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I N T E R V I E W

New President,
New Era: Neven Ilíc

Panam Sports President and International Olympic Committee member Neven Ilíc reflects on his first nine months at the helm of Panam Sports. He expresses optimism on the work being done for Lima 2019 and addresses the challenges that lay ahead for Panam Sports and the Olympic Movement.

He welcomed the opportunity with the same exuberance and warmth as he would a meeting with NOC leaders and friends.

How do you feel about the Presidential experience Mr. Ilíc?

“Truthfully, it’s been spectacular. Filled with challenges, future projects and huge potential to do big things for our continent. The Americas have a variety of countries facing different cultural realities and necessities, and we are here to help them and their athletes. I think one of the most gratifying experiences has been getting to know each of the members of the Olympic Committees, finding out what they need so that we may help them accordingly and work together in the name of sport. We’re still within the first year since I was elected and it’s been a time of learning and it will allow us, starting in 2018, to begin to try and implement different formulas with the goal of servicing each of the Committees.”

What did you find when you first took this position?

“We found an organization that was very organized economically. I think it’s rare to find an institution like the one I am part of, one with such organization and consolidation. It’s allowed us to hit the ground running, to grow and be very optimistic of what the future holds.”

One of your first projects was to build a professional team for Panam Sports...can you expand on that?

“The world we live in today is a professional world which moves forward with the modern times and I believe Panam Sports needed to grow in this particular aspect. We’re working very hard to enhance our capabilities in the areas of marketing, social media, communications and branding. The more we market ourselves consistently, the more attractive we become to athletes, sponsors and everyone surrounding sport.”

In your last speech during the Presidential elections in Punta del Este, one of the things you mentioned was that you want to create a big family within Panam Sports. How do you think that is going so far?

“It was really hard for us to witness how much our family suffered during these disasters. They know we are at their service for whatever they need and we let them know that the moment these disasters hit their doorstep, we’ve been working very hard with all of these countries and helping them as much as necessary.”

The Commissions are hard at work and we are seeing the fruits of their labor. From what you have seen, what have they accomplished so far and what can we expect in the near future?

“The Commissions are an experienced and hardworking team. The goal for each of them is to develop their areas and come up with proposals with clear action items to present to the Executive Committee moving forward. I’m very pleased with the professionalism and motivation I have seen in them and the way they’ve so seamlessly taken on this important role.”

The Miami office has been up and running for a couple of months now. What was your objective when choosing this city for Panam Sports, aside from Mexico City, and how have the sports authorities received you in North America?

“Mexico City is where we are officially based, but we chose Miami for two very important reasons. The United States has a very significant market and we’ve always known we have to be present there and be part of it and secondly, because it is the most convenient and accessible meeting point for all of the Panam Sports family to gather – especially from the islands in the Caribbean with most flights having a layover in Miami. It has been a wonderful couple of months in Miami since it’s given us the ability to get together and hold very necessary meetings in an economic fashion. Miami is thrilled to have Panam Sports in their city. They are very interested to work together and work together towards our goals.”

Mother Nature has been unkind to some of the member countries of Panam Sports. Hurricane Maria affected many Caribbean islands and the earthquake in Mexico was also a catastrophic natural disaster. Was there help offered to these countries?

“It was really hard for us to witness how much our family suffered during these disasters. They know we are at their service for whatever they need and we let them know that the moment these disasters hit their doorstep, we’ve been working very hard with all of these countries and helping them as much as necessary.”

The Commissions are hard at work and we are seeing the fruits of their labor. From what you have seen, what have they accomplished so far and what can we expect in the near future?

“I am incredibly confident in each of these commissions. They are an experienced and hardworking team. The Commissions are hard at work and we are seeing the fruits of their labor. From what you have seen, what have they accomplished so far and what can we expect in the near future?”

After the Panam Sports General Assembly last November, you received many compliments on the new way you are running these meetings and also received great gratitude from NOC Presidents and Secretary Generals. Is this what you want for Panam Sports? Togetherness, modernization, dynamism?

“Yes, I think the Assembly in Prague was a huge success. I think our message reached each and every one of the Presidents and Secretary Generals and that was crucial for me. This way of operating is what I bring to institutions I have been a part of and it is what I would like to bring to Panam Sports.”

Lima 2019 and Santiago 2023:

The flagship Panam Sports event is, without a doubt, the Pan American Games. The largest multi-sport event of the Americas has demonstrated impeccable quality, organization and high-level competition over the past two decades. The next big challenge is Lima 2019. A host city that despite having many issues in the beginning, now finds themselves with preparations.
As a civil engineer, can you count on the Village to be finished in time for the Games?

“IT’S a compromising question but we are on track to have it all done and I think it’s a reality that we will meet the deadlines for the Athlete’s Village.”

Does the political instability in the country of Peru worry you?

“It’s always a worry. Political instability could always create problems in other areas but, for right now, and according to what is being reported by the team working there, the political issues will not affect the development of the Games.”

In your opinion, how are the Peruvian Olympic Committee and COPAL collaborating?

“They are doing an amazing job. Carlos Neuhaus and his team, as well as Pedro del Rosario and his team, are dedicated to the success of Lima 2019. We speak to Carlos regularly and we’re up to date with the day to day activities in Peru.”

What measures does Panam Sports need to take to guarantee the deadlines are all met in Lima?

“The daily and monthly assistance to the Organizing Committee in conjunction with the Technical and Coordination Commissions. We will be going frequently to Lima, as there are a number of deadlines and steps that need to be met in 2018 and we have to be vigilant on this.”

Santiago, Chile will be the next host of the 2023 Pan American Games, a personal wish of yours...

“It isn’t just personal, but the entire country’s wish. We’ve finally accomplished our goal after everything we had to go through to get there. It is very gratifying. It has always been a dream of mine and to think that now Chile will have the opportunity to organize the Pan American Games is very positive for all Chileans.”

WHAT’S COMING IN 2018

Our Panam Sports athletes will face many challenges during this season: the PyeongChang Olympic Games, Cochabamba 2018, Barranquilla 2018 and the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.

What do you expect from the Panam Sports athletes as far as performance and results?

