NEVEN ILIC: LIMA WILL HAVE PAN AMERICAN GAMES OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL

Since his election as President of Panam Sports on April 26, 2017, the rhythm of Neven Ilic’s life and daily routine has drastically changed. With less sleep and many more hours of the day on the phone and in teleconferences, he never less sleep and many more hours of the day on the phone and in teleconferences, he never

had to visit the city for the first time in May 2017 when I assumed the Presidency of Panam Sports, and the situation at that time was very delicate and risky, it seemed very difficult to have a good product for 2019,” Ilic said.

“World-class facilities are being built. I am a Construction Engineer, so I can assure you, that the construction in the Athletes Village in Villa el Salvador as well as in the VIDENA and other venues, are of the highest quality. These venues have nothing to envy from the ones in the world’s most powerful countries. They will leave a tremendous legacy for Peru and its athletes that will allow them to work for a very promising future.”

And from an operational standpoint, how is Lima 2019 progressing?

“This area has also seen progress. It is an event that is not easy to organize. We have a team that is permanently working with CPDLA that has a lot of experience in organizing Olympic, Pan American Games and South American Games. If you ask me if I’m calm, I’ll say no. Nobody will be calm until after the Closing Ceremony next year. But if you ask me if I think they are working well, I am optimistic; and I see that, without a doubt, Peru will have an event of the highest level. Lima will have Pan American Games at the highest of levels, of that I have no doubt.”

Do you see Peru motivated and committed to the Games?

“Absolutely. The enthusiasm grows as we get closer to the Games. The truth is that I fully trust the Peruvian people. This is a nationwide event. It is an event that every Peruvian citizen should feel proud of. Here you can see the best athletes on the continent and many of the best in the world. They will be able to encourage their national athletes and it will be a real party that needs the support and commitment of the entire country.”

How much do you think the celebration of Lima 2019 will turn out?

“They will be historical Games, not only because of the number of athletes, but also because of the sport level that we will see thanks to the 22 sports that are qualifiers to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.”

Speaking of Olympic qualifiers, do you think that number can increase in the future?

“That’s what we’re working on. We are in talks with some international Federations and hopefully we are able to add some more Olympic qualifiers.”

Finally, Mr. President, are there any issues that worry you about the Peruvian capital for the realization of the Games?

“Transport is undoubtedly an issue in Lima. Now, during the weeks of the Pan American Games the schools and universities will be on break, which greatly reduces the traffic flow. There will also be an exclusive Pan American Games lane. This is where I insist, the support and cooperation of all Peruvians will be fundamental.”

Was there any moment you considered changing the Host City because of the reality with which you were faced when you assumed the Presidency of Panam Sports?

“The truth is no. When I got to know what was happening in Peru, I met with Carlos Neuhaus and the team that was working with him and we committed ourselves to take this forward and get back on track. They committed themselves to some things, we to others and the truth is that, with a lot of effort and work, all deadlines and goals are being fulfilled.”

Have you seen the progress of the projects for the Pan American Games?

“From an operational standpoint, how is Lima 2019 progressing?”

“How do you think the celebration of Lima 2019 will turn out?”

“Speaking of Olympic qualifiers, do you think that number can increase in the future?”

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In September the volunteer campaign for Lima 2019 begins. How important do you think volunteers are for the Pan American Games?

“Volunteering is highly valued work throughout the entire world. Without volunteers, the Games simply cannot happen. They are the motor of this event, and along with the athletes, they are the stars of this experience, which will surely be unforgettable. Here we will not only have Peruvian volunteers, but they will come from all over the world. It is an unforgettable and enriching experience. When you volunteer, you get to know a lot of people from various countries, you are next to great sports figures, and when the Games are done you can say confidently – ‘I was a part of this great event. I helped make these Pan American Games a success.’”

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WELCOMES YOU TO THE
LVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LIMA, PERU – SEPTEMBER 4th – 6th, 2018

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 4

09:00 – 18:00
Panam Sports Executive Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 5

09:00 – 19:00
Panam Sports General Assembly

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 6

09:00 – 12:00
Panam Sports General Assembly
12:30 – 13:30
ODESUR General Assembly
14:30 – 18:30
Visit to the Village and VIDENA
15:00 – 18:00
ACODEPA General Assembly

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 7

09:00 – 18:00
IOC Tokyo 2020 Preparation Workshop

LIMA COUNTS THE DAYS UNTIL RECORD-BREAKING PAN AMERICAN GAMES

With the finish line in sight, the Peruvian capital of Lima is set to prove that it is ready to host the largest Pan American Games in history.

On Sunday, July 22, organizers of the Lima 2019 Pan Am Games celebrated the great sports festival that is now less than a year away with a unique countdown event at the iconic Plaza de Armas in Lima’s Historic Center.

The beloved Lima 2019 mascot, Milco, was a highlight at the festival, participating in the seven sports demonstrations available with the youth of Lima and posing with Peru’s top athletes and para-athletes who attended the countdown ceremony.

The One Year Countdown to Lima 2019 officially began on July 26, with Panam Sports inviting athletes and people throughout the region to share in the excitement with creative and fun social media initiatives.

On July 26, 2019, more than 6,900 athletes will proudly enter the National Stadium of Peru to represent the 41 countries of the Panam Sports family. Sixteen days of world-class competition will follow as the athletes battle for the top of the podium and the chance to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics.

Lima 2019 will smash the previous record of Olympic qualifiers at the Pan American Games, sending athletes from at least 22 sports to the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics, surpassing the 18 Olympic qualifiers offered at the previous edition in Toronto 2015 and ensuring the best athletes of the region will attend. And more may join as International Federations finalize their qualification procedures.

“We look forward to welcoming all of the Panam Sports family next year for what we know will be a memorable event for all those involved,” said Lima 2019 President, Carlos Neuhaus.

The Lima 2019 Pan American Games will be held from July 26 to August 11, 2019, followed by the Parapan American Games from August 23 to September 1, 2019.
AMERICAS’ GREATEST ATHLETES READY FOR AMERICAS’ GREATEST GAMES

LINDON VICTOR
Country: Grenada
Sport: Athletics - Decathlon
Pan Am Games: Toronto 2015
Achievements: Youth Olympic (Singapore 2010); Olympic Trials (Rio 2016)
Commonwealth Games Gold (Gold Coast 2018)
Grenada National Record
Holder - Decathlon

“Let’s all go next year to the next Pan American Games in Peru! Let’s all come together to give better results for our countries. The competition and the show is for the people.”

JAHIR OCAMPO
Country: Mexico
Sport: Diving - 3m Springboard/1m Springboard/
Synchronized 3m Springboard
Pan Am Games: Toronto 2015
Achievements: Pan Am Games Gold (Toronto 2015)
Pan American Championship Bronze (2012)
2 CAC Games Golds (Barranquilla 2018)

“I will be at Lima 2019 enjoying my first Games and I want them to be unforgettable. I want to win the gold with my debut, no questions asked.”

ALLYSON FELIX
Country: United States
Sport: Athletics - 100 meter/200 meter/4x100 meter/4x400 meter/200 meter
Pan Am Games: Santo Domingo 2003
Pan American Games Gold & Bronze (Santo Domingo 2003)
1 IAAF World Indoor Championship Gold (2010)

“Let’s all go next year to the next Pan American Games in Lima. Let’s all come together to give better results for our countries. The competition and the show is for the people.”

ARLEY MENDEZ
Country: Chile
Sport: Weightlifting
Pan American Games: Guadalajara 2011, Toronto 2015
Achievements: 2 Olympic Games Golds (London 2012 and Rio 2016)
Pan American Games Gold (Guadalajara 2011)
2 CAC Games Golds (Barranquilla 2010 and Veracruz 2014)
6 World Championship Golds
11 BMX World Cup Golds

“For me the Pan Am Games are the most important thing after that Olympic medal. I want to return to Lima, I want to return with everything to give 100% and be able to give my country a lot of joy.”

