

SPECIAL EDITION PANAM SPORTS AWARDS



AMERICAS' GREATEST ATHLETES
AMERICAS' GREATEST GAMES

The legacy of Lima 2019



**4th AMERICAS BEST PRACTICES SYMPOSIUM
ADVANCING NATIONAL SPORTING EXCELLENCE**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA - DECEMBER 13-14, 2019

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 13
08:00 - 17:00
AMERICAS BEST PRACTICES SYMPOSIUM BEGINS
Broward Convention Center

19:00
PANAM SPORTS AWARDS
Marriott Harbor Beach Resort

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 14
08:00 - 17:00
AMERICAS BEST PRACTICES SYMPOSIUM
Broward Convention Center

18:30
RECEPTION AND WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE
Riverside Hotel

HIGH-PERFORMANCE PLANNING · LEADERSHIP · ATHLETE WELL-BEING



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NEVEN ILIC: “LIMA 2019 IS A MILESTONE FOR SPORT IN THE AMERICAS”

The impression left by Panam Sports President Neven Ilıc in the city of Lima will be difficult for Peru to forget. He first visited the Peruvian capital in May 2017, just one week after his election as President and just two years and two months before the Lima 2019 Pan American Games began. But the story was just beginning...

It was a major surprise when he realized that the infrastructure and facilities that had been promised with the bid, including the plans for the Pan American Village, did not yet exist. He immediately met with Organizing Committee President Carlos Neuhaus, and together they made the courageous decision to face this challenge head on, working at full speed to prepare for the Games and give athletes the best experience possible.

“It crossed my mind that this challenge may be too difficult with such great responsibility on my shoulders as the President of Panam Sports. Our next Games were just two years away I saw nothing on my first visit, so of course I thought of the potential risks for our Organization. It was very troublesome,” recalls Ilıc.

Now, four months have passed since Neven Ilıc closed the XVI-II Pan American Games by receiving thunderous applause and chants from more than the 40,000 sport fans in Peru’s National Stadium. The ovation was a sign of thanks for standing by Lima and trusting that they could host successful Games, as well as appreciation for the tremendous work by both Lima 2019 and Panam Sports to make these Games possible.

What is your summary of the 2019 Pan American Games?

It is one of the proudest moments of my life as a sports leader. We met all of the goals we set, and not only those that were realistic as many of our dreams also came true. Lima 2019 marked a milestone for sport in the Americas. The Games were of excellent quality in all areas and we are very satisfied.

What impressed you the most during the Games?

Everything impressed me. Together with the Organizing Committee, we were able to deliver extraordinary Games to the athletes. Our objective was to always focus on the details, with the idea being to ensure every aspect of the Games went well for the athletes and the public, and I think we were very close to that.

More than 80 Pan American Records and 1 World Record. What is your opinion of the sporting level that was on display?

America is a very active and sporty continent that is also very successful in nearly all sports. We have the best athletes in the world in many disciplines and that is exactly what we saw at these Pan

American Games. The athletes absolutely met the standards of our Games and repeatedly showcased spectacular performances on their way to podium finishes and the weight of gold on their neck.

Were they really the best Pan American Games in history, or at least the best that you have witnessed?

For me, absolutely. I may be a little bias perhaps because I shared the responsibility of these Games, but when I see the success that we achieved, I feel these were the best Pan American Games in history. But I’m still being objective, because I’ve been to many Pan Am Games so considering all things, these Games were spectacular.

To what do you think we should credit the success of the Games?

The very dedicated and joint effort between Panam Sports and the Organizing Committee. The ability of COPAL and the Peruvian Government to meet each of the requirements we set for them, always maintaining good communication between all parties. We achieved everything thanks to incredible efforts of a lot of people, because nobody thought that in just two years that we would be able to have Games at the incredibly successful level that we witnessed.

In terms of the organization, what aspects do you think should be improved or taken into account for

Santiago 2023?

The bar that Lima has set is very high. The quality of the infrastructure will be very difficult to match. I believe Santiago also has a lot of positive qualities about the city, such as the transportation and the atmosphere of the city. But I don’t want to start making comparisons already. Every city should aim to host the Games to the best of their own abilities according to their own level of investment, economy and natural conditions, and I’m confident that Santiago will be able to do that.