“Our countries and athletes have prepared well for the events happening in 2018. I think today the opportunities we have as institutions whether it be Panam Sports or sub-regional ones, are very positive. We have to come together and work on a collective project. We need to generate successful events of quality and help one another to achieve all of this. This will help with each country’s sport and athlete development, better the competitive environment, and by default, increase our athletes’ level of playing field beyond this continent.”

What are the short term and long term goals for this organization?

“Panam Sports has a year of challenges ahead and something that is very important to me is creating programs to help each and every one of the NOCs with better training facilities for their athletes, infrastructure, giving those organizations headquarters so that from these, they can begin to work and think of their long-term goals and, with it, bring enthusiasm and support to the younger generations. As far as marketing, I am invested in branding our organization and elevating us to be as recognized as the IOC.”

What are your hopes for this organization?

“To do a great job and help all of the athletes across the continent.”

What does being named an IOC member mean to you?

“It is a great honor. I think that all of us who are in sports leadership dream of this.”

I am incredibly grateful for the trust the IOC President Thomas Bach and his team has in me and I am ready to contribute.”

I have to ask you about your opinion on the rough times the Olympic Movement is going through with regards to doping and the sanctions placed by the Russian Olympic Committee on the IOC. What do you think of this and the criticism IOC President Bach has received?

“I strongly believe the IOC took a very responsible, well thought out, well analyzed decision. They reached the conclusion that this is the best decision and I obviously respect that.”

Suddenly, the phone rings. This time it’s Lima 2019 President Carlos Neuhaus calling from Peru. After a 30-minute interview, it’s time for Illic to get back to work. Just another day in the life for a President working non-stop to grow Panam Sports since his election on April 26.
COMMITTED TO PANAM SPORTS

In order for our athletes and National Olympic Committees to receive proper support from the Pan American Sports Organization, three key groups are working to realize all objectives and projects: the Executive Committee, the Working Commissions and the operational staff with offices in Mexico, Miami and Santiago.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Panam Sports Executive Committee is comprised of 21 top sports leaders managed by President Neven Ilic (CHI), Vice President Carlos Padilla (MEX), second Vice President Mario Moccia (ARG), third Vice President Keith Joseph (VIN), Secretary General Ivar Sisniega (MEX) and Treasurer Richard Peterkin (LCA).

In addition, there are nine Executive Committee members divided into three groups. Group 1: Scott Blackmun (USA), Alain Jean Pierre (HAI) and Silvia Gonzalez (CRC). Group 2: Alphonso Bridgewater (SHN), Veda Bruno-Victor (GRN) and Sara Rosario (PUR). Group 3: Nicola Hoewertz (ARU), Kalam Azad Juman-Yassin (GUY) and Camilo Perez (PAR).

Athletes’ Commission Chair Alexandra Orlando (CAN), Honorary EC Members Jose R. Fernandez (CUB) and Fernando Beltranena (GUA), ACODEPA President Carlos Silva (MEX), Legal Commission Chair Michael Chambers (CAN) and Honorary President Julio Maglione (URU) complete the Executive Committee.

COMMISSIONS:

The 16 Working Commissions contain representatives from all 41 National Olympic Committees in Panam Sports. Their ongoing mission is to push forward all projects and work with the President and Executive Committee to develop and improve sport throughout the Americas.

There are a total of 118 people who comprise the 16 commissions, many of which were established in 2017. The Commissions are formed by a team of dedicated professionals who are passionate about sport and work tirelessly in the name of continental sport.

1/ LIMA 2019 COORDINATION AND FOLLOW UP COMMISSION

President: Keith Joseph (VIN).
Members: Alan Jean Pierre (HAI), Juan Santiago Estrada Garcia (NCA), Camilo Amado (PAN), Veda Bruno-Victor (GRN), Jimena Saldana (MEX), Nicole Hoewertz (ARU), Aliann Pompey (Athletes Commission) (GUY), Marco Arca (BOL), Doug Arnot (USA) and Miguel Angel Majka (CHI).

Objective: To ensure the proper development of the Lima 2019 Pan American Games in all areas of interest. Members should allocate responsibilities by area so that each one will follow up on a specific topic.

2/ SANTIAGO 2023 COORDINATION AND FOLLOW UP COMMISSION

President: Carlos Padilla (MEX).
Members: Henry Nunez (CRC), Mario Moccia (ARG), Hans Larsen (HAI), Sara Rosario (PUR), Augusto Moran (ECU), Carson Ebanks (CAY), Roberto Escobar (PAR), Pedro del Rosario (PER), Kalam Azad Juman-Yassin (GUY) and Adriana Escobar (Athletes Commission) (ESA).

Objective: To review in detail the Santiago bid for the 2023 Pan American Games, confirm the offer and agree on the contracts and guarantees to be signed. Further to the award, the Commission must follow up on the compliance of all the bid aspects, Members should allocate responsibilities by area so that each one will follow up on a specific topic.

3/ FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMISSION

President: Camilo Perez (PAR).
Members: Cliff Williams (ANT), Julio Perez (URU), Morana Kerek (USA). Treasurer: Richard Peterkin (LCA).

Objective: Responsibility to control the annual expenses of Panam Sports and to look after the Panam Sports reserve fund, now in Credit Suisse, as well as to propose investment strategies.

4/ SPORTS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

President: Alan Ashley (USA).
Members: Carolina Sanchez (CHI), Eduardo Alvarez (VEN), Baltazar Medina (COL), Trevoy Bailey (VIN), Roberto Richards (CUB) and David Sabor (BER).

Objective: Responsible for proposals to the Executive Committee regarding programs and measures to be taken by Panam Sports in order to increase the level of sport of the member countries as well as their athletes’ representation at the Pan American and Olympic Games.

5/ YOUTH PAN AMERICAN GAMES COMMISSION

President: Eduardo Palomo (ESA).
Members: Gerardo Aguirre (GUA), Chet Greene (ANT), Ephraim Pann (IVB), Veda Bruno-Victor (GRN), Juan Carlos Orhueila (PAR), Luis Mojica (DOM), Martha Deacon (CAN), Carlos Santiago (Athletes’ Commission) (PUR).

Objective: Responsible for creating and submitting proposals to the Executive Committee concerning solutions and ideas for the development and financing of the Youth Pan American Games, which will be considered as a pathway to developing sport for future generations in the Americas.