MARIANA PAJON
Country: Colombia
Sport: BMX
Pan American Games: Guadalajara 2011, Toronto 2015
Achievements: 2 Olympic Games Golds (London 2012 and Rio 2016)
Pan American Games Gold (Guadalajara 2011)
2 CAC Games Golds (Barranquilla 2010 and Veracruz 2014)
6 World Championship Golds
11 BMX World Cup Golds

“Hello my people, I invite you to enjoy the Pan American Games of Lima 2019 with me.”

ALONSO EDWARD
Country: Panama
Sport: Athletics - 100 meter/200 meter
Pan American Games: Toronto 2015
Achievements: Pan American Games Bronze (Toronto 2015)
Olympian (Rio 2016)
World Championship Silver (2009)
South American Games Gold (Cochabamba 2018)
South American Championship Gold (2009)
3 IAAF Diamond League Golds

“Hello my people, I invite you to enjoy the Pan American Games of Lima 2019 with me.”
THE HISTORY OF THE PAN AMERICAN SPORTS ORGANIZATION

1948: The Pan American Sports Organization is created and recognized by the International Olympic Committee. Avery Brundage of the United States serves as the first President.

1951: For the first time, the Pan American Games took place in the United States in Chicago. Twenty-two countries and 2,213 athletes competed. Argentina topped the podium at the first Pan Am Games.

That same year, the Organization elects its second President, Douglas Ferguson Ruby from the United States.

1955: Mexico receives the second edition of the Pan American Games. The sports festival increased participation to 22 countries and 2,853 athletes. The United States won this edition of the Games. The United States would also host the Organization’s third President, Douglas Ferguson Ruby from the United States.

1959: The first President of PASO, Mario Vasquez Raña, is elected as the highest authority of the Pan American Sports Organization, a position he would occupy over the next 40 years.

Mario Vasquez Raña, is a prominent businessman who, a few years later, would become the most important and recognizable player in history: Michael Jordan.

1963: The IV Pan American Games return to South America, specifically to San Paulo, Brazil. While the number of countries at the Games remained the same, the number of athletes fell considerably to 1,655.

During these Games, Venezuela’s Jose Beracasa Amiran was elected as the new president for a period of four years. The seventh Pan American Games were held in Cali, Colombia. A new record of 32 participating nations was set with nearly 3,000 athletes.

1967: The fifth edition of the most important sporting event in the Americas is held in Winnipeg, Canada. In total, 29 countries and 3,146 athletes participated in the sports festival. The U.S. once again dominated and won.

1971: The President of the Mexican Olympic Committee, the prominent businessman Mario Vasquez Raña, is elected as the highest authority of the Pan American Sports Organization, a position he would occupy over the next 40 years.

1975: The President of PASO, Mario Vasquez Raña, is elected President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).

The Pan American Games were held in the capital of Havana. These were historical Pan American Games as Cuba topped the United States for the first time with 140 gold medals to the U.S. 120.

1979: In the city of Caracas, Venezuela, the ninth edition of the Pan American Games was held with 3,426 athletes. Among them, a young American basketball player who, a few years later, would become the most important and recognizable player in history: Michael Jordan.

1983: In the city of Winnipeg, Canada, the Pan American Games return to South America. Indianapolis, Illinois hosts 26 countries with athletes competing in a record of 34 disciplines.


1991: Cuba becomes a first-time host of the Pan American Games, staged in the capital of Havana. These were historical Pan American Games as Cuba topped the United States for the first time with 140 gold medals to the U.S. 120.

1995: The eighth Pan American Games were held in Cali, Colombia. A new record of 32 participating nations was set with nearly 3,000 athletes.

1999: Winnipeg, Canada becomes a two-time host of the Pan American Games, welcoming athletes to the 12th edition of the Games.

2001: The Pan American Sports Organization, under the new mandate of President Ivar Sisniega, develops a new image and a new name: Panam Sports, initiating a new era for the Organization.

2003: Santo Domingo hosts its third Pan American Games from 41 countries.

2005: PASO moves to a new headquarters in Mexico City. These offices remain the headquarters of the Organization today.

2007: Brazil organizes its second Pan American Games. This time in the city of Rio de Janeiro. For many, these Games served as a prelude to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games nine years later.

2011: For the third time in history, Mexico receives the top continental sporting event in Guadalajara. Magnificent Opening and Closing Ceremonies and outstanding organization mark these Games as some of the best in history.

2015: On April 26, at the Pan American General Assembly in Parque del Coco, Uruguay, Neroni Illic of Chile is elected as the new President of the Organization. At the ICC Session in Lima, Peru, President Neroni Illic is elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee.

2017: On February 8, PASO President Mario Vasquez Raña passes away. Vice-President, Ivan Sisniega, assumes the position of interim President.

2019: Julio Maglione, President of the Uruguayan Olympic Committee and FINA, is elected to the PASO Presidency for the remainder of Raña’s term.

The most recent Pan American Games were held in Toronto, Canada. A record of 6,122 athletes participated in these Games from 41 countries.

2021: On April 26, at the PASO General Assembly in Punta del Este, Uruguay, Neroni Illic of Chile is elected as the new President of the Organization.
FROM PASO TO PANAM SPORTS: UNITING SPORTS IN AMERICA FOR 70 YEARS

On August 8, the Pan American Sports Organization turned 70. It was created and officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee in 1948.

At that time, a group of visionary sports leaders met to create a sports entity that would gather the major of the National Olym- pic Committees of the continent by forming a Non-Profit Orga- nization to look after the interests of sport in the region and at the same time, create a high-level sporting event with the best athletes of the Americas.

With this in mind, 1951, three years after the creation of PASO, the first Pan American Games in history took place in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Twenty-one countries and 2,153 athletes participated in that first edition, with the host country Argentina finishing at the top of the medal table. The Games turned to Mexico City’s for the second edition, followed by Chicago and Sao Paulo as the biggest cities of the Americas became more interested in hosting the most important sporting event of the continent.

With each successful edition, the Pan American Games grew in importance and were second only to the Olympic Games. In less than half a century, the number of participating countries and athletes, as well as the number of sports, has doubled.

There have been nine presidents that have led this great organization. The founder and first President was Avery Brundage of the United States. He was followed by Jose Maria Jesus Clark Flores of Mexico who served a second term four years after his first con- cluded. Flores was succeeded by Doug Roby of the United States before becoming president once more. Sylvio Magalhaes of Bra- zil was the first interim president of the organization who served until Jose Beracaas took the reins in 1971. In 1975, Mario Vazquez Raña from Mexico took command and remained president for an outstanding 40 years. Vazquez Raña passed away in 2015 and was followed by Ivor Sirena of Mexico as interim President, before Julio Maglione of Uruguay was elected to finish Vazquez Raña’s term. Then in 2017, PASO elected its current President, Neven Ilic from Chile.

Among its main objectives which have been successfully achieve- ned over the last 70 years has been the promotion of Olympism in America as defined in the Olympic Charter. The Organization has closely collaborated with the IOC, ANOC, the International Federations, the Pan American Sports Confederations and other Continental Associations of the NOCs.

“We are proud of this anniversary. These have been 70 years of hard work, effort and passion of many people over time: all the Presidents, the members of the Executive Committees, the lea- ders of the NOCs, the athletes, coaches and officials of this orga- nization. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart for all they have done to make this Organization what it is today. My congratulations to all of them, and I urge all of us who currently belong to the Panam Sports family to follow the legacy left by our predecessors and to work hard for our sport and our athletes from America,” said Panam Sports President, Neven Ilic.

In addition, the Organization’s work throughout the continent has been focused on contributing to the education of youth through sports in the spirit of friendship, solidarity, respect and a better un- derstanding of the world around us, contributing to a more peace- ful and harmonious world through the power of sport.

