience for the driver, but the damage was "of no consequence".

Jones, retired oil tycoon, refuses to say

who was behind the wheel, but insisted the driver was "an internationally famous racing champ" and the crash last September was not his fault.

He added: "A magazine was doing an appraisal of the car for an article and it was being driven by a professional. There's no way I'd have given the keys of my car to anyone who wasn't qualified to handle it.

"We were travelling at speed. He was driving the car in such fine balance that he never once triggered the traction control. It was the state of the road that caused the crash. We hit mud, which is constantly being dragged on to the main roads by

tractors coming out of the fields."

"There are far worse things happening in the world today and it's only a car. It's of no consequence."

He bought the Zonda for £400,000 a few years ago, but they are so rare that they appreciate in value. The businessman is understood to have made more than £30 million when he sold the Aberdeen-based firm, Dominion Gas, in 2007.

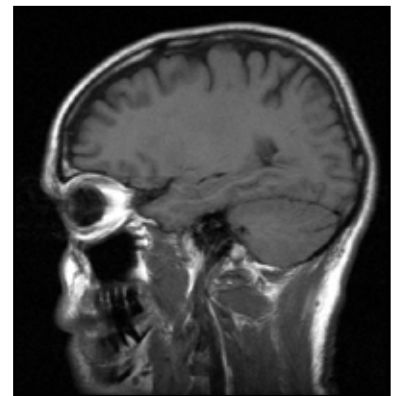
A spokesman for the insurer Aviva said: "This is the biggest insurance pay-out we have had for repairs to a private car in the UK. This is out of the ordinary for an insurer."

Liverpool Appoints Sport Scientist to Lessen Risk

English Premier League club, Liverpool, has moved to ensure the chronic injury crisis which cost them the services of Fernando Torres and Steven Gerrard for much of the campaign is not repeated next year by appointing one of the world's leading sports scientists.

Dr Peter Brukner, currently team doctor for the Australian national team, will take up the position at Liverpool's Melwood training base after the World Cup as the club seeks to put an end to the injuries which have plagued Torres, in particular, over the last two years.

The Spanish striker and Gerrard have missed 22 games this season between them.



Trying to prevent sports injuries to the head

State University of New York (SUNY) Youth Sports declared March "Brain Injury Awareness Month".

During March the university raised awareness amongst parents of the fact that helmet use is far more prevalent in the games of spring, summer and autumn thus reducing head, neck, facial, mouth and eye injuries. While helmets do not prevent all traumatic head injuries they can reduce the risk of concussion and more serious head trauma.

Ten percent of all contact sport athletes sustain concussions annually. Parents, the primary guardian of children often do not take these concussions seriously.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), "using head protection might well prevent or reduce the severity of head injuries by over 50% in youngsters under the age of 15."

Sports Areas Lack Vital Emergency Care

Everyone knows that viewing sporting events can send the blood pressure of devoted fans through the roof. The reality is this can cause heart attacks in vulnerable spectators. A new study published in the European Heart Journal indicates that many sports arenas in Europe lack both procedures and the correct equipment to save the lives of heart attack victims.

The researchers from Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK investigated 187 top sports arenas used by 190 leading football clubs in ten European countries during the 2005/06 season.

They distributed a 12-point questionnaire focusing on, among other things, the average numbers of spectators in the arenas during a full season, the availability of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), the number of emergency personnel present, and the average distance in time and kilometres to the nearest hospital.

They found that over 25 percent of arenas studied had neither AEDs onsite nor medical action plans. Furthermore, they discovered that some of the arenas do not have basic or advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training programmes in place.

According to the researchers, while no players or officials suffered a heart attack during the period investigated, 77 spectators did. The researchers estimated the incidence of such events at about 1 in 589,000 spectators. The problem must be addressed, they said, adding that urgent action is needed.



on track

CONTINUED...

Tips for Reducing Risks during Marathons

The International Marathon Medical Director's Association (IMMDA) has issued nine tips for participants of marathons and half marathons to prevent sudden death.