6/ TECHNICAL COMMISSION

President: Michael Fennell (JAM).
Members: Wellington Millar (BAH), Rane Romero (CUB), Humbartito Citron (PUR), Erikine Simmons (BAR), Victor Sergio Groupierre (ARG), Jorge Rosales (URU), Akio Tamashio (Lima 2019), Francisco Lee (ACODEPA Secretary General) (GUA), Eric Myles (CAN).

Objective: Responsible for the technical coordination of all Panam Sports sporting events.

7/ WOMEN IN SPORT COMMISSION

President: Silvia Gonzalez (CRC).
Members: Patricia Lopez (CHI), Alicia Morea (ARG), Elida Parraza (VEN), Annette Knott (TTT), Aliann Pompey (Athletes’ Commission) (GUY).

Objective: Responsible for proposals to the Executive Committee regarding programs and measures to be taken by Panam Sports in order to increase the level of sport of the member countries as well as their athletes’ representation at the Pan American and Olympic Games.
Objective: Ensure the constant growth of all Panam Sports women in both sports and leadership.

8/ ATHLETES’ COMMISSION
President: Alexandra Orlando (CAN).
Members: Guillermo Perez (MEX), Mijan Lopez (CUB), Andrea Estrada (GUA), Adriana Escobar (ESA), Carlos Santiago (PUR), Thiago Perny (BRA), and Alyann Pompey (GUY).

Objective: To represent the voice of all Panam Sports athletes and to ensure their development.

9/ MARKETING AND TV COMMISSION
President: Lisa Baird (USA).
Members: Alexandra Orlando (CAN), Derek Kent (CAN), Horacio da la Vega (MEX), Soledad Racacrea (CHI), Brian Lewis (TTO), Alphonso Bridgewater (SRN). Juan Carlos Rodriguez (MEX), Christian Stolak (JAM).

Objective: To ensure the best use of Continental Olympic Solidarity, World Olympic Solidarity and Pan American Olympic Solidarity funds.

11/ MEDICAL COMMISSION
President: Bernardo Chernillo (CHI).
Members: Rafael Robles (GUA), Bill Moreau (USA), Adrian Lorde (BAR), Enrique Amey (PUR), Eva Villata (HON), John Zambrano (ECU), Orlando Reyes (COL), Jose Veloso (URU), Niall Tatia (PER), Hugo Osvaldo Rodriguez Papi (ARG), Agustin Casaccia (PAR), Viridiana Silva (MEX), Jorge Pavel Pino (CUB), Robert McCoomack (CAN), Alejandro Opazo (CHI). Medical Commission Lawyer: Richard Young (USA).

Objective: Responsible for ensuring the best practices throughout the 41 NOCs of Panam Sports in regards to coaching athletes and educating athletes, coaches and officials on clean sport, fair play and the values of Panam Sports.

12/ PAN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY COMMISSION
President: Mario Moccia (ARG).
Members: Salvador Jimenez (HON), Keith Joseph (VIN), Camilo Perez (PAR), Guo Van der Jagt (SUR), Adriana Escobar (Athletes’ Commission) (ESA).

Objective: To ensure the safeguarding of Olympic values and traditions in Pan American sport.

13/ OLYMPIC ACADEMIES, CULTURE AND OLYMPIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
President: Alfred Emmanuel (LCA).
Members: Angel Morales (SV), Fernando Beltranana (GUA), Carlos Eduardo Villegas (COL), Silvia Dalotto (ARG), Arturo Picarro (PAR), Carlos Hernandez Schafter (MEX).

Objective: To ensure the modernization and compliance of all Panam Sports statutes. Additionally, it must approve the content and fulfillment of all contracts signed by Panam Sports.

14/ ETHICS COMMISSION
President: Royston La Hee (GRN).
Members: Michael Chambers (CAN), Christopher Samuda (JAM), Donald McLean (CAY), Kalam Azad Juman-Yassin (GUY), Roy Mezas (ARU), Camilo Amado (PAN).

Objective: Responsible for upholding the Code of Ethics, based upon the values and principles stated in the Olympic Charter. It investigates complaints raised in relation to the non-compliance of such ethical principles, including breaches of the Code of Ethics and, if necessary, proposes sanctions to the Panam Sports Executive Committee.

15/ COACHING AND EDUCATION COMMISSION
President: Jaime Agliati (CHI).
Members: Sandra Morales (MEX), Lorraine Lafreniere (CAN), Anthony Marcano (TTO), Garth Gayle (JAM), Matt Robinson (USA).

Objective: To ensure the best practices throughout the 41 NOCs of Panam Sports in regards to coaching athletes and educating athletes, coaches and officials on clean sport, fair play and the values of Panam Sports.

16/ AWARDS COMMISSION
President: Julio Maglione (URU).
Members: Naven Ilic (CHI), Carlos Padilla (MEX), Mario Moccia (ARG), Keith Joseph (VIN), Ivar Sisniega (MEX).

Objective: Panam Sports will evaluate and recognize those sport leaders who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to sport in the Americas.

The new Panam Sports team is up and running. Our idea is to serve all 41 NOCs and to continue to grow the Panam Sports programs.

1/ Team Panam Sports USA.
2/ Team Panam Sports Mexico.
3/ Team Panam Sports Chile (at left).

We now have three offices, with headquarters in Mexico City where we run the Pan American solidarity programs, NOC relations, sports, administration and overall operations. The President’s office is in Santiago, Chile where we also have the communications team. The new Miami office will be focused on marketing and communications and will serve as the base for most of our meetings due to its strategic location.
OUR NEW BRAND

We have fully embraced our identity as Panam Sports, taking our organization into a new era of leadership and modernization.

As a brand in a complex world with numerous stakeholders and an ever-changing media and sports landscape, our goal was to develop a meaningful and purposeful visual identity to elevate the global perception of Panam Sports and establish a modern, innovative world class organization that generates value to our National Olympic Committees, athletes, broadcasters, partners, advertisers and fans.

By actualizing the diversity and values of our 41 member nations through a modern and emotive brand, we will connect the people of the Americas through sport and develop and cultivate valuable partnerships to drive revenue and enhance our core asset, the Pan American Games.

At the beginning of 2017, we heard from our members and our Executive Board that this organization needed to place more attention on our marketing capacity. We are developing a stronger brand to ensure the Pan American Games, and all future assets, remain a powerful force within the marketplace. This is a top priority for new President Neven Ilic and his leadership team.