Helping and guiding its 41 member countries and their athletes is also a top priority. The successful celebration of the flagship Pan American Games every four years is a staple of the Organization, but the new administration and leadership will significantly in- crease the number of events and competitions that will be avail- able to the sporting community throughout the continent. More opportunities will exist for athletes with the creation of the Pan American Beach Games, the Pan American Youth Games, the Pan American Gala and many other projects that are being further developed every day.

“This organization has been distinguished by the spirit of brother- hood and solidarity among its members and is stronger than ever, so we can see a great future promoting sport in our continent. We are focused on creating more and better events for our athletes, putting a lot of emphasis on young people, new generations, and also beach sports that have become a major global attraction in recent times,” said Panam Sports Secretary General, Ivor Sirena.

Seventy years have elapsed since the birth of this great organiza- tion, with 17 editions of the Pan American Games, 13 host countries and thousands of athletes from all over the Americas who have created the number of support programs, scholarships and training that the organization has provided over time. Today, the former PASO, now known as Panam Sports, has a com- munity of 41 National Olympic Committees and an auspicious outlook, with new projects, economic stability and worldwide re- cognition that allows the organization to dream big.

The Pan American Sports Organization, Uniting Sports in America for 70 years.

“Today we look to the future with optimism, motivated to continue working for the benefit of sport in the Americas, always under the auspices of Olympic values and with conviction in our motto: America, Spirit, Sport, Fraternity.”

NEVEN ILIC A. President, Panam Sports

PRESIDENT ILIC SHARES HIS THOUGHTS

In 1948, our Pan American Sports Organization was created and officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the entity in charge of promoting the Olympic Movement throughout the American continent.

Seventy years have passed since then, and we can look back with pride realizing how much we have advanced as an organization and as a continent in the world of sport. It has taken years of hard work and the commitment of hundreds of people who have put all their passion and love for sport at the service of the National Olympic Committees and their athletes.

Now in 2018, we have acquired the new name of Panam Sports that is more modern and gives us a greater identity. We can say with absolute certainty that we are a serious, transparent Organization that is recognized worldwide and guided by Olympic values.

As we celebrate our 70th Anniversary, I want to sincerely thank everyone who has helped this institution grow. From our former Presidents, especially Mario Vazquez Raña, who I believe is largely responsible for the stability and recognition we have today; to our athletes and former athletes, without whom our work would not have its motivation and purpose; to the International Olympic Committee for its unconditional support each and every year; to our Member National Olympic Committees and all their leaders; and of course, to all the employees who have made their unique contributions to develop this great family known as the Pan American Sports Organization.

Today we look to the future with optimism, motivated to continue working for the benefit of sport in the Americas, always under the auspices of Olympic values and with conviction in our motto: America, Spirit, Sport, Fraternity.”

RANK NATION GOLD SILVER BRONZE TOTAL
1 United States 1944 1454 1022 4420
2 Cuba 875 593 558 2026
3 Canada 456 657 802 1915
4 Brazil 329 357 519 1205
5 Argentina 294 327 428 1049
6 Mexico 221 288 502 1011
7 Colombia 108 147 229 484
8 Venezuela 92 205 277 574
9 Chile 44 91 151 286
10 Dominican Republic 29 63 112 204
11 Puerto Rico 28 81 134 243
12 Ecuador 28 30 61 119
13 Jamaica 25 42 62 129
14 Guatemala 20 16 39 75
15 Uruguay 12 25 46 83
GRENADA INAUGURATES NEW HEADQUARTERS DURING HISTORIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Panam Sports contributed $450,000 dollars for the remodeling and construction of the facilities.

Taking advantage of Panam Sports’ historic first Executive Committee in Grenada and the Caribbean, the highest authorities of Panam Sports, led by its President Neven Ilic, participated in the inauguration of the modern headquarters of the Grenada Olympic Committee.

With the presence of the Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Arts of Grenada, Norland Cox, the President of Panam Sports Neven Ilic and the entire Executive Committee of the Pan American Sports Organization, the Opening Ceremony of the new facilities of the Olympic Committee of Grenada took place in June.

The 1,700 square meter, modern building includes a gym, four larger offices, a sports shop, a museum, a training room, a hotel for 20 athletes, a conference room and an internet cafe.

The new legacy for sport in Grenada was financed thanks to important contributions and resources granted by Panam Sports as well as Grenada’s government.

“The truth is that we are very happy and grateful to President Neven Ilic and our Strmecki and all of Panam Sports. This is the realization of a dream. We always wanted to have a building that would have all the facilities and aspects of Olympism. We have to admit that we did not expect something this big, but this is a great legacy for Grenada,” said Secretary General and member of the Panam Sports Executive Committee, Veda Bruno-Victor.

“We are very happy to have contributed with this magnificent work. It was necessary to be able to fix the offices of the NOC of Grenada, so when we were asked for resources for this, we did not hesitate for a single second. Although Grenada is a small nation, it has outstanding athletes and two great friends and professionals in charge of the sport of this country such as Royston Lahee (President) and Veda Bruno-Victor (Secretary General), who have done an excellent job not only here, but they have contributed a lot to the sport development of the whole continent,” indicated Panam Sports President, Neven Ilic.

For his part, Grenada NOC President Royston Lahee, was very grateful to Panam Sports: “This building is a dream come true. We finally achieved it, we are very proud of this. This was built for the athletes. Without the support of Panam Sports we would not have been able to build this, so we are very grateful.”

The resources granted by Panam Sports come specifically from the Infrastructure Program that is available to the 41 member countries.

With the presence of President Neven Ilic and leaders of Colombian sport Baltazar Medina and Clara Luz Roldan, the inauguration ceremony of the renovated NOC headquarters was held in Bogota.

One of Panam Sports’ main objectives is to help the National Olympic Committees to develop and work in the best way possible. Either through economic contributions, training, training camps and/or construction of sports venues, Panam Sports offers a framework of different programs that can be utilized by our 41 member countries.

Colombia is one of the countries that has taken advantage of these benefits and thanks to an important contribution from Panam Sports, it was able to remodel the offices of its National Olympic Committee.

At a Ceremony attended by Panam Sports President Neven Ilic, the Director of CCDeportes Clara Luz Roldan and the Colombian Olympic Committee President Baltazar Medina, the new facilities were inaugurated, including a meeting room named after Panam Sports.

Regarding the help that was given to the Colombian Olympic Committee to remodel its offices, President Ilic was emphatic in pointing out that, “we have resources to help each of the 41 members of Panam Sports. These facilities are beautiful. The truth is that it fills us with pride and hopefully more countries will follow this example and can improve their offices or sports facilities. We are open to receiving proposals to see how we can help them.”

Colombian Olympic Committee President Medina was also very happy and grateful, both for the help of Panam Sports, as well as the presence of Neven Ilic in Bogota.

“The purpose of this visit was to give testimony to President Ilic for the investment that was made with the resources given by Panam Sports, an objective that we achieved, because he returns to his homeland satisfied and with the greatest feeling of solidarity and appreciation from Colombia,” Medina said.

“The High-Performance Center of Bogota is our next objective with Panam Sports, because we have registered it with the organization’s Training Camp Program, to receive athletes from affiliated countries who come to prepare and train. The high level and quality of the sports facilities and housing of the High Performance Center in Bogota allow this place to be one of the best facilities for the preparation of high-level athletic achievements,” concluded the President of the COC, referring to one of the primary goals of the leader of sport in the Americas.
CAYMAN ISLANDS FULFILL THE DREAM OF ITS FIRST OLYMPIC HOUSE

With the presence of Panam Sports President, Neven Ilic, Secretary General, Ivar Sisniega and every Olympic athlete to ever compete for the Caribbean island, the new headquarters of the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee were inaugurated on August 16.