Marathon and half marathon participation is an extreme endurance sport with intrinsic risks inherent in understanding and respecting these distances.

In an attempt to reduce the risks of sudden death, IMMDA has developed the following guidelines.

1. Participants should not only be sufficiently trained, but equally important, they should have a goal and corresponding race plan that is appropriate for that level of training and fitness. If not, do not attempt the distance.
2. Have a yearly physical examination being sure to discuss your exercise plans, goals and intensity at that visit.
3. Consume one baby aspirin (81mg) on the morning of a long run/walk of 10 km or more if no medical contraindication.
4. Consume less than 200mg caffeine before and during a 10 km or more walk/run.
5. Only drink a sports drink or its equivalent during a workout of 10 km or more.
6. Drink for thirst.
7. Do not consume Non steroidal Anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) during a run or walk of 10 km or more.
8. Consume salt (if no medical contraindication) during a 10 km or more walk/run.
9. During the last mile, maintain your pace or slow down; do not sprint the last part of the race unless you have practised this in your training. Run/walk as you train.



Report Shows Sports Events Provide Economic Boost

Emerging countries are increasingly using major sporting events to establish themselves on the global stage, a new report has found.

Hosting sports events such as the Olympic Games or the football World Cup can boost a country's economy and social development at a much faster pace than other initiatives, according to the Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu report.

South Africa is preparing to host the football World Cup this year – the first time the tournament will have been staged in Africa – while Rio de Janeiro will become the first South American city to host the Olympics in 2016.

"Emerging countries and cities are seeking to distinguish themselves in the new economy by hosting major events to put themselves front and centre on the global stage," the report's co-author Greg Pellegrino said.

He pointed out that the strict deadlines associated with international sports events can help accelerate economic development, boost tourism and improve infrastructure.

Vancouver has used the Winter Games to build a convention centre, a

rapid transit rail line and a motorway.

However, host countries and cities must increase their investment in security measures, the report added.

"A critical role for the Government is keeping people safe," Pellegrino said.

"Aspiring hosts need to do what is necessary to address these challenges. With time, money and effort, overall security can have a positive and lasting impact on the athletes, spectators, international organisations and the host itself, long after the event finishes."



70 percent of Premier League clubs on credit blacklist

According to reports sighted by The Times and generated by Riskdisk, a credit checking agency, 14 out of the 20 clubs in the Barclays Premier League have had their credit ratings "suspended".



The clubs with a "suspended" rating were Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Chelsea, Everton, Fulham, Hull City, Liverpool, Manchester City, Portsmouth, Stoke City, Wigan Athletic and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

While the analysis seen by The Times is proprietary and will differ from ratings agency to agency, the newspaper said that the research highlighted the "creaking finances" of many clubs following the crisis at Portsmouth, which in February became the first Premier League side to go into administration.

The paper adds that the discovery of the credit blacklist was mirrored by research from another credit-ratings firm, Experian, which concluded that five Premier League sides were on its "financial critical" list, although the identity of the clubs was unclear. In January, the agency blacklisted eight clubs.

Winning Ways

Tom Maher, Head Coach of Great Britain's Women's Basketball team, took the time to chat with Touchline.

Australian-born Maher's illustrious coaching career has spanned four continents and a wide range of competitions. He is the most successful coach in the history of the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) in Australia having won seven WNBL titles. He earned the title of Coach of the Year in 1987, 1992 and 2010 and is a Life Member of the WNBL.

In 1996, Maher led the Australian women's national basketball team to their first Olympic medal (a bronze) and on to silver at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He moved on to coach the New Zealand national team to their best-ever Olympic performance in Athens 2004 and then went on to coach the Chinese National Team into fourth place at the Beijing Olympics.

In addition to his amazing success in the Olympic arena, Maher was the head coach for the Washington Mystics in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) in the U.S. and head coach of WNBL teams Nunawading, Perth, Sydney, Canberra and Bulleen.

In May 2009 Maher was appointed coach of the Great Britain women's basketball team and is looking towards the London 2012 Olympics.