In close collaboration with our Marketing Commission, we successfully executed a search for a creative team with extensive knowledge of the Olympic Movement to develop our new brand identity. We listened to the views of our diverse community through our National Olympic Committees and ensured Executive Board approval before bringing our final proposal to the General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic this past November.

With great pride, we presented the work of the talented creative team, comprising of Peter Zeytoonjian and Geoffrey Engelhardt under the leadership of Lisa Baird, Chief Marketing Officer of the United States Olympic Committee. The presentation in Prague received an outstanding show of support and approval. We strongly believe our identity stands for a strong sense of welcome, excellence, diversity and progress, as we look to the bright future of Panam Sports: America’s Olympic Movement.
LIMA WORKS TIRELESSLY TO DELIVER PAN AMERICAN GAMES

With construction underway on the Pan American Village as well as other sports facilities, the Peruvian capital is working diligently to prepare for one of the biggest and most important sporting events in the city’s history.

Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, Lima 2019 Organizing Committee (COPAL) President Carlos Neuhaus and Peruvian Olympic Committee President Pedro del Rosario are working together to bring this project to life. Together, they say goodbye to a pessimistic and uncertain chapter and turn the page.

COPAL President Neuhaus highlighted the work that’s underway in Peru bestowing the country with world-class sporting infrastructure. The Peruvian capital of Lima is investing more than $310 million (USD) on sports infrastructure projects such as the Athletes Village, the Videna venue cluster and the Andres Avelino Caceres High Performance Center to leave a lasting legacy in the country.

“Lima will host the most important sporting event to ever take place in the country. The XVII Pan American Games and Sixth Pan American Games. We are pushing forward. It’s not an easy job, it is rather tough but we are already seeing results with the ongoing construction which will house thousands of athletes who will be arriving in less than two years,” Neuhaus said.

Lima 2019’s President emphasized that progress is moving swiftly as scheduled deadlines are being met. He adds that the projects due at the end of January 2018 are now 93 percent complete.

Panam Sports leadership and COPAL are in constant communication in addition to several trips to the host city made by Panam Sports President Neven Ilic and Secretary General Ivar Sisniega along with the Lima 2019 Coordination and Follow-Up Commissions.

“Peru will have exceptional Pan American Games where our athletes will shine. I am sure of it. Sports are vital for our youth’s development and that is why we are generating the adequate infrastructure, because we are thinking of our country and its future. We are creating an important legacy for Peru and for continental sports,” Neuhaus concluded.

PRESIDENT PEDRO PABLO KUCZYNSKI: “LIMA 2019 IS A COLOSSAL OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM PERUVIAN SPORT”

We begin this 2018 working strenuously and full of enthusiasm with the hope of realizing the international commitments we have made as a country, one of them being the XVII Pan American Games and VI Parapan American Games in 2019 taking place between July 26 and August 11 and August 23 and September 1, respectively. Lima, our capital, will be the host to this important multi-sport event. Years ago, we assumed the challenge of hosting and throughout this journey we have consolidated this project thanks to an incredible team of professionals that is fully invested and has the experience of dealing with public and private sectors to help realize successful Games.

The infrastructure labor foreseen for the development of this international event has been performed rigorously. One of the most important contributions the Lima 2019 legacy leaves behind is the Athletes Village located in the up-and-coming Villa El Salvador district. This village will house the most outstanding athletes of the Americas and the international delegations and after the Lima 2019 Games, it will turn into a housing project to benefit thousands of Peruvian families.

The Villa Deportiva Regional del Callao, the renovations to the National Mayor de San Marcos University and the Sports Center of Villa El Salvador are also a major part of the scope of work and will be adjudicated in March of this year.

The estimated budget to complete the infrastructure work for Lima 2019 totals $900 million dollars by 2019, creating a positive impact on the Peruvian economy. This will generate jobs through the development of productive sectors such as construction, tourism, hospitality, gastronomy and other services.

Lima 2019 is a colossal opportunity to transform Peruvian sport, inspire new generations, build a legacy and create a better country.

The Peruvian government thus rectifies and guarantees all of the compromises assumed by Peru with Panam Sports and the international community.

Pedro Pablo Kuczynski
President
Republic of Peru
PANAMSPORTS.ORG / FEBRUARY 2018

IOC RECOGNIZES

PANAM SPORTS LEADERS

The International Olympic Committee recognized eight members of the Panam Sports family during its Session in Lima, Peru last September. Panam Sports President Neven Ilic (CHI) and Luis Mejia (DOM) were elected new IOC members, while Anita DeFrantz (USA) was elected IOC Vice President for the second time in her career. Nicole Hoevertsz (ARU) was also elected as a member of the IOC Executive Committee while Richard Peterkin (LCA), Ivan Dibos (PER), Richard Parsons of Brazil also signed the contract in a show of support for the Pan American Games.

The new members of the IOC and its Executive Committee will be properly introduced in their new roles during the IOC Session in PyeongChang prior to the Opening Ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

SANTIAGO, CHILE WILL FINALLY HOST THE PAN AMERICAN GAMES IN 2023

After three attempts, the Chilean capital city was unanimously elected by the 41 members of Panam Sports as the host of the continental sports tournament.

years of patience finally paid off for the Chilean capital of Santiago during the Panam Sports General Assembly in Prague last November. By a show of hands, Santiago received unanimous support from the 41 National Olympic Committees of the Americas to host the 2023 Pan American and Parapan American Games.

The dream that had persisted in Chile for three consecutive bids was finally realized when Chilean Olympic Committee President Miguel Angel Mujica and Panam Sports President Neven Ilic signed the first updated Host City Contract under the organization’s new leadership.

International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons of Brazil also signed the contract in a show of support for the Parapan American Games.

“I believe people cannot imagine the celebration we are going to have in Santiago 2023 with conventional and Paralympic sport. I believe it is a great opportunity for our city to show everyone that we can change our lifestyles through sport,” said Claudio Orrego, Mayor of Santiago.

The Sports Minister and former Olympian Pablo Squella indicated that “we were able to convince all the delegates based on our achievements in the Santiago 2014 South American Games and the 2017 South American Youth Games that we have the conditions to host very good Games.”