With a total contribution of USD 400,000 - comprised of 200,000 from the Olympamerica Program and 200,000 from the Infrastructure Program - Panam Sports helped make the dreams of Cayman Islands' Olympic leaders and great athletes come true by opening its first Olympic House.

The building consists of five offices, a training area, offices for the President, Secretary General and Vice President, a mini-museum depicting the history of the NOC, a small library as well as a Gift Shop to sell memorabilia and receive more resources for their athletes.

The inauguration ceremony of the new facilities was attended by the highest authorities of Panam Sports, the Secretary General of the Cayman Islands NOC, Carson Ebanks, the Treasurer, Bernie Bush, as well as government officials.

“With many years in the offices that President Donald McLean kindly gave us, but when President Neven Ilic became the new President of Panam Sports we fortunately were presented with this opportunity to establish our own office. We have to thank God for the support of Panam Sports, without them we would not have been able to create this Olympic House,” said Secretary General of the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee, Carson Ebanks.

President Ilic added that “we are really proud to be here in the Cayman Islands to inaugurate this first Olympic House. This is part of the Strategic Plan that Panam Sports initiated a year ago and we really want to congratulate President Donald McLean and Carson Ebanks for the great job they are doing here in the name of sport.”

“I am convinced that this will greatly help the development of sport in this country. Hopefully more member countries can take advantage of the different programs that we are offering,” said Panam Sports Secretary General, Ivar Sisniega.

After the opening remarks from the sport leaders, the Olympic Committee took the opportunity to recognize all the athletes who have represented the Cayman Islands in the Olympic Games throughout their history. The NOC also awarded the most outstanding athletes of the recent Barranquilla 2018 Central American and Caribbean Games where the island nation won three bronze medals in the Squash competitions.

PANAM SPORTS INVESTING NEARLY $7 MILLION IN SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Since Neven Ilic assumed the Presidency of Panam Sports in 2017, he has encouraged the 41 National Olympic Committees of the Americas to take advantage of the different development incentives offered by the Organization, including the Olympamerica and Infrastructure Programs. Thanks to the funds available through these Programs, several countries within the Panam Sports family have realized the dream of opening new Olympic headquarters, sport courts, fields and athletic tracks, or simply remodeling the existing sport facilities to meet modern standards.

Panam Sports is contributing nearly $7,000,000 USD to the following projects across the Americas:

**USD 400,000**

- **CHILE**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: Multi-Sport Center in Curicó

- **COLOMBIA**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: Office Remodeling and Multi-Sport Center

- **COSTA RICA**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: Gymnastics and Office Remodeling

- **CUBA**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: Track & Field Construction

- **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: Multi-Sport Center and TV Channel

- **GRENADA**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: New Headquarters

- **NICARAGUA**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: Purchasing and Equipping new Olympic House

- **PARAGUAY**
  - Program: Olympamerica and Infrastructure
  - Project: Olympic Center Construction

**USD 200,000**

- **ARUBA**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Remodeling

- **BERMUDA**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Rent and Moving Costs

- **CANADA**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: New Toronto Office

- **GUATEMALA**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Remodeling and Hurricane Aid

- **HAITI**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Remodeling

- **HONDURAS**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Remodeling

- **PUERTO RICO**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Remodeling and Hurricane Aid

- **ST. LUCIA**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: New Office Construction

- **ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Gymnastics Center Remodeling and New Office Construction

- **SURINAM**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Remodeling

- **URUGUAY**
  - Program: Olympamerica
  - Project: Office Remodeling

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS USD 6,880,300**
COLOMBIA CONQUERS COCHABAMBA 2018

Although it took until the final day of competition in Bolivia, athletes from Colombia were determined to lead their country to the top of the South American Games podium once more.

With 94 gold medals and 239 total, Colombia took back the title of Champion at the South American Games at Cochabamba 2018, outlasting their Brazilian challengers who finished second with 90 gold and 204 total medals.

Each team entered the final day of competition on June 8 with 89 gold medals, but few goals for Colombia’s athletes ensured Colombia would stand alone atop the medal standings for the first time since the Medellin 2010 South American Games in their own country.

The Colombian supremacy was apparent in sports such as cycling, boxing, shooting, aquatics and speed skating, with an impressive showing from the Colombian contingent.

In total, 4,000 athletes and 14 countries participated in this great regional sports festival, providing historic performances and world-class competition throughout the Games. Each participating nation won at least three medals at Cochabamba 2018, a testament to the quality and enthusiasm that brought athletes and spectators to the Bolivian capital.

With Venezuela and Argentina trading leads throughout the two-week competition. However, Venezuela outlasted Argentina, securing 43 golds to Argentina’s 41 to finish in third place.

Chile was the only other country to earn more than 100 total medals, finishing fifth at Cochabamba 2018 with 38 gold and 112 total medals. The experience and confidence gained by hosting the 2018 South American Games helped fuel the Chilean athletes to an even better performance than on their own home soil.

In total, 4,000 athletes and 14 countries participated in this great regional sports festival, providing historic performances and world-class competition throughout the Games. Each participating nation won at least three medals at Cochabamba 2018, a testament to the quality and enthusiasm that brought athletes and spectators to the Bolivian capital.

And hundreds of athletes from the 14 participating countries succeeded.

Athletes and teams from 17 sports qualified to the Lima 2019 Pan American Games that are now less than a year away. Cochabamba 2018 served as the first major stop on the Panam Path, the route athletes must take to compete in the Pan American Games.

COCHABAMBA 2018 MEDAL TABLE

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<tr>
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| TOTAL | 373 | 373 | 452 | 1188 |

COCHABAMBA 2018 SENDS ATHLETES ALONG THE #PANAMPATH

On Saturday, May 26, 4,000 athletes entered the Felix Capriles Stadium in Cochabamba, Bolivia with dreams of gold medals and hopes of qualifying for America’s largest multi-sport event – the Lima 2019 Pan American Games.

As the top placed athlete from each of the 17 sports qualified for Lima 2019, the 17 qualifiers were:

- Athletics
- Basque Pelota
- Bowling
- Field Hockey
- Handball
- Karate
- Modern Pentathlon
- Mountain Biking
- Racquetball
- Road Cycling
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track Cycling
- Wrestling

And hundreds of athletes from the 14 participating countries succeeded.

Of the 35 sports featured at Cochabamba 2018, the 17 qualifiers were:

- Athletics, Basque Pelota, Bowling, Field Hockey, Handball, Karate, Modern Pentathlon, Mountain Biking, Racquetball, Road Cycling, Rugby, Shooting, Swimming, Tennis, Track Cycling, Triathlon and Wrestling.

COCHABAMBA 2018 MEDAL TABLE

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COCHABAMBA 2018
MEXICO RECLAIMS CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GAMES CROWN

Four years after being defeated by Cuba for the top of the podium of the Central American and Caribbean Games on its home soil, Mexico took revenge at the Barranquilla 2018 CAC Games. Mexico dominated the competition in Colombia, earning 132 gold, 118 silver and 91 bronze for a total of 341 medals. The performance by Mexico’s strong delegation of athletes bested that of second place Cuba by 30 gold and 99 total medals. Barranquilla 2018 marked the first time since 1966 that Mexico won the CAC Games when Cuba also participated.

The determination to take back the CAC Games crown they had lost at the Veracruz 2014 Games was demonstrated by each athlete that represented the Tri-color flag. The victory gave Mexico its 11th title of the Games and first since the Ma- yagüez 2010 edition.

In fact, Mexico and Cuba are the only two countries to finish atop the podium at the CAC Games in its history. By winning the 23rd edition in Barranquilla, Mexico is now only one edition away from tying Cuba for the most overall victories with 11.