There are several programs for sports development in the region as a focus identified in the Panam Sports Strategic Plan. Given what we’ve seen at Lima 2019 and the noticeable improvement of several countries, do you think this objective is being met?

These are programs that have always been in our long-term plans and now we are starting to see the results. When we start giving NOCs more opportunities to train, develop and guide athletes, we will have more and more countries with better athletes which leads to better performance and therefore better results. We are very happy with everything that has improved throughout our continent and we want to continue to follow this path.

Twenty-one sports were qualifiers for the Olympic Games at Lima 2019.

What is you and your Executive Committee’s goal for Santiago 2023?

We want all sports at Santiago 2023 to be qualifiers for the Olympic Games. I don’t know if we’re going to achieve this, but we are already working to arrive at a point where we can meet with each International Federation to negotiate and convince them how beneficial it would be for all of us it were so.

2019: A YEAR OF SUCCESS

The level of the athletes of the Americas has not only been increased at the Pan American Games. Americas’ athletes also left their mark at this year’s World Championships, showing the continent’s prowess in many sports across the globe. Look no further than Simone Bile’s dominance in Gymnastics, the U.S. Swim team’s success, Brazil claiming the Men’s Volleyball World Championship, Argentina winning both the Softball World Championship and a silver medal at the Basketball World Cup, and even down to the small island of Grenada where the extraordinary Anderson Peters became not only the Pan American Champion in the Javelin, but now stands as the World Champion, just to name a few examples.

How do you see sport in the Americas at this moment?

Sport will always have its elite class of athletes that are the best in the world. But if you’re thinking in the shoes of Panam Sports, you can’t just think about the elite. The idea is to think of ways to expand this elite base of athletes with the new generation of athletes among all of our NOCs. This is exactly why we have launched the first Junior Pan American Games in Cali, Colombia in 2021, which he hope will be a springboard for the next generation.



“WE WANT ALL SPORTS AT SANTIAGO 2023 TO BE QUALIFIERS FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES”

Where do you think more work is needed?

It will take much more thorough work in all technical aspects to develop consistency over time. In many of our countries there are also some specific efforts that are not aiding us on the path to ensuring sustained success.

It will soon be three years since you were elected President of Panam Sports. How has the support of the NOCs and the athletes been under your leadership?

The truth is that I feel very happy and comfortable. My job has been to become closer to the NOCs and athletes in order to help them to the fullest extent of Panam Sports' capabilities. I was president of the Chilean NOC for 12 years and I know the shortcomings and difficulties very well. Each one has a different reality, and I have felt very comfortable working with all of our 41 member nations.

How important are athletes and Athlete Commission to Panam Sports?

They are the most important in our world. All of us in this have the innate desire to be athletes, and I personally admire all of them very much, so I believe it's essential to give them everything they need to succeed and develop in the best way throughout their sports career. The athlete is the center of our world and all of our efforts are dedicated to them.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

It is known that the reality of some Latin American countries is not always the best. Some political and social crises have come to the forefront in recent weeks. However, the teams of Cali 2021 that will organize the first Junior Pan American Games and Santiago 2023 that will host the next Pan American Games continue to work tirelessly. There have been several meetings and visits of the Commissions and authorities of Panam Sports to support the work of each of these teams.

Every day brings us close to the Junior Pan American Games. This has been a dream for you and your team...

Yes, it's true. The dream was born when I was the President of the Chilean NOC where I was firsthand how difficult it was for young athletes to receive support and resources. Many of our countries do not have the budget to support that generation. So the goal is that these Games will continue the development process that often stops at 18 years old.

How do you view the city of Cali and the Organizing Committee as they prepare for these Games?

I seem them very well. I went for my first visit a couple of months ago. They have all the necessities to stage successful Games. It is a beautiful city, the people are very friendly and caring, it has very good infrastructure and most importantly the people at the Organizing Committee are very much in love with the project and I see their excitement as they work together with the Olympic Committee.