Total joy was felt throughout Chile after the announcement. Athletes were delighted by the historic opportunity to host the most important continental sports event in Santiago.

Social media exploded with elation in Chile once the news was confirmed. Chile’s President Michelle Bachelet also celebrated through Twitter and congratulated all the people involved in the process.

COCH President Miguel Mujica also celebrated through Twitter and congratulated all the people involved in the process. “I feel very pleased. This is a dream come true for athletes, coaches, directors and many Chileans that love sport. This is the second most important sports event after the Olympic Games; we should feel proud and begin working as of today to be great hosts,” Mujica said.

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In 1988, Seoul entered the global sports arena for the first time, welcoming the world’s best athletes to the South Korean capital for the Summer Olympics. In the 30 years since those Games, South Korea has hosted a bevy of international competitions, including the FIFA World Cup and IAAF World Championships. Today, South Koreans are ready once again to host the world’s best athletes during the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics.

The city of PyeongChang is prepared to receive more than 10,000 people, including athletes, coaches, sports leaders and thousands of fans ready to witness the biggest sporting event of the year.

Organizers expect to welcome approximately 3,000 athletes from 95 countries who will be competing for a record 102 medals. Athletes will compete across 15 sports and disciplines, including: Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Nordic Combined, Curling, Freestyle Skiing, Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Ice Hockey, Luge, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Short Track Speed Skating, Ski Jumping, Skeleton and Snowboard.

At the time of publication, athletes from 11 countries in the Americas have qualified for PyeongChang 2018 with more expected to qualify as final spots are determined. The countries that have already secured trips to the Games are Argentina, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and the United States.

Two primary venue clusters will stage the Winter Olympics. In PyeongChang, the Alpensia Resort Sports Park will host the mountain sports such as biathlon and snowboarding, while Gangneung will feature ice sports such as curling and speed skating. The Olympic Stadium in PyeongChang will host both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Games.

Our continent will be represented by over 450 athletes from 12 different countries who managed to get the classification they had been longing for to the Winter Olympic Games. Out of the 13, the countries with the most participants are the United States and Canada; the two power-houses of winter sports in the Americas and, as always, two candidates who are likely to win a significant number of the medals to be awarded in Korea.
## Weather:
During the month of February, the weather is usually -6 degrees Celsius, although it can reach temperatures below -10 and sometimes even -20. If it does not rain enough in January and February to cause snowfall, the PyeongChang 2018 Organizing Committee has taken precautions and prepared artificial snow machines.

## Language:
The official language is Korean.

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### TORCH RELAY:

The torch is one of the most meaningful symbols of the Olympic Games. PyeongChang 2018 worked with Korean designer Young Se Kim to create the beautiful white and gold torch. The torch is 700 mm long, representing ‘Happy 700’, a concept originating from the belief that the most comfortable environment for human habitation can be found at 700 meters above sea level - the exact altitude of PyeongChang.

The torch has points in the shape of stars which represent the spirit of sport, bringing together different races, nations, religions, genders and cultures from each corner of the globe.

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### VENUES:

**Mountain Sports Venues (Alpensia)**

- Alpensia Ski Jumping Center: Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Snowboard
- Alpensia Biathlon Center: Biathlon
- Cross Country Ski Center: Cross Country Ski, Nordic Combined
- Alpensia's Sliding Tracks: Luge, Bobsleigh, Skeleton

**Additional Mountain Sports Venues**

- Yongpyong: Alpine Skiing (slalom, giant slalom)
- Bokwang: Acrobatic Skiing & Snowboard
- Jeongseon: Alpine Skiing (downhill, super giant, combined)

**Gangneung Venues**

- Ice Hockey Pavilion: Ice Hockey (Men’s)
- Curling Pavilion: Curling
- Olympic Oval: Speed Skating
- Ice Pavilion Gangneung: Figure Skating and Short Track Speed Skating
- Ice Pavilion Kwandong: Ice Hockey (Women’s)

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### Opening Ceremony

- 1/ Alpensia Ski Jumping Center
- 2/ Alpensia Sliding Center
- 3/ Gangneung Olympic Oval

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### Helpful Phrases:

- **Location:**
  - PyeongChang is located in the northeast of South Korea, stretching 1,468 km2 across the mountainous region. The coastal city has a population of 40,000 people.

- **Currency:**
  - South Korea’s official currency is the Won (KRW). One U.S. Dollar equals 1,061 South Korean Won.

- **Electricity:**
  - South Korea's voltage is 220V and 60 amps.

The distance from the Seoul International Airport to PyeongChang is 240 kilometers, which is approximately a three-hour ride by car. To facilitate travel for the Olympics, a new high-speed train line was built to connect the capital of Seoul to PyeongChang. The travel time has been cut to 90 minutes.
YEAR IN REVIEW: TOP PANAM SPORTS MOMENTS OF 2017

Despite a lack of mega multi-sport events on the 2017 international calendar, Panam Sports athletes still delivered memorable performances at World and Continental Championships, World Cups and other major sporting events in every corner of the globe. Here’s a summary of the very successful year for athletes across the Americas and the organization of Panam Sports.
The Alpine Ski World Championship was held in Saint Moritz, Switzerland. Team USA and Team Canada shared fourth place in the competition by winning a gold, a silver and a bronze medal.

The first month of the year was marked by the great triumph of Serena Williams (USA) over her sister Venus to win the Australian Open, a record-breaking twenty-third grand slam title. As if she wasn’t impressive enough, nobody knew Serena played for two months while pregnant with her daughter, Alexis Olympia.

In the XV edition of the FIS Acrobatic Ski World Championship, in Sierra Nevada, Spain, the United States won first place with a total of eight medals, including four gold, two silver and two bronze. Team Canada finished in sixth place.

In the Snowboard World Championship held on the same date, Team USA came in third place, with the Canadians in sixth.

At the Women’s Ice Hockey World Championship in Plymouth, United States, the host country won the championship by defeating Canada 3-2 in an always entertaining gold medal match between two fierce rivals.

The Panam Sports General Assembly was held in Punta del Este, Uruguay. This was a historic moment for the organization as Neven Ilic was elected the new President after winning a thrilling vote over José Joaquín Puello.