Host country Colombia also put on an impressive display at the Games, finishing third in the standings with 79 gold and 270 total medals. But some of the best performances by Colombia came from the fans themselves, providing the perfect sporting environment with raucous cheering and vivacious music.

With more than 5,000 participating athletes, high-performance sport, first-class venues and unconditional support from the people of Barranquilla who filled most of the venues, it was an undeniable festival of sport.

The great atmosphere fueled seven different countries to win 20 or more gold medals. After the top three, Venezuela won 34 golds, followed by the Dominican Republic with 25, Guatemala with 13 and Puerto Rico with 20.

It will be another four years until the Central American and Caribbean Games are held again, returning once more to the Panamanian capital of Panama City. The expectations are high for the 2022 CAC Games, the third to be held in Panama City.
GOLD MEDALS AND
GRAND SLAMS
MONICA PUIG’S GOAL IS
GREATNESS

Before the age of 25, Monica Puig is already the most decorated athlete in the history of Puerto Rico. The tennis star became the island nation’s first Olympic Champion in history at the Rio 2016 Olympics and has won several other medals during her very successful career.

But Monica Puig is only getting started.

Beginning her tennis career at the young age of six, Puig has been persistent in her pursuit of success. She has dreamt of greatness ever since her mom gave her that first tennis racket as a child.

“Well, tennis is my whole life. It’s my job and it’s also everything I know basically; so it’s very important to me,” Puig told Panam Sports after winning yet another gold medal for Puerto Rico, this time at the Barranquilla 2018 Central American and Caribbean Games.

She said she grew up watching some of today’s tennis champions to learn what it takes to be great.

“I admire Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic very much for their consistency in the tour and the way they play,” she said.

Puig has brought her own consistency to the Central American and Caribbean Games. In order to win the women’s singles tennis tournament at the CAC Games, you’ve got to go through Puig.

With the championship in Colombia, she became the first woman to win three consecutive gold medals at the Central American and Caribbean Games. She successfully defended her titles from the Mayagüez 2010 and Veracruz 2014 Games at the tournament in Barranquilla with a series of quick matches where she overpowered her opponents.

Her victory in Barranquilla further solidifies her presence at the Lima 2019 Pan American Games next July - Games at which Puig has unfinished business.

“It’s going to be another good challenge. I’ve never won a gold medal at the Pan American Games so I hope to leave Lima 2019 with one” she told Panam Sports.

While she has earned two medals at the Pan Am Games with a silver at Guadalajara 2011 and bronze at Toronto 2015, a Pan Am Games championship has eluded her. She aims to change that in Lima 2019, and the competition should take notice.

Lima 2019 will mark her first Pan Am Games since winning the Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro.

“That medal was incredible. It is the greatest achievement of my life so far and I hope to accompany it with a Grand Slam in the future,” she said.

In order to achieve her next goals, Puig must display the consistency that she has brought to the last three CAC Games.

“My biggest dream in tennis would be a Grand Slam or to be number one in the world. To do it I’ve got to keep working hard, have a lot of patience and believe that it will happen,” she added confidently.

And she has the entire country of Puerto Rico behind her, as was evidenced by the large crowds of fans she drew at the CAC Games in Barranquilla. More fans attended the women’s tennis final at Barranquilla 2018 than the men’s final, with the Puerto Rico fans cheering louder at times than the home crowd Colombians.

“It’s representing Puerto Rico, it’s representing my country and feeling the love of the people that are backing you every day,” she told Panam Sports after winning the gold in Colombia.

“Being the only woman to win an Olympic medal for Puerto Rico also feels incredible. I am a big fan of women nowadays being able to become great role models in life and in sport.”

She is already a sports icon in her country and throughout the Americas, and she hopes that she can repeat the magic she brought to the court at the Rio Olympics at the Tokyo 2020 Games in two years. Another gold medal is certainly attainable.

Puig is also optimistic about the future of tennis in the Americas.

“There is a very good level right now, especially from those who are coming up the ranks from Central and South America, so I hope we can continue to grow and that the future will have more Latin Americans,” she concluded.

Future tennis stars of the region need to look no further than Puerto Rico for inspiration, as Puig continues to demonstrate what it takes to win at the highest of levels.

“Tennis is my whole life. It’s my job and it’s also everything I know basically, so it’s very important to me.”

~ Monica Puig
RUBEN LIMARDO: I’M NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL I’M A WORLD CHAMPION

Olympic champion of London 2012, two–time World Championship silver medalist, three–time Pan American Games gold medalist, and a career wrought by swings of the sword decorate the resume of the outstanding Venezuelan fencer, Ruben Limardo. But, for this inexhaustible warrior of 33 years, this is not enough. His greatest dream is to achieve a gold medal at the FIE World Championships.

“T’m sorry, Venezuela,” were his first words after a surprising defeat in his opening match at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. After hanging an Olympic gold medal around his neck in London, he arrived as a favorite to win a medal in Rio. But the hope of bringing joy to his people once more collapsed during the first match.

Months later, the Venezuelan sports idol underwent yet another knee surgery. The injury was returning and many thought retirement was closer than ever.

“In Venezuela, many tossed me aside as an athlete. Many believed that because of my age I had nothing left to give, but those are people who do not understand the sport of fencing, so they cannot talk. I am the only fencing athlete in my country that has results at the world level. In addition, many Olympic and world fencers are over 40 years old,” Limardo notes.

In the 2018 FIE World Championship held in Wuxi, China, Limardo delivered another outstanding performance. His performance was reminiscent of his early career, as he reunited with his best technique and even greater motivation.

He gained confidence match after match in China, first beating the Egyptian Ahmad Elsokkary, 15-8. Then he bested the Olympic runner-up at London 2012, the Ukrainian Emir Alimdzhanov by a score of 14-12.

In the Round of 16, Limardo beat Alex Cava of France 15-8 and in the quarterfinals he topped South Korean Sangyoung Park, in a close fight that finished 13-10 in favor of the Venezuelan. In the semifinal, he notched another victory over the Ukrainian and 2015 World Champion Boldrini Nikishyn 7-4. However, his streak of victories ended in the final where he was outweighed by Yannick Borel of France by a score of 15-4.

What did it mean for you to be within the top 3 at a World Championship after being gone for 5 years?

“It was a great feeling, but I’m not satisfied. This is a dream I’ve been working towards for a long time. I’m a Junior World Champion, Olympic Champion, a Pan American and South American Gold Medalist, but I still need to be a World Champion. I have two silver medals but I want the gold. I won’t rest until I have it.”

After injuries, surgeries, and disappointment in Rio, did you honestly expect to earn a medal in China?

“I trained very hard for the World Championships. The truth is that I did not expect such a quick result because I was preparing for next year but in fencing you never know when your moment will come. We arrived in China four days early and I started feeling really good, with the same enthusiasm I had six years ago in London.”

Does this make you hungry for more, like climbing up in the World Rankings, winning in Lima 2019 and classifying to Tokyo 2020?

“Right now, I’m number four in the world but I want to be number one. I’m working hard for the next World Championships, I know it won’t be easy but I know I have a chance. For this Olympic cycle, we have the Pan American Games where I want my third individual medal and, of course, to earn another Olympic medal in Tokyo 2020. That is my dream, to be an Olympic medalist once again.”

What do the Pan American Games mean to you?

“It is a very important event, it’s the highest-level competition in our continent, and it’s the stepping stone to the Olympic Games. It helps you prepare to face the Olympics. Every athlete must compete at the Pan American Games and experience this true sports celebration of the Americas.”

Do you receive a lot of support from your country?

“The economic support has always been there. Because of my country’s current state, there have been some changes, but as athletes we understand it is the situation our country is in. I won’t stop. Whether I have the resources or not, I will continue to make my country proud because it has given me so much and I will continue to give it victories and medals.”

Is it safe to say that Ruben Limardo is back and stronger than ever?