Can you tell us a bit about your career path? What brought you to women's basketball?

I started coaching junior girls when my little sister Kerrie was 10. I was playing then and her training was before mine, so it fitted in nicely.

You have coached a range of teams from different countries. Have you found the cultures of the teams vastly different or is the culture of basketball quite consistent?


Definitely. Each country's culture is somewhat different, but nevertheless there is a sub-culture in basketball that helps understanding in the basketball community. Certainly China was a huge difference because Chinese basketball had not progressed to the type of 'world' game that the rest of the world has gravitated

towards. On the other hand, coaching New Zealand 'culturally' was virtually no different from coaching an Australian team; the sporting ethos was so similar.

How is coaching a national team different to coaching a WNBL team?

The biggest difference is that you don't need to recruit and players can't get a transfer, this is good and bad. If the team lacks talent there is no other way than to develop the players you have. On the other hand, players that might play individually in other club-type teams have to adhere to the party line if they want to make the national team (unless of course a star player has so much power they can hold the coach to ransom). Coaching a national team is relevant to the talent you have, some countries just aren't that good, but coaching the Australian team which is full of great players with great team ethics is a dream job and in most ways easier than coaching a club team.

You've had great success throughout your career as a coach, what makes your teams so successful? Are there particular universal techniques you always use or do you tailor your coaching style to the team?

The universal aspect that I apply is my team philosophy, that comes with me as a coach. Furthermore, I believe I have a solid grasp on how basketball should be played, so in general terms I teach a successful style of play. Nevertheless, a team is reliant on its talent so one has to be mindful and ready to make adjustments. Recently I was asked this question and the notion did come to me that one thing that I think has helped me is that I have a team mentality and the team's success was never about me. In regards to my philosophy, I base everything on seven themes. In short to be successful, a team (or individual) must rank highly in 



the following:

- A team in great physical shape
- A team that plays with relentless persistence
- A team that can handle adversity
- An assertive team
- A flexible team
- A great defensive team
- A "WE" team

Of course without explanation these are just glib bullet points so everything must be fully explained, formalised and workshopped.

What are your tips for the 2012 Olympics? Do you feel at all torn when you are coaching teams other than Australia?

My tip is that the USA and Australia will be the two top teams. I think that Russia is on a downward slide. I think the big dark horse is France. I love the Australian team but I am not torn in the slightest. If I am not a member of the Australian team, but a member of their opposition then that's where my loyalty lies.

Can you tell us about some of your most memorable moments in your career?

I've been fortunate to be a part of many great teams. All our wins are special. Winning our first WNBL title was special. NZ making the quarterfinals at Athens was a miracle. I'm immensely proud of China's semi-final berth at Beijing, but if I had to be pinned down to one game it would be the Opals' win over Italy at the world champs at OZ 94. The team had failed to qualify for the '92 Olympics and we were about to be knocked out early if we didn't beat the highly ranked Italians by 14 points. We did and we went on to play in the semi-finals. That was a special moment. After that Australia has never finished out of the medals.

You have worked with so many talented players. Who have been your favourites? Why?

My favourites were great team people and truly great players. They were great at both ends of the court and were never beaten. Fortunately, I can name 20 but that's not the heart of the question, so I'll name my top three. Robyn Maher, Michele Timms and Lauren Jackson are unquestionably three of Australia's four greatest players. Penny Taylor is the other one, but I only got to coach her when she was a rookie so it doesn't really count.

What have been the greatest challenges you've faced as a coach?

"Challenges" means problems. It means handling problems well. Of course you get the day-to-day problems that arise in any job but I think to qualify as a great challenge it requires having to overcome adversity. Getting fired is always a great test for the sporting coach's character. Coaches fire people all the time, they don't pick them in the team, they don't start players that want to start, etc. It's not good when a coach gets fired and cries and moans foul play. If you are going to coach, it's unavoidable that you will at some stage get fired. It's at that time one has to show some character. In my third year at Hobart in the NBL I was fired, and looking back I think that was a reasonable decision as we were pretty terrible. Nevertheless I was determined to take it on the chin and in the end proved something to myself.