In the XXI Pan American Badminton Championship in Cuba, the big winner was Team Canada, winning the women’s single as well as the men’s, women’s and mixed doubles disciplines. Brazil also earned gold in the men’s single.

In Brazil, the Pan American Wrestling Championships was held. Cuba once again demonstrated its continental supremacy in this sport by winning four gold medals and one silver. Second place went to the United States (3-0-2) while Ecuador came in third (1-0-2).

In the XXI Pan American Badminton Championship in Cuba, the big winner was Team Canada, winning the women’s single as well as the men’s, women’s and mixed doubles disciplines. Brazil also earned gold in the men’s single.
At the FINA World Swimming Championships in Budapest, Hungary, the United States topped the podium with a total of 46 medals; 21 gold, 12 silver and 13 Bronze. Katie Ledecky was an incredible contributor to the Team USA medal tally with five gold medals. In the overall rankings, Brazil stood out in 10th place, Canada finished in 13th, Mexico 20th and Ecuador 22nd.

In the Judo World Championship held in Budapest, Hungary, Brazil came in fourth place with one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals. Puerto Rico finished in 12th place with Cuba and Colombia tied in 16th position.

In the Wrestling World Championship held in Paris, France, Team USA won second place with a total of nine medals; three gold, three silver and three bronze. Team Cuba finished in 23rd with Canada, Chile and Colombia tying in 26th position.

Cuba proved its boxing prowess once more during the World Boxing Championship held in Hamburg, Germany. Cuban athletes won a total of five gold and two silver medals.

The 2017 World Skating Games held in Nanning, China, were dominated by Colombia, who won 23 gold, 12 silver and 10 bronze medals, beating one of the tournament favorites, Italy.

At the Judo World Championship, Brazilian Mayra Aguiar earned gold in the 78kgs category while Maria Perez from Puerto Rico (70kgs) and David Moura from Brazil (+100kgs) each won silver.

The United States was crowned America’s Basketball Cup Champion in Cordoba. Team USA defeated the hosts 85-76 in the grand final played at the Orfeo stadium in the city of Cordoba.

The Rowing World Championship took place in Sarasota, USA where Cuba earned silver in the M1x, U2 M8+ and W2 disciplines while Canada won silver in the W8+. Brazil earned a bronze in the LM2 and the US won bronze in the LW1x category.

The Trinidad and Tobago 4x400 meter relay time was also honored at the ANOC Awards Gala for their triumph at the London 2017 World Championships. The athletes shocked the world by upsetting Team USA and Team UK in the final, earning gold medals and the ANOC Male Athletes of the Year of the Americas.

At the International Olympic Committee Session held in Lima, Peru, four members of Panam Sports were recognized for their great work in sport. Neven Ilic (CHI) and Luis Mejía (DOM) were appointed new IOC Members, while Nicole Hoevertsz (ARU) became a member of the IOC Executive Committee. Anita DeFrantz (USA) was also elected to serve as IOC Vice President for a second time.

In the same Session, in an unprecedented decision, both the 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games were awarded to the host cities of Paris and Los Angeles, respectively.
At the 47th Edition of the Artistic Gymnastics World Championship held in Montreal, Canada, the United States earned one gold medal, three silver and one bronze, topping the medal table. Canada also won a silver medal.

At the World Polo Championship in Sydney, Australia, Team Argentina won their fifth world title by defeating Chile in the final 8-7.

The construction of the Pan American Village in Lima, Peru begins. It will house more than 6,000 athletes during the Lima 2019 Pan American Games.

The General Assembly of Panam Sports was held in the city of Prague, Czech Republic. Santiago, Chile was unanimously chosen as the Host City of the 2023 Pan American Games during the assembly.

Colombia wins the Bolivarian Games of Santa Marta 2017 with 460 medals; 213 gold, 136 silver and 111 bronze medals. Venezuela finished in second place with Chile in third.

In California, the United States held the World Weightlifting Championship. Chilean Arley Méndez and American Sarah Robles each became triple World Champions in the 85kgs and 90kgs categories, respectively.


Team Peru is crowned Pan-American Surfing Champions at a competition held at Punta de Rocas, Lima.

Caeleb Dressel won seven gold medals at the 2017 World Aquatics Championships in Budapest.
1/ The second Vice-President of Panam Sports Mario Moccia (ARG), the sub secretary of Sports in Chile, Nicole Saez, and the Panam Sports President, Neven Ilic during the visit to the Coordination and Follow Up Commission for Pan American Games 2023 at the National Stadium in Santiago.

2/ Guatemala was crowned champion of the Central American Games Managua 2017. Featured is one of their swimming champions in action.

3/ President Neven Ilic and Secretary General Ivar Sisniega next to the President's Senior Advisor, Maria Eliana Fuentes and Head of Operations, Ana Paula Gonzalez, during the IOC Session in Lima.

4/ Costa Rica’s NOC President, Henry Nunez greets the Opening Ceremony assistants during the Central American Games. They are accompanied by the NOC President from El Salvador, Eduardo Palomo and Panama’s NOC President, Camilo Amado.

5/ All the Centro American NOC Presidents, President Neven Ilic, and Secretary General Ivar Sisniega, next to Nicaragua’s President, Daniel Ortega. 6/ Trinidad and Tobago 4x400 meter relay world champions in London 2017 were chosen as the Best Athletes in the Americas at the ANOC Awards Gala in Prague. 7/ During his visit to the Dominican Republic, President Neven Ilic met with the Dominican NOC President Luis Mejias and CRESO President, Felipe Vicini.

8/ Venezuelan NOC President, professor Eduardo Alvarez next to Secretary General Elida Parraga celebrating with Yulimar Rojas her award of Best Female Athlete of the Americas at the ANOC Awards Gala.

9/ Official photograph of all members of the Panam Sports family at the General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic.
A New Year brings new champions to be crowned in some of the world's premier sporting events. The 2018 global sports calendar features the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, Cochabamba South American Games, FIFA World Cup, Barranquilla 2018 Central American and Caribbean Games, Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games and many more elite competitions.

The sports world never sleeps, and 2018 is no exception with significant international competitions each month on the calendar. The following is Panam Sports' lineup of some of the most important events coming this year where many of the best athletes in the Americas will strive for excellence.