Santiago 2023 has been another of your dreams, in

fact, long before you were elected President of Panam Sports. How will the life of Chileans change with the Pan American Games in Santiago?

I have always said that hosting the Pan American Games is an opportunity for all countries. It is not just a 17-day event. It is an opportunity to change a city's path and develop sport throughout the country. An opportunity to welcome new generations and new regions, unite the entire community and be reminded of the importance and power of sport to develop society as a whole.

The 2014 South American Games left a great legacy in infrastructure for Santiago. How much investment will be required for the Pan Am Games? What is your goal for Chile as the next Host Nation of the Games?

Panam Sports does not want countries to make investments that are not related to their economy, but the Games must live up to the standards of the Pan American Games. Chile is beginning to bring their facilities up to world-class level that is expected, with some things needing improvement and others needing new facilities. Right now, some of the infrastructure does not currently meet the requirements set by Panam Sports.

Lastly Mr. President, the Panam Sports Awards have been a success, bringing together our NOCs, great Athletes, the media and sports fans across the globe. Do you think there is a possibility to hold these unique Awards on a yearly basis?

I think it makes perfect sense to recognize our great athletes in the same year of the Pan American Games, because it is so important to thank the athletes and congratulate them for all they have achieved. We want to make sure the Awards remain prestigious, but we are not close minded and will always analyze all of our options.



PANAM SPORTS ATHLETE COMMISSION (2019 - 2023)

NEW MEMBERS (2019 - 2027)



Isabel Swan (Brazil - Sailing)
Beijing 2008, Rio 2016

"As a two-time Olympian, I take pride being really involved with the Athlete Commission in Brazil so I decided to run for the Panam Sports Athlete Commission to give me even more experience helping athletes throughout the Americas."



Melissa Humana-Paredes (Canada - Beach Volleyball)
Toronto 2015

"I'm excited to be a part of the Panam Sports AC because as an active athlete, I think it's important to be aware of issues that go on behind-the-scenes that affect our field of play and that we're often unaware of. But as a Canadian-Chilean, I'm equally as excited to be able to embrace the Pan Am community that I feel so connected with and impact the direction of these issues and allow sports to thrive!"



Paola Longoria (Mexico - Racquetball)
Guadalajara 2011, Toronto 2015, Lima 2019

"It is an honor for me to be part of the Athletes Commission representing Mexico, to be able to see and look for ways to always be growing the Pan American sport nationally and worldwide. I think the prettiest part of the sport is meeting people who have that winning, committed, disciplined, persevering spirit."



Tony Azevedo (USA - Water Polo)
Havana 1999, Santo Domingo 2003, Rio 2007, Guadalajara 2011, Toronto 2015

"I am so honored to be able to speak on behalf of our great athletes and try and make their futures as bright as possible. I understand the troubles coming from a smaller sport and hope my experience can make an impact."



Amber Joseph (Barbados - Track Cycling)
Lima 2019

"It is an honor to have been chosen by my friends and fellow athletes at the Pan Am Games to help serve and lead on the Panam Sports Athlete Commission. I am very excited to begin this new challenge and help give a voice to the athletes of the Americas."

CURRENT MEMBERS (2015 - 2023)



Adriana Escobar (El Salvador - Rowing)
Toronto 2015, Lima 2019

"My experiences at the Pan Am Games were different but were also incredible, and since then I've grown so much athletically and personally. Being a part of the Athlete Commission since 2015 has opened a new opportunity for me to learn and I'm very proud to be able to help form the voice for the athletes of the Americas."

Carlos Santiago (Puerto Rico - Judo)
Winnipeg 1999, Guadalajara 2011

"My greatest motivation in being part of this great commission is to be able to help, educate and direct the athletes of my continent so that they can have a better level in sports and outside of it. Also to be able to ensure that each country has its own Athlete Commission and that the athlete is part of the decision-making in the sports movement. I want to see a united and strengthened continent through sport and its main actors, the athletes."