What do you consider your greatest achievements as a coach? You have had such terrific success, but are their particular



successes you are most proud of?

I have good technical knowledge. I have a sound philosophy. I have a good style of play. I'm a team person and I have a reputation for honesty. These are things that a professional can be proud of. I might also add that I value some of the friendships that I have made with people that I consider particularly classy.

Is there anything that you would change about your career trajectory?

No, it's all good.



Sports Shorts

Mountain biker dies during Cape Epic stage race

AUSTRALIAN mountain biker James Williamson has died while competing in South Africa.

A former world solo 24-hour champion and respected cycling journalist, 26-year-old Williamson from Canberra died in Ceres in the Western Cape Province while taking part in the 722km Absa Cape Epic stage race, according to The Cape Argus newspaper.



RBS Six Nations draws in £420m

The RBS Six Nations Championship delivered a £420.94m total economic impact for the six competing nations according to a survey by MasterCard.

The study estimated that England enjoyed a positive economic impact of £88.38m – the largest of the participating countries.

Ireland received a boost of £81.85m, followed by France with £81.21m, Wales with £72.50m, Scotland drawing in £62.90m and Italy seeing a £34.10m benefit from the championship.

Rugby is also continuing to see a growth in both popularity and participation according to the research which found that more than 2.6m people currently play the sport in the six competing nations.

The largest numbers are in England, where 687,000 people played rugby in 2009, an estimated 4.4% increase from 2007.

The research found that the Six Nations tournament remains popular across Europe with an estimated 125m people watching the 2010 Six Nations Championship on television across the six participating nations.

In addition, an estimated 1,054,654 people attended 2010 matches, which is an increase on last the previous season, which saw attendances of 981,963.



2018 Winter Olympics candidates hosts

Munich (Germany), Annecy (France) and PyeongChang (Republic of Korea) have submitted their responses to the IOC Candidature Acceptance Procedure questionnaire to become candidates to host the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in 2018, The International Olympic Committee has announced.

The completed questionnaire provides the IOC with an overview of each of the applicant city's project and is the key element in the first phase of the procedure leading to the election of the host city of the Olympic Winter Games in 2018. The IOC Executive Board will meet in June in Lausanne to decide which cities will be accepted as Candidate Cities.

The election of the 2018 host city will take place in Durban, South Africa, on 6th July 2011.



FIFA rejects use of technology

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) has confirmed that technology will not be introduced into the game. The Board voted that goal-line technology would not be pursued - FIFA's general secretary Jérôme Valcke said: 'A decision was made not to go with technology. It's an end to the potential use of technology within football.'

FIFA has been under increasing pressure to use technology in a bid to eliminate mistakes that are highlighted by television replays.

Madrid tops Deloitte Football Money League again

Real Madrid remains the world's richest football club for the fifth straight year according to the latest annual Football Money League produced by Deloitte. The Money League, based on data for season 2008/09, also stated that Real are the first global sports team to see annual revenues top 400m euros.

Real's arch-rivals Barcelona have taken second spot in the list, ahead of Manchester United who drop to third. Arsenal, Chelsea and Liverpool are fifth, sixth and seventh respectively.

The report shows that 7 of the top 20 in its table are from England, the other three being Tottenham (15th), Manchester City (19th), and relegated club Newcastle United (20th).

All the 20 clubs represented are from the 'big five' European leagues, with Germany contributing five clubs, Italy four, and France and Spain two each.

The Deloitte review does not include the cost of transfer fees or player wages, or VAT and other sales taxes, and concentrates solely on day-to-day income from football business. Income includes money from ticket sales, sponsorship, merchandising and other commercial revenues, television monies, corporate hospitality, and non-match day stadium use such as for conferences.