### January
- **6-20** / Rally Dakar, Peru, Bolivia and Argentina
- **15-28** / Tennis Australian Open, Melbourne

### February
- **9-25** / Winter Olympics, PyeongChang, South Korea

### March
- **2-4** / IAAF World Indoor Championships, Birmingham, United Kingdom
- **10-11** / ISU World All-Around Speed Skating Championship, Amsterdam, Holland
- **17-25** / World Women's Curling Championship, Ontario, Canada
- **19-25** / ISU World Figure Skating Championship, Milan, Italy

### April
- **4-15** / XXI Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast City, Australia
- **24-30** / XXI Pan Am Badminton Individual Championships, Guatemala City, Guatemala

### May
- **4-15** / IFF Ice Hockey World Championships, Copenhagen/Herning, Denmark
- **5-27** / Giro d'Italia, Cycling, Italy
- **19** / Jamaika International Invitational Mast World Challenge, Kingston, Jamaica
- **26-31** / XI South American Games, Cochabamba, Bolivia

### June
- **5-9** / UCI BMX World Championships, Baku, Azerbaijan
- **16** / FIFA World Cup, Russian Federation
- **21-24** / Modern Pentathlon World Cup Final, Astana, Kazakhstan

### July
- **2-15** / Wimbledon Grand Slam, London, UK
- **9-19** / ISSF World Cup Shotgun, Tucson, USA
- **19-21** / XXIII Central American and Caribbean Games, Barranquilla, Colombia
- **29** / World Women’s Hockey World Cup, London, UK

### August
- **1-5** / BWF World Championship, Nanjing, China
- **2-12** / Women’s Softball World Championship, Japan
- **27** / Women’s Golf US Open, Shoal Creek, USA

### September
- **4-9** / Archery World Field Championships, Cortina, Italy
- **6-15** / Modern Pentathlon World Championship, Mexico
- **7-16** / Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships, Sofia, Bulgaria
- **9-29** / World Rowing Championships, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- **29** / FIVB Volleyball Women’s World Championship, Japan

### October
- **6-18** / Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **25-28** / Pan American Modern Pentathlon, Lima, Peru

### November
- **4** / New York Marathon, USA
- **24-30** / Weightlifting World Championship, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- **28** / Men’s Hockey World Cup, Bhubaneswar, India

### December
- **11-16** / FINA World Swimming Championship (25m), Hangzhou, Republic of China
Felix Sanchez has never let obstacles in life deter him from achieving his goals, especially those found on the track. The phenomenal career of the two-time Olympic gold medal hurdler has been fueled by remarkable performances, but Sanchez's victories were not without their trials and tribulations.

The first four years of his career earned him legendary status in the Dominican Republic. Sanchez became a world champion in Edmonton in 2001 and Paris in 2003 before winning his first Olympic gold medal in Athens 2004. During this span, Sanchez won 43 consecutive races, but none are as fond a memory as his first Pan American gold medal. Sanchez earned the gold medal in Santo Domingo, surrounded by his people. The performance was a defining moment in one of the best athletic careers for an athlete in the Americas.

As the top athlete in Dominican sport, two-time Olympic and world 400-meter hurdles champion Felix Sanchez reminisces about his first and only Pan American gold medal. Sanchez earned the gold in Santo Domingo, surrounded by his people. The performance was a defining moment in one of the best athletic careers for an athlete in the Americas.

It was the first time I was able to compete accompanied by my public. It was a competition where I already had achieved great things world-wide so returning to my country with a stadium full of people supporting me was incredible. It was an experience unlike any other. I went in the stadium and everyone was really excited. I had the responsibility to win the first gold medal for my country at these Games. It was a spectacular night and one of the most important moments of my life. My Pan American gold medal is truly unforgettable,” Sanchez said.

After winning the 400-meter hurdles in 48.10 seconds, the stadium erupted with a standing ovation. The reaction was so intense that Felix didn’t know how to act. “I went around the entire track. The atmosphere was unbelievable. I had never lived an experience like this before in all of my years competing. I was simply enjoying it with everyone else, I really didn’t know what I was thinking. It was a spectacular night and the first gold medal for my country so I marched to the very middle and staked our flag right there. It was a true celebration and an absolutely remarkable moment,” said the two-time Olympic champion.

His performance left a lasting legacy in the Dominican Republic and his country honored his career by naming the Olympic Stadium after him.

“It is a feat few others can say they’ve conquered because usually, in these cases, they usually wait for the person to pass away before they name an establishment after them but it was different for me. I was still competing when I was given this great honor,” said Sanchez. However, soon after his Pan American and Olympic victories, injuries began surfacing worse than ever before and his career took a negative turn.

He lost his confidence and at the same moment he lost contracts. Once known as “Super Sanchez”, the perceived superhero started to lose his superpowers. At that moment, he realized what it meant to be a world-class athlete and the sacrifices and effort it would take to achieve his goals. He promised himself he would succeed and fight more tenaciously than ever. After years of hard work, he was able to change his destiny and make a remarkable comeback at the London 2012 Olympics.

“I suffered a lot for eight years. I had lesions, I lost contracts but I persevered. I decided to keep moving forward. It was a very rough time but this is why the gold medal I won at London 2012 is so special for me, because I looked back at the hard road I traveled to get to that point and to achieve my goals so at that moment, tears ran down my eyes and I understood what it means to achieve something because of your passion and your dreams,” Sanchez recalled.

“Super Sanchez” publicly announced his retirement from high-level competition in April 2016. With tears in his eyes, he thanked all who have supported him throughout the years and he reminisced on all of his hard work and efforts made during a successful professional athletic career.

Just a few months after retirement, Sanchez decided to fulfill a personal dream by moving back to his home in Santo Domingo where he could help the next generation of athletes achieve their dreams.

“I have been living in the Dominican Republic with my family for over a year now. I want to improve the sports development in my country. There is a lot of talent here and hunger for victory. With my good judgment and experienced advice, we can accomplish many things together,” Sanchez declared.

Sanchez and his vast experience aren’t the only factors that will contribute to the development of sport in the Dominican Republic. In his last visit to this Caribbean country, Panam Sports President Neven Ilic invited Sanchez to join the Panam Sports Technical Commission. Sanchez enthusiastically accepted.