“Yes, I feel really good. I am not injured, I’m confident, working hard and the results usually come when one looks for them. I believe in me. As long as I do what I love and it continues to make me happy, no one will stop me.”

Currently, the Venezuelan fencing legend is based in Poland where he has a non-profit organization dedicated to training future athletes and preparing the new generation of Venezuelan fencers. A generation that may have to wait a while before deposing Limardo. His results speak for themselves, and it is clear Limardo still has many good years of competition ahead of him.
WORLD RECORD IS JUST THE BEGINNING FOR KATHLEEN BAKER

The long list of great swimmers from the United States adds a new name to the roster as Kathleen Baker sets a new World Record in the 100 meter backstroke.

But Baker believes she can swim even faster.

“I’m sort of on cloud nine right now,” Baker told the Associated Press after dropping the 100 meter backstroke World Record by 0.10 seconds at the U.S. National Championships in July.

Her outstanding time of 58 seconds-flat topped the record set just last year at the FINA World Championships by Kylie Masse of Canada. Baker finished second to Masse at the 2017 World Championship and kept Masse’s former World Record time pinned in her phone as her goal.

“Right now it’s a 58.10 and I just broke that so now I’m going to put 57.99 down,” she said, proving that her time in the swimming spotlight is only just beginning.

“I’m overjoyed with the world record and a first-place swim,” she told reporters.

Baker also tied teammate Regan Smith for the 200 meter backstroke title at the U.S. National Championships, ensuring her place on Team USA for the 2019 FINA World Championships in both events.

After setting the new World Record at the U.S. Championship, Baker carried her winning ways into the Pan-Pacific Championships in Tokyo. Although she did not top her record-setting 100 meter swim and finished with a bronze medal, Baker was able to win the 200 meter backstroke outright while setting a meet record time of 2:06.14.

It was a four-medal performance for Baker in Tokyo, with the gold and bronze in the individual backstroke events as well as a silver in the women’s 4x100 meter medley relay, and bronze in the mixed 4x100 medley.

With a World Record and National Championship, two Olympic medals and three World Championship medals, it’s been an incredibly successful start to the career of the 21-year old from North Carolina.

At just 19-years old, Baker won an Olympic gold in the 4x100 meter medley as well as a silver in the 100 meter backstroke at the Rio 2016 Games. She followed up that performance by replicating the same medals at the 2017 World Championships, while also adding a bronze medal in the 200 meter backstroke.

After putting the world on notice with the new World Record, all signs point to Baker being a force to be reckoned with at the 2019 FINA World Championships which will be held in Gwangju, South Korea from July 12-28.

Swimming in the World Championships may preclude her from competing at the Lima 2019 Pan American Games which begin July 26, 2019, but Baker will undoubtedly be a staple of Team USA’s swimming roster at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, along with fellow stars Katie Ledecky and Caeleb Dressel.

Baker has also seen success outside of the swimming pool. Setting a new World Record in the 100 meter backstroke caught the attention of sponsors, with Baker signing a deal with Speedo and deciding to turn professional.

The decision will make Baker forego her final year of NCAA eligibility, but sweeping the backstroke events at the 2017 NCAA Championships proves that Baker is ready for the big-time.

“I’m sort of on cloud nine right now” - Kathleen Baker
NEW GENERATION OF PAN AMERICAN STARS

BRIANA WILLIAMS
Country: Jamaica
Sport: Athletics - 100 Meter/200 Meter/4x100 Meter Relay
Age: 16
Achievements: U20 World Champion 100 Meters (2018)
U20 World Champion 200 Meters (2018)
Attila Seyaly Award (3 Golds at 2018 CARIFTA GAMES)
“In the future, I want to be the youngest Olympic medalist in Tokyo 2020, but there are a lot of chances to succeed before then as well.”

HARRISON MAURUS
Country: United States
Sport: Weightlifting
Age: 18
Achievements: 2 World Championship Bronzes (2017)
2 U.S. Weightlifting Records 77kg (Clean and Jerk; Total)
2 U.S. Junior Weightlifting Records 77kg; 1 U.S. Junior Weightlifting Record 85kg
“It didn’t really sink in my mind that, holy cow, I had just broken my own record that I had set a couple months ago and became the first American male to medal in 20 years.”

ALEGNA GONZALEZ
Country: Mexico
Sport: Athletics - Race Walking
Age: 19 years
Achievements: U20 World Champion in 10 km Race Walk (2018)
IAAF World Cup Gold (2018)
Pan American Youth Championship Gold (2017)
“It will take me time to jump to 20 kilometers, since there are changes in training, it’s possible I could go to the Lima 2019 Pan American Games!”

BRUNA TAKAHASHI
Country: Brazil
Sport: Table Tennis
Age: 18
Achievements: South American Games Gold (2018)
Olympian (Rio 2016)
2 Pan American Championship Golds (2017)
2 Pan American Championship Bronzes (2017)
“I’m very happy with the Cochabamba 2018 gold medal. The joy does not compare to anything. This medal is dedicated to all those who helped me, my family and my coaches.”

MATHEA OLIN
Country: Canada
Sport: Surfing - Longboard
Age: 15
Achievements: 2 Canadian National Championship Golds (2017, 2018)
2 Canadian National U16 Championship Golds (2017, 2018)
Pan American Surfing Championship Gold (2017)
“I would love people to think of me as someone who came from Canada. I really want to inspire everybody here, like all the younger girls to go and start competing more internationally.”

ADRIANA DIAZ
Country: Puerto Rico
Sport: Table Tennis
Age: 17
Achievements: Pan American Games Bronze (Toronto 2015)
6 Central American & Caribbean Games Golds (4 in 2018, 2 in 2014)
Central American & Caribbean Games Silver (2016)
Central American & Caribbean Games Bronze (2016)
Olympian (Rio 2016)
“The good thing is that we are making a revolution and more people are getting to know about the sport. I think we are doing well.”

JOAQUIN NIEMANN
Country: Chile
Sport: Golf
Age: 19
Achievements: World #1 Amateur Golfer (May 2017-April 2018)
Latin American Amateur Championship - 1 at Place
Mark H. McCormack Award
Turned Pro in 2018
6 Professional Wins on PGA Tour Participated in 3 Majors
“Having the PGA Tour member card is amazing, I feel very good, with my 3 Majors I’ve gained a lot of experience. I’ve played the US Open, the Masters, and now the Major PGA Championship. It was without doubt the best year of my golf career, it’s really a dream.”

TAYLOR RUCK
Country: Canada
Sport: Swimming - Freestyle/Backstroke
Age: 18
Achievements: 2 Olympic Bronze (Rio 2016)
Pan Pacific Championship Gold, Silver, 3 Bronzes (2018)
9 World Junior Championship Golds (6 in 2017, 3 in 2015)
“I think coming out of the Commonwealth Games, I’m just keeping my blinders on and just focusing on Tokyo right now.”
Panam Sports dives into athlete preparation

As some of the region’s and world’s biggest sporting events draw near, Panam Sports wants to ensure athletes from the Americas have the skills and training necessary to propel them to greater heights.

In order to help our athletes achieve their goals, Panam Sports is hosting several training camps in various sports in the lead up to the Lima 2019 Pan American Games. The goal is for Americas’ athletes to develop, share experiences with other athletes and receive world-class training from renowned specialists in their sport.

From Badminton in Guatemala, to Swimming in Miami, USA, Panam Sports has only just begun its High-Performance Training Camps program. And the results are already paying dividends.

At the Barranquilla 2018 Central American and Caribbean Games, several athletes who attended the nine-day Panam Sports Swimming Camp were able to achieve qualifying times for the Lima 2019 Pan American Games. This includes Luis Flores of Puerto Rico who swam a 22.52 second 50 Meter Freestyle. While Flores narrowly missed securing a bronze medal in Barranquilla, he swam fast enough to earn a berth for Lima 2019.