Aliann Pompey (Guyana - Athletics)
Habana 1999, Santo Domingo 2003, Rio 2007

"I am thrilled to be on the Panam Sports Athlete Commission because it's a way for us to have meaningful impact in our sport and region outside of actual competition. I have and continue to learn so much, it's truly an enriching experience. In a few short years we've experienced the commitment of the Panam Sports Executive staff to the Commission in making sure the athletes' voice has infiltrated pretty much all of their operations."

THE LEGACY OF LIMA 2019

Americas' greatest athletes shine at the greatest Pan American Games in history

More exciting sports, more athletes qualified to the Olympics and more of the continent's incredible athletes in the record books than any other Pan American Games in history. These are the amazing realities of Lima 2019 that have set the bar for a new era of sport in the Americas.

Lima 2019 also marks a milestone for the Panam Sports family, as all 41 of our countries have won medals after 18 editions of the Pan Am Games. Congratulations to Aruba and the British Virgin Islands for breaking through to the podium for the first time in history. The British Virgin Islands medal was a gold, making the island join Barbados, Bolivia, Grenada and Paraguay as the five countries that won their first gold medals at Lima 2019, an incredible achievement that exhibits the emphasis placed on development throughout the continent.

Most importantly, these Games marked a before and after in the history of the Host Nation, Peru. Not only did Lima 2019 inspire Peru's athletes to perform at their best and win more gold medals than ever before, but the foundation has been set to make sure this success lasts for decades to come. World-class sports infrastructure and the committed development of human capital has left a lasting legacy in Peru that will continue to bear fruits as it did at the Pan Am Games.

These staggering performances kept fans across the globe glued to their seats, their televisions and their phones and the world watched as history was made. Looking back, the numbers speak for themselves.



BY THE NUMBERS

GAMES

6,600 Athletes

1,361 Medals

41 Countries

39 Sports

QUALIFIERS TO TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS

21 Sports



RECORDS

80 Pan Am Records

1 World Record



FANS



300 M+ Television Viewers



85 M+ Users on Social Media



750,000+ Spectators



1,000 hrs Live Sport Coverage

VOLUNTEERS



100,000 applications
12,000 volunteers

OPENING CEREMONY OF LIMA 2019

A WORLD-CLASS PARTY

July 26 will forever be remembered as a historic day for all of Peru thanks to the most important celebration of sport the country had ever seen.

More than 40,000 people filled the stands of Peru's National Stadium in Lima while 400 million viewers from around the world watched the more than 2,000 artists tell the story Peru's magical history. Tenor Juan Diego Florez lended his spectacular voice while Luis Fonsi added his rockstar performance to conclude an unforgettable night and Opening Ceremony.



LIMA 2019 / JULY 26





DAY 1

A DREAM DEBUT FOR PERU

The first medal of the 18th edition of the Pan American Games went to Alex Lee of the United States in the Poomsae discipline of Taekwondo. However, the world's attention turned towards and applauded the Peruvian marathoners Gladys Tejeda and Cristhian Pacheco who not only became the first teammates to win two gold medals in the event, but did so with two new Pan American Records.



DAY

2

BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA BEGIN TO SHOW THEIR STRENGTH

The excitement of the Games after the first day was evident in the stands. Peruvians showed up in force at the venues and sport complexes to see this continental festival of sport. Argentina was once more one of the favorites of the Games, demonstrating its supremacy in Rugby 7s as the men take the gold medal, while Canada took the gold for the Women.

Brazil won gold in Men's Artistic Gymnastics while Guatemala won a historic Pan American Games gold as Charles Fernandez won in Modern Pentathlon.





DAY

3

TEAM USA DOMINATES 3X3 BASKETBALL

The Finals of the 3x3 Basketball tournament featured very deserving teams, as Team USA defeated Puerto Rico on the Men's side and Argentina on the Women's. Future #1 WNBA Draft Pick Sabrina Ionescu showed her otherworldly talent in the discipline's debut at the Games.

Brazil took the gold in the Triathlon Mixed Relay in an excellent showing, while rising star Patricio Font of Mexico, at just 17-years old, impressed the crowd at the Waterski venue, taking the gold medal in the Tricks competition. The beautiful sport of Artistic Swimming began in the Aquatic Center at the VIDENA.