Deloitte Football Money League

- 1) Real Madrid: 401.4m euros
- 2) Barcelona: 365.9m euros
- 3) Man Utd: 327m euros
- 4) Bayern Munich: 289.5m euros
- 5) Arsenal: 263m euros
- 6) Chelsea: 242.3m euros
- 7) Liverpool: 217m euros
- 8) Juventus: 202.3m euros
- 9) Inter Milan 196.5m euros
- 10) AC Milan: 196.5m euros

Source: Deloitte: 2008/09



Sports Shorts



Water skier killed during competition

A water ski race on the Australian New South Wales-Victorian border continued despite the death of a 41-year-old competitor. The Southern 80 water ski race was held from 12-14 February on the Murray River from Torrumbarry to Echuca, where there are more than 120 bends in the river.

The man from Melbourne was competing when he and another skier crashed shortly after 4pm, an Ambulance Victoria spokesman said. He suffered a cardiac arrest and, despite the efforts of paramedics, could not be revived.

A second male skier suffered a dislocated shoulder and was airlifted to Bendigo Hospital.

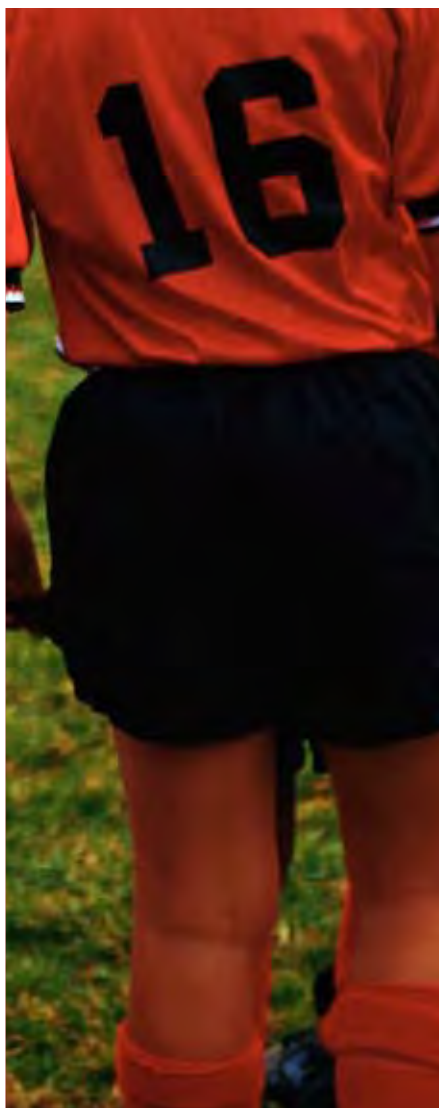
A NSW police spokesperson said bystanders pulled the 41-year-old man from the water after the accident and investigations into the incident were continuing, with a report to be prepared for the coroner.

The race attracts entries from all over Australia, plus international competitors from New Zealand, Great Britain and the US, according to the event's website.



New Jaked swimsuits approved

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) has approved a new line of swimming suits designed by Italian manufacturer Jaked. Jaked was involved in controversy before last year's World Championships in Rome when its suits, that allegedly helped to produce a number of world records, were deemed illegal and competitors were barred from wearing them in competition. As a result, FINA were forced to introduce new regulations regarding the type of suits that swimmers could wear.



Rugby World Cup is New Zealand's Golden Goose

New Zealand's Prime Minister, John Key, has said that next year's Rugby World Cup could boost the country's economy by NZ\$1.25bn.

The news comes just days after foreign minister Murray McCully suggested that New Zealand may not be able to afford to stage the tournament again because hosting it was proving to be so expensive.

"From a New Zealand government point of view, we are hugely supportive of the tournament because we know it will be hugely successful," he said.

"[It has been] estimated the economic impact is worth about \$1.25bn to New Zealand. This is a big event for New Zealand and a big boost for our economy."

The tournament itself is projected to make a loss of about NZ\$40m, which will be met by the government and the New Zealand Rugby Union.

Under the hosting agreement with the International Rugby Board (IRB), tournament organisers are only able to keep revenue generated from the sale of tickets.



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- Canoeing
- Cricket
- Gymnastics
- Handball
- Keep Fit
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Triathlon
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