The swimming camp in Miami was organized in conjunction with Americas’ Aquatics Confederation (UANA) and Azura Florida Aquatics, led by Italian Coach Gianluca Alberani.

“It is great seeing them getting in the pool giving their best and dropping times. They are just showing that by believing in themselves and hard work they can be at the top level of swimming,” Coach Alberani tells Panam Sports.

But Panam Sports is not only diving into the pool when it comes to athlete preparation. Panam Sports entered the ring in March 2018, improving the techniques of some of the region’s best boxers at a camp in Mexico. March also featured a highly-successful and month-long camp for badminton players in Guatemala which culminated in the 2018 Pan Am Badminton Championships in Guatemala City.

These camps allow athletes from smaller nations to train alongside other top athletes in the region, together with their own coaches, under the supervision of some of the best coaches in the world. It’s a great opportunity for them to raise their level,” says Panam Sports Secretary General, Ivar Sisniega.

Most recently, Panam Sports organized an Archery Training Camp along with World Archery Americas and the Colombian Olympic Committee immediately following a successful edition of the Pan American Archery Championships in Medellin, Colombia.

The Archery Championships qualified 62 competitors to the Lima 2019 Pan American Games, allowing the athletes who qualified to remain in Colombia to further hone their skills with an eye towards securing medals in the Peruvian capital next July.

There are many more training camps on the horizon with less than a year until the Lima 2019 Games. Camps for athletes in taekwondo, artistic gymnastics, canoe slalom and beach volleyball are all planned for the end of 2018, with official dates and locations to be confirmed.
It has been a landmark year for the Panam Sports Athlete Commission in 2018, as its members focus their efforts to call for stronger athlete representation within our region while connecting with the broader athlete community.

At the 2016 Athlete Forum, we listened to our athlete leaders. The recommendations developed from this workshop addressed the need for athletes to sit at the decision-making tables and ensure their interests are taken into consideration. With the support of Panam Sports, the Athlete Commission was able to achieve the following goals this year:

1. **Every Panam Sports Commission includes an athlete representative, including the Pan American Games Coordination and Evaluation/Follow Up Commissions**

2. **The successful creation of an Athlete Commission within the Lima 2019 Organizing Committee to ensure a positive athlete experience during the Games**

3. **Including an athlete-specific section in the monthly newsletter**

And we’re not done.

The Panam Sports Athlete Forum returns for its second edition which will be held from October 25 – 28, 2018 in Miami, USA. More athletes than ever will have the opportunity to participate in the Forum, with funds from Olympic Solidarity making it possible to unite athletes from each of Panam Sport's 41 member nations. The three-day Forum will include special guests from the IOC and ANOC Athlete Commissions, as well as presentations from Olympic Solidarity, the Athlete Career Program and Marketing professionals. We aim to create an open and collaborative space for participants to share best practices, resources and tools. We look forward to bringing the Athletes of the Americas together to ensure their voices are heard.

For more information, contact athletes@panamsports.org

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**Buenos Aires 2018**

**ONE MONTH AWAY FROM WORLD’S MOST IMPORTANT YOUTH SPORTS FESTIVAL**

First it was Singapore in 2010, then Nanjing, China in 2014, and now in just one month, Buenos Aires, Argentina will be ready to receive the best young athletes on the planet for the third edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games that begins October 6.

Twelve days of competition, cultural shows, a committed country and a party that promises to be the most important and massive in the history of these Games.

For the first time in Olympic history, the Opening Ceremony will be held in the streets and avenues of the host city, with the aim of bringing the sport and this great cultural show to the people, to the Argentinian society and to the thousands of tourists who will be in Buenos Aires for the Games.

Panam Sports provides a look at the numbers of this sporting event that will capture the attention of the world for two weeks in October.

- **OCTOBER 6-18**
- **4,205 ATHLETES**
- **32 SPORTS**
- **36 DISCIPLINES**
- **8 SPORTS MAKING YOG DEBUT:** Karate, Sport Climbing, Break Dancing, Speed Skating, Futsal, Kitesurfing, Beach Handball and BMX Freestyle
- **1,250 MEDALS TO BE AWARDED**
- **8,000 VOLUNTEERS**
- **1 MASCOT: PANDI**

Follow all the details, news, photographs and videos of the Youth Olympic Games through our website www.PanamSports.org and our social networks @panamsports
MARCELO RIOS

He is recognized as the best tennis player in the history of Chile, and by many tennis experts, as one of the most talented players that the ATP has ever had. At only 5'9" tall, el Chino, as he is called, achieved the surprising record of being the first Ibero-American tennis pro to reach the top of world tennis, dethroning none other than Pete Sampras of the United States who held the number one spot for 102 weeks.

It was March 29, 1998 when Marcelo Rios defeated Andre Agassi by 7-5, 6-3 and 6-4 and reached number 1 of the ATP Ranking in the final of the Super 9 tournaments of Key Biscayne.

The talented tennis player represented Chile in Davis Cups, World Cups, Olympic Games and, of course, the Pan American Games.

In fact, he is the only tennis player who has been ranked Number 1 in the world to participate in the continental sports festival. He did so at the Santo Domingo 2003 Pan Am Games when he was ranked Number 43 in the world. He reached the grand final against Fernando Meligeni of Brazil.

On a day that exceeded 95 degrees with 90 percent humidity, the Chilean faced the Brazilian with more than 2,500 people in the stands. It was an entertaining, dramatic and exhausting match for both competitors.

With a constant attack and deep shots, Meligeni knew exactly how to counteract Rios' game. Meligeni came out on top in an extremely close match that was decided 5-7, 7-6 (8-6) and 7-6 (7-5) to win the gold.

Although he lost, Rios crowned himself as the best Chilean tennis player in history with the Pan Am Games silver and would go on to become the first Latin American tennis player to be ranked Number 1 in the world.

His achievements on the tennis court are indisputable just like his innate talent. For becoming the first Latin American to become the top player in the world, Marcelo Rios is known as a Panam Sports Legend.

NATALIA MALAGA

In Peru's Golden Era of Volleyball, Natalia Malaga helped inspire a nation to believe that anything is possible by leading Peru to its first and only Olympic medal in a team sport.

While Peru won its first Olympic gold medal in Shooting Sport at the London 1948 Olympics, perhaps the most memorable moment in Peru's sporting history came at the Seoul 1988 Summer Olympics. As the leader of a team with several stars, Malaga brought Peru to the final against the mighty team from the former Soviet Union. The gold medal match lasted five sets, with the USSR coming from behind to claim the gold and leave the Peruvian team with the silver.

But losing in the final match was not a disappointment for the team, or for the country. In a nation where soccer dominates the news, the women’s volleyball silver medals all were on the front cover of every newspaper and magazine and were welcomed home with a massive parade. By beating teams from the United States, Brazil and China on the way to the final, Malaga and her teammates became immortalized in Peru’s sports history.

The Volleyball team won one of only four Olympic medals in Peru’s history and the players are the only to win medals in a sport other than Shooting - even to this day.

Malaga became the youngest Peruvian Olympian on a volleyball team at the Moscow 1980 Games when she was just 16 years old. Although Peru finished sixth in that tournament, the experience helped lead Malaga and her teammates to a haul of medals at the top international tournaments over the next 10 years.

The victories began at the FIVB World Championships in 1982, where a young Malaga used her passion and Olympic experience to bring home a silver medal for Peru. A year later, Malaga earned her first Pan American Games medal with a bronze at the Caracas 1983 Pan Am Games.

Over a 23-year career, Malaga would go on to compete in three more Olympics, winning the silver medal in her third Olympic appearance at Seoul 1988. Another World Championship bronze, a Pan American Games silver at Indianapolis 1987 and another bronze at Havana 1991 are the highlights of her outstanding career.