DAY

4

TEAM CHILE'S GOLDEN TUESDAY

July 30 marked the beginning of a historic performance by the athletes of Team Chile. Three gold medals were won on a special Tuesday. Tomás Gonzalez won gold in Artistic Gymnastics, Fernanda Valdes in Women's Weightlifting and cousins Esteban and Marco Grimalt winning a historic gold in Beach Volleyball.

Meanwhile, Brazil took first place in the Women's Handball final against Argentina in an absolutely full gym, securing qualification to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

In the Villa El Salvador Sports Center, Ellie Black made history winning back-to-back All-Around gold in Women's Artistic Gymnastics, while Riley McCusker of the United States also wowed the crowd.





DAY 5

TEAM CANADA: THE QUEENS OF ARTISTIC SWIMMING

For fans of Artistic Swimming, the performances displayed by Canada's athletes neared perfection. With routines that brought standing ovations to those in the stands at the VIDENA Aquatics Center, Team Canada won gold medals in both the Duet and Team events.

The Dominican Republic won its third gold medal in Gymnastics with the outstanding performance by Audrys Nin on Vault, while Argentina continued to advance steadily through the Men's Basketball tournament with its star player Luis Scola.



DAY 6

CUBA DOMINATES BOXING AND WORLD SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS EARN RESPECT

Cuba once more stood alone on top of the Pan American Boxing tournament. Led by stars like Julio Cesar la Cruz and Roniel Iglesias, Cuba won four gold medals on the first night of medal bouts.

In Softball, the Argentinean national team won the gold medal after defeating the United States in the Lima 2019 final. The albiceleste squad finished their spectacular year by also being crowned World Champions.

Mexico and Canada also win the first diving medals of the Lima 2019 Pan American Games.





7 DAY

CANADA DOMINATES BADMINTON AND TEAM USA SHINES IN TRACK CYCLING

Team Canada absolutely dominated the Badminton competition at Lima 2019, claiming four golds, three silver and 1 bronze in the sport.

Track Cycling began at the VIDENA and the U.S. team featuring Cristina Birch, Chloe Dygert, Kimberly Geist and Lily Williams sprint to the gold in the Team Pursuit. Martha Bayona of Colombia, meanwhile, climbed to the top of the podium by winning the Women's Keirin.

Cuba finished the boxing tournament with four more gold medals to give them an amazing eight total in one sport. The island is a true power in the world and now sets its sights on more golds at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



8 DAY

EVITA GRISKENAS TAKES RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS CROWN AND NICHOLAS PAUL IMPRESSES IN CYCLING

U.S. rising star in Rhythmic Gymnastics, Evita Griskenas, dominated her competition at Lima 2019 from start to finish. In the individual finals, she took the gold medal in the All-Around, Hoop, Ball and Ribbon, while also adding a bronze in Clubs, making her the most decorated athlete at Lima 2019.

In Track Cycling, Nicholas Paul and Njiansé Philip of Trinidad and Tobago went 1-2 in the Men's Sprint. The first medals were given in Tennis, as Brazil won gold in Men's Double, U.S. won Women's Doubles and Chile won Mixed Doubles.





DAY **9**

PERU DOMINATES SURFING AND ARGENTINA CELEBRATES TEAM SUCCESS

Argentina was by far the country that won the most gold medals in team sports. On Day 9 of the Games, Argentina celebrated two new gold medals in team events. In Men's Volleyball, Argentina defeated Cuba 3-0 to win the gold, while the Basketball team defeated Puerto Rico 84 to 66.

Peru began its domination in the Surfing competitions, as the national icon and World Champion Benoit 'Piccolo' Clemente won the first ever gold in Long Board at the Pan Am Games. In Tennis, Brazil's Joao Meneses won the Men's individual gold to also qualify to the Olympics, while Nadia Podoroska of Argentina did the same on the Wom-en's side.



DAY **10**

RUBEN LIMARDO IS CROWNED A THREE-TIME CHAMPION

Journalists packed the the Main Press Center to listen to Athletics legend Carl Lewis as well as fellow legend and Olympic rival Leroy Burrell talk about their impressive careers and experiences at the Pan American Games. In Fencing, Ruben Limardo of Venezuela fulfilled one of his greatest dreams, becoming a three-time individual Pan American Games Champion, doing so against his little brother Jesus Limardo, giving Venezuela the gold and silver in the Men's Epee.