“It sounds really interesting. There’s an opportunity to keep growing and contributing my experiences and accomplishments to reach a new level. I am ecstatic and so thankful they thought of me,” concluded Sanchez.
As one of the world’s largest and most competitive sporting events, the Pan American Games bring together the best athletes from the 41 countries in Central, North and South America and the Caribbean every four years.

Some of sports’ biggest stars have competed for gold medals throughout the 17 editions of the multi-sport event, including Carl Lewis, Cesar Cielo and even Michael Jordan.

Spectators at the Caracas 1983 Pan American Games witnessed the beginning of one of the greatest basketball careers in history, with Jordan leading Team USA to a gold medal while averaging 17.3 points per game. He was just 19 years old.

Less than a year after the Pan Am Games in Venezuela, Jordan joined the NBA and began a run of dominance with the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls won six NBA championships from 1991-1998, fueling Jordan’s legendary rise to basketball stardom.

Jordan also won two Olympic gold medals during his career at the Los Angeles 1984 and Barcelona 1992 Summer Games, solidifying his status as one of the greatest players ever. He led the famous ‘Dream Team’ in Barcelona that was the first U.S. team to utilize professional basketball players.

BUENOS AIRES 2018 YOUTH OLYMPICS PROMISE A SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION

There are only eight months left before the curtain rises for the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games. The best 4,000 young athletes from 206 countries will meet at the Argentine capital city for a unique celebration, where high performance sport will merge with educational and cultural activities under the values of friendship, respect and excellence.

Future stars of the worldwide Olympic Movement will compete in 32 sports. Some sports will make their Olympic debut, such as sports climbing and dance sport. The program will combine traditional events with others that have a strong, youthful and urban profile.

These will be Games organized by young people for young people. In that framework, a few days ago the pictograms that will visually identify the Buenos Aires 2018 sports program were launched. These images are a gift from hundreds of public schools from the Argentine capital to the athletes that will compete from October 6-18.

The task was not simple: students had to draw with a single line, without lifting the pencil, a series of positions that represented the athletes of each sport. The Buenos Aires 2018 pictogram program was born from that exercise.

From the Porteño classrooms to the world...
creating a new high performance center for Argentine athletes at the venue that will serve as the Youth Olympic Center during the Games.

Throughout this journey we have counted with the essential support of the National Olympic Committees and the International Sports Federations.

Our Youth Olympic Parks will be built at our city’s four cardinal points, at places where people meet regularly. We seek to bring sport to people and not the other way around. We will hold the Opening Ceremony outdoors, at the Obelisco’s area at the Portoño center. Everything will be a symbol of the kind of Games we want: inclusive and a stage where the transformative power of Olympism will mark the whole planet’s youth.

Gerardo Werthein
President of the Buenos Aires 2018 Organizing Committee and the Argentine Olympic Committee IOC Member

COCHABAMBA WELCOMES SOUTH AMERICAN BROTHERS WITH OPEN ARMS

Bolivia is counting down the days until the beginning of the most important festival of South American sport. From May 26 through June 8, the XI South American Games will be held at the city of Cochabamba, located at an altitude of more than 2,600 meters.

A total of 6,500 athletes from 14 countries will participate in this festival of sport: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela and guest countries Panama and Aruba.

The event will consist of 14 competition days, 35 sports and 392 events at 45 sports venues. Bolivia is hosting the event for the second time in history, following the successful inaugural edition of the South American Games in La Paz in 1978.

The city of Cochabamba, located at an altitude of more than 2,600 meters, is bursting with anticipation for the upcoming Central American and Caribbean Games. The excitement for the Games can be felt in the joy that floods each beautiful street corner and the music and vibe that only Colombians know how to produce.

The city will host the Central American and Caribbean Games for the second time in history. The first time was in 1964, when Cuba topped the medal table.

For the 23rd edition of the event, more than 5,800 athletes from 37 countries will be the stars of the Games. The athletes will compete across 47 sports disciplines.

The following countries will make their debut in these Games: Curaçao, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Turks and Caicos Islands, Martinique and St. Martin.

Great sports infrastructure is being built for this event, with more than seven venues already 60 percent complete. These venues will provide a lasting legacy for the Colombian people.

Since the first edition of the Games in Mexico in 1926, Cuba leads all countries with 3,728 medals, followed by Mexico with 3,537 and Venezuela with 2,264.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO RECOGNIZES TOP ATHLETES AT TRADITIONAL GALA

Arrin Solomon, Jerea Ri-chards, Machel Cedenio, Lalonde Gordon and Renny Quow were recognized as “Athletes of the Year” at the traditional ceremony where Trinidad and Tobago President Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmo-na and NOC President Brian Lewis were present.

The men’s 4x400 meters relay team won gold medals at the London 2017 IAAF World Championships, surprising the world by winning the relay with a time of 3:58.12. On top of recognition from the TTOC, the relay team also won Best Male Athletes of the Year at the Americas at the ANOC Awards Gala in Prague, Czech Republic.

Runner Michelle-Lee Ahye won a second consecutive “Athlete of the Year” at the traditional ceremony where Trinidad and Tobago. Ahye had an outstanding season that included six gold medal wins at the World Championships 100 meters final, as well as a personal best of 10.82 seconds to win the national women’s title.

Other recognitions at the TTOC’s Gala were for Menisa Aguilliana, who received the “Future is Female Award”. Adell Colthurth and Khalifa St Fort were named Best Young Athlete and Best Junior Athle- te of the year.

The prestigious Alexander B. Chapman Award was given to Anthony Wickham, the veteran coach of the Trendsetters Hawks, in recognition of his unwavering support to the development of youth and the community through football and his work with young people from isolated areas of Trinidad and Tobago.

Barranquilla 2018: The “Happy City” anxiously awaits the games

Barranquilla, often recognized as the happiest city of Colombia due to the warmth of its people, is bursting with anticipation for the third time in history.” Perez emphasized.

“We are doing very well, we are quite forward,” Perez emphasized. “The Village is practically finished four months prior to the start of the Games. Sports infrastructure is 85 percent ready; we are only behind at the velodrome and the hockey field, but the commitment is that both venues will be delivered in March. Everything is well on its way at an organizational level and the ODESUR budget was approved and therefore, the hiring process of all staff is going forward,” Perez emphasized.

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Breaking News and Panam Sports History Right at Your Fingertips