She competed in her final Olympics at the Sydney 2000 Games before retiring in 2003. A few years into retirement she returned to the sport, this time as a coach. She now serves as the Assistant Coach for Peru’s Women’s National team and is the Head Coach of the women’s youth team, leading the team to a bronze at the inaugural Summer Youth Olympics in Singapore in 2010.

Throughout her career as a player and a coach, Malaga has embodied the ideals and values of Panam Sports, striving for greatness and proving that hard work and determination can help you achieve your dreams. Malaga will be remembered in Peruvian history forever, making her an undeniable Panam Sports Legend.
The Sports Minister of Chile, Pauline Kantor, speaks with Panam Sports about the great opportunity that awaits Chile as a first-time host of the continent’s largest Games and how the Chilean passion for sport will make sure the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games will be unforgettable.

That passion extends all the way to the top of the Chilean government. President Sebastian Piñera is a huge fan of Olympic sport and has witnessed great sporting moments for his country as a two-time President.

However, Piñera experienced disappointment during his first term as the President of Chile (2010-2014) when Santiago lost to Lima for the chance to host the 2019 Pan American Games. This disappointment turned to joy in 2017 when Santiago was confirmed as the host of the Pan American Games in 2023.

“We will strengthen our sports infrastructure and prepare to be the Host City for the Pan American Games 2023,” President Piñera said publicly on June 1.

Until publication of this edition of the Panam Sports Magazine, the Chilean Sports Ministry, led by Pauline Kantor, has been working hard on a new budget for the Games in 2023, considering a significant increase compared to the budget for the Santiago 2017 Pan American Games.

“This is a unique and very special opportunity to host the Pan American Games, not only because of the size of the event, but because it is the most important competition after the Olympic Games. Some of the most talented athletes of our continent and Chile will have the opportunity of competing on our soil. Many of the athletes that come are Olympic medalists and we hope that this leaves a great sports legacy. Sport is all about setting goals and objectives and dreaming big, and Chile is capable of holding big events and doing it well. President Piñera has told us that the legacy of these Games will not disappear immediately after they are over, but will remain as a turning point for the city of Santiago and all Chileans.”

What is Chile’s commitment to athletes and National Olympic Committees?

“We Chileans are preparing with great joy, passion and strength to receive the Pan American Games of 2023. We are excited to receive all the delegations, athletes, sport officials and their families. We are a welcoming country and we are proud of what we are going to be able to deliver. We have no doubt that it will be a great experience because we have much to offer as a country and we are waiting for you with open arms, with world-class organization where everyone feels welcomed and loved.”

On July 20, the International Olympic Committee released the list of the nine nominees to be new IOC Members. Among the nominees, Panam Sports Executive Committee Member Camilo Perez of Paraguay is the only representative from the Olympic Movement of the Americas.

At 49 years old, the current president of ODESUR has devoted his whole life to sports. From a very young age, he started practicing one of his passions, tennis, and later he entered the fields of athletics, soccer, water skiing and even motorsports racing, where he was repeatedly the National Champion in Paraguay.

This prominent businessman began his career in 2003 and little by little began to make a name not only at the national level, but his professionalism, passion and desire to develop sport also crossed international borders.

That is how, in 2011, he assumed the Presidency of ODESUR, the only representative from the Olympic Movement of the Americas. The election will be held in October, in the city of Buenos Aires when the IOC Session is held prior to the Youth Olympic Games.

If I am appointed by the IOC Members, my main objective will be to continue embracing the Olympic Charter, maintaining the principles that have been set and trying to continue to carry sport along the same path that we have tried to do so far. I will continue working hard to improve ODESUR, support Panam Sports alongside our President Neven Ilic, and to contribute to the International Olympic Committee with my experience and also with my youth,” Perez added.

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### September '18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUG. 21 - 9/</td>
<td>U.S. Open Tennis Grand Slam, New York City, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG. 28 - 9/</td>
<td>Pan American Artistic Skating Championships, Bogota, Colombia</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG. 31 - 14/</td>
<td>ISSF World Shooting Championships, Changwon, South Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-9/</td>
<td>Archery World Field Championships, Cortina, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-9/</td>
<td>UCI Mountain Bike World Championships, Lenzerheide, Switzerland</td>
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<td>5-6/</td>
<td>Panam Sports General Assembly, Lima, Peru</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-15/</td>
<td>Modern Pentathlon World Championships, Mexico City, Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-16/</td>
<td>IFSC Climbing World Championships, Innsbruck, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-16/</td>
<td>Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships, Sofia, Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-16/</td>
<td>World Rowing Championship, Plovdiv, Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-30/</td>
<td>FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship, Bulgaria &amp; Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-23/</td>
<td>FEI World Equestrian Games, MIT Spring, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-16/</td>
<td>Pan American Gymnastics Championships, Lima, Peru</td>
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<td>12-16/</td>
<td>ITU World Triathlon Series Grand Final, Gold Coast, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-16/</td>
<td>Pan Am Canoe Sprint Championship, Dartmouth, Canada</td>
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<td>15-22/</td>
<td>ISA World Surfing Games, Tahara, Japan</td>
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<td>20-27/</td>
<td>UWF World Judo Championships, Baku, Azerbaijan</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-30/</td>
<td>UCI Road Cycling World Championships, Innsbruck, Austria</td>
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| Oct. 25-30/ | ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil                              |
| OCT. 29 - 20/ | FIVB Volleyball Women’s World Championship, Japan                                       |

### October '18

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-16/</td>
<td>Summer Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-14/</td>
<td>North American Bodybuilding Championship, Tijuana, Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-28/</td>
<td>UWW World Wrestling Championships, Budapest, Hungary</td>
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<td>25-28/</td>
<td>Pan American Modern Pentathlon, Lima, Peru</td>
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<td>25-NOV. 3/</td>
<td>FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships, Doha, Qatar</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-NOV. 10/</td>
<td>Shooting Championships of the Americas, Guadalajara, Mexico</td>
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### November '18

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-3/</td>
<td>Pan American Wakeboard Championship, Jalisco, Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-10/</td>
<td>Weightlifting World Championship, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan</td>
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<td>4/</td>
<td>New York Marathon, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-10/</td>
<td>FIG Trampoline Gymnastics World Championship, St. Petersburg, Russia</td>
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<td>8-12/</td>
<td>SA Water Polo Championships, Trujillo, Peru</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-16/</td>
<td>Pan American Water Ski Championships, Santiago, Chile</td>
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<td>16-25/</td>
<td>Pan American Speed Skating Championships,</td>
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<td>20-25/</td>
<td>Monterrey, Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC. 2/</td>
<td>Pan American Table Tennis Championships, Santiago, Chile</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-29/</td>
<td>ISA World SUP &amp; Paddleboard World Championships, Wanning, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC. 28/</td>
<td>ANOC General Assembly, Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC. 16/</td>
<td>Men’s Hockey World Cup, Bhubaneshwar, India</td>
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### December '18

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-9/</td>
<td>Pan American Surf Games, Punta Roca, Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-16/</td>
<td>FINA World Swimming Championships (25m), Hangzhou, Republic of China</td>
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<tr>
<td>JANUARY '19</td>
<td>World Men’s Handball Championship, Denmark &amp; Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-27/</td>
<td>Australian Open, Tennis Grand Slam #1, Melbourne, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-27/</td>
<td>Pan American Table Tennis Championships, Santiago, Chile</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-27/</td>
<td>FINA Luge World Championships, Winterberg, Germany</td>
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### February '19

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-10/</td>
<td>FIS Freestyle Ski &amp; Snowboarding World Championship, Park City, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-17/</td>
<td>FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Are, Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-27/</td>
<td>FIS Nordic World Ski Championships, Tyrol, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR. 27/</td>
<td>UCI Track Cycling World Championships, Pruszkow, Poland</td>
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