Argentina was crowned Pan American Champion in Men's Handball by defeating Chile 31 to 27 in a very entertaining and contested final, with the victory sending them to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.





DAY **11**

THE VIDENA TAKES CENTER STAGE

The attention of the Games moved to the National Sports Village (VIDENA) for the start of the Athletics and Swimming competitions, two of the most popular sports in the world. In the Athletics Stadium, the Caribbean began to demonstrate their power, as Yaimé Pérez of Cuba won another gold medal in the Women's Discus with a Pan American Record, while in Men's Discus, Fedrick Dacres of Jamaica also finished atop the podium once more. Chantel Malone of the British Virgin Islands made history by winning her country's first medal in history which was also golden. Natasha Wodak of Canada won gold in the 10,000m while Fernando Martínez of Mexico won the 5,000m.

In swimming, the power of the United States, Brazil and Argentina was immediately evident, with world-renowned names such as Nathan Adrian, Joao Gomez and the young Delfina Pignatiello all showing their speed in the pool.



DAY **12**

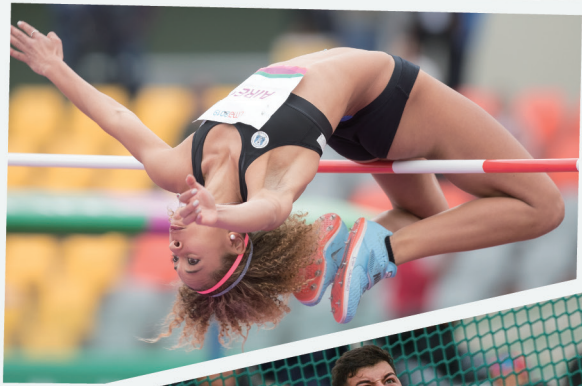
NEW WORLD RECORD AND OLYMPIANS IN ACTION

The only World Record of the Lima 2019 Pan Am Games was broken in the Archery competition. Brady Ellison of Team USA set the new record in the Men's Individual Recurve, shooting a score of 702 out of a possible 720 points, surpassing the previous World Record set by Korea's Kim Woojin (700) set at Rio 2016.

In Athletics, Olympic Champion Elaine Thompson of Jamaica won the Women's 100 meters, Michael Rodgers of Team USA did the same on the Men's side, while in Men's Long Jump, Cuba's Juan Miguel Echevarría topped the podium.

In Road Cycling, Chloe Dygert of the U.S. won her second gold in her second sport at the Games, while Daniel Martinez from Colombia also impressed. In Equestrian, the daughter of famous mogul Steve Jobs – Eve Jobs – performed well for Team USA.





DAY 13

MIJAIN LOPEZ: THE PAN AMERICAN LEGEND CELEBRATES HIS FIFTH GOLD

Undoubtedly one of the most important and decorated athletes to compete at the Lima 2019 Pan Am Games, Mijain Lopez has already proven his talent on the world stage time and time again. The three-time Olympic, five-time World and four-time Pan American Games Champion came to the Peruvian capital looking for more history. In the Heavy-weight final of the Greco-Roman competition, Lopez did not disappoint while imposing his will on Venezuela's Moises Perez to win his fifth consecutive Pan Am Games title, an absolutely unprecedented feat.

In Athletics, the rising Brazilian star in Athletics, Alison dos Santos, won great applause by claiming the gold medal in the Men's 400m Hurdles at just 19-years old. Lavern Spencer of Saint Lucia repeated as the High Jump Champion, while Chileans Gabriel Kehr and Humberto Mansilla placed 1-2 in the Men's Hammer Throw for the first time in his-tory.



DAY 14

LET'S GO COLOMBIA! LET'S GO CARIBBEAN!

Colombia celebrated one of its best days on August 9. Colombia's legend and double Olympic Champion in BMX, Mariana Pajon, won her second Pan Am Games gold at Lima 2019. Later that day, the Women's Football team went on to defeat Argentina 7-6 in a penalty shootout to win the gold.

In Athletics, Olympians Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica won the Triple Jump and the 200m respectively, both setting new Pan Am Games Records in the process. Ecuador's Alex Quiñonez celebrated the gold medal in the Men's 200m while Brazil took the 4x100m crown.





DAY

15

PUERTO RICO, BARBADOS AND EL SALVADOR CELEBRATE GOLDS

Adriana Diaz led Puerto Rico's Women's Table Tennis team to multiple medals and Tokyo 2020 qualification, securing the individual Women's gold against Brazil with a 3-2 victory. Brazil took the gold on the Men's side.

With a gymnasium packed with fans, including Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra, Alexandra Grande rose to the challenge as the favorite to win her second consecutive gold medal in Karate.

In Archery, Roberto Hernandez won El Salvador its first ever gold medal from a male, while Shane Brathwaite of Barbados made history by winning the country's first ever gold medal at the Games in the Men's 110m Hurdles.

August 10 was filled with celebrations of teams achieving their ultimate dreams of victory, as Brazil won the Women's Basketball tournament, Argentina won Men's Field Hockey, Team USA in Women's Water Polo and finally Colombia claimed gold in the Men's 4x400m Relay in Athletics.



DAY

16

ECUADOR CONQUERS RACEWALK AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EARNS VOLLEYBALL GLORY

Several medals were still up for grabs on the final day of competition with the final Medal Standings in the balance. Paraguay won its only gold medal of the Games on the strength of Fabrizio Zanotti in Golf. On the Women's side, Emilia Migliaccio topped the Golf podium.

In the 50km Racewalk – one of the most difficult events of the Games – Ecuador demonstrated its supremacy in this distance and endurance event. Johana Ordoñez and Claudio Villanueva won Ecuador its final two gold medals at Lima 2019.

In a great Women's Volleyball final, the Dominican Republic, otherwise known as the Queens of the Caribbean, achieved glory once more by beating Colombia 3-1 to win the gold medal.



“THE BEST GAMES IN HISTORY”

With this famous quote, Neven Illic closed the Lima 2019 Pan American Games after an eight-minute speech that roused the 40,000 in attendance and the 35 million Peruvians watching from home. Grateful for the dedication, passion and hard work shown by all of Peru, the Panam Sports President did not hesitate to give credit where credit was due after incredible 17 days of Games.

The emotional and impressive ceremony was a party full of color, music and unity with the presence of Peruvian singer-songwriter Gian Marco, a presentation of Santiago, Chile as the next host of the Games, and of course, the traditional handover of the Panam Sports flag from Neven Illic to Lima Mayor Jorge Muñoz, and finally to Chilean President Sebastian Piñera.

The curtain of the 18th edition of the Pan American Games has been lowered on the Peruvian capital of Lima. The outstanding images from these Games are a true reflection of the 17-day sports festival that will forever remain in the hearts and minds of all in attendance.

Thank you Lima, and thank you Peru for everything...



AMERICAS' BEST ATHLETES DRESS TO IMPRESS AT INAUGURAL GALA

With the aim of recognizing the effort, passion and dedication of our beloved athletes, for the first time in history, Panam Sports brought together the athletes, media, sport and government leaders to an awards ceremony to honor the best of the best in sport in 2019, with the highlight undoubtedly being the Lima 2019 Pan American Games.

Olympians, World Champions, historical sporting icons and those who shined brightest in the Peruvian capital were all represented during a night rivaling those seen in Hollywood. Complete with the Red Carpet, bright lights, artistic performances, glamor and emotion, the celebration was broadcast live for all of America and the world through the Panam Sports Channel for the first time in history. Claro Sports, R7 in Brazil and Univision also broadcast the event to audiences across the globe, with Univision producing and transmitting this great event in collaboration with Panam Sports.

The only and largest Awards Ceremony for sport throughout the Americas is now a fantastic memory. Fort Lauderdale in the United States staged the historic first edition of the Panam Sports Awards, and we wait to reunite the continent once more in four years at the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games.



BEST MALE ATHLETE



Francisco Barretto
Artistic Gymnastics

PANAM SPORTS AWARDS 2019



LIMA 2019
Pommel Horse / Horizontal Bar / Team

BEST FEMALE ATHLETE



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce
Athletics - 200m

PANAM SPORTS AWARDS 2019



LIMA 2019
Pan American Record - 22.43 seconds

Competing in his third Pan American Games, Francisco Barretto came to Lima 2019 with something to prove. Already a gold and silver medalist in the Team Event from Guadalajara 2011 and Toronto 2015, Francisco arrived in the Peruvian capital with dreams of individual greatness. And these dreams came true, as Francisco topped the podium in both the Pommel Horse and Horizontal Bar events. These two gold medals also helped

propel Time Brasil to another gold medal in the Team event, giving Francisco Barretto three gold medals and tying him as the most decorated male athlete from Lima 2019. In recognition of these impressive feats, Francisco Barretto is honored as the Best Male Athlete at the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

There's fast, and then there's the Mommy Rocket. Consistently one of the fastest women in the world for over a decade, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce is the model of excellence and perseverance in Athletics. After winning her first Olympic gold medal in 2008, Shelly-Ann has added another Olympic gold and 4 Olympic medals as well as 9 World Championship titles, including two in 2019. The Jamaican superstar competed at her first Pan American Games in history at Lima 2019, showing off her world-class

speed by setting a new Pan American Record of 22.43 seconds in the 200m. The blazing fast time broke the record that had survived for 40 years, but no record is safe when Shelly-Ann takes the track. In recognition of her incredible achievements, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce is honored as the Best Female Athlete at the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

NOMINEES



Anderson Peters



Mijaín López



Nicholas Paul



Rubén Limardo

NOMINEES



Chloe Dygert



Delfina Pignatiello



Paola Longoria



Yulimar Rojas

BEST MEN'S TEAM



BEST WOMEN'S TEAM



Argentina Basketball



LIMA 2019
4-1 Record

Argentina Hockey



LIMA 2019
6-0 Record

When an Olympic and NBA legend is on your team, you've always got a shot. Captaining Argentina's Basketball team at his first ever Pan Am Games, Luis Scola proved to the world that Argentina's Golden Generation is still a force to be reckoned with. From the very first game, Scola and his experienced Argentinean teammates such as Facunda Campuzzo and Gabriel Deck outmatched their competition on

their way to a 4-1 record and a gold medal. After the Pan Am Games, the exact same team took the court at the FIBA World Championships, keeping the momentum alive to earn the silver medal and qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. In recognition of their success, Argentina's Men's Basketball team is honored as the Best Men's Team at the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

Excellence has often been synonymous with the Las Leonas Hockey team from Argentina, and this reputation held true at the Lima 2019 Pan American Games. After earning silver medals at each of the last two Pan Am Games, the Argentina women's hockey team came back with a vengeance to go undefeated in six games to reclaim the gold medal, their seventh in the history of the Games. Lead by

captain Julieta Jankunas, the dominance was truly spectacular as Argentina only allowed three total goals in six games while scoring a total of 47. In recognition of this unprecedented performance, Argentina's Women's Hockey team is honored as the Best Women's Team at the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

NOMINEES



Colombia Athletics / 4x400m



Chile Voleiból de Playa Beach Volleyball



Puerto Rico Béisbol Baseball

NOMINEES



Canada Natación Artística Artistic Swimming



Brazil Balonmano Handball



USA Softbol Softball

NEXTGEN MALE (U-20)



Patricio Font
Waterski

PANAM SPORTS AWARDS 2019



LIMA 2019
Tricks

NEXTGEN FEMALE (U-20)



Evita Griskenas
Rhythmic Gymnastics

PANAM SPORTS AWARDS 2019



LIMA 2019
Most Decorated Athlete of Lima 2019
All-Around, Ball, Hoop, Ribbon

At just 17-years old, Patricio Font is already changing the sport of Waterskiing. Fresh off claiming the title of Junior World Champion in 2019, Patricio arrived at the Lima 2019 Pan American Games full of confidence. And the young star from Mexico did not disappoint, consistently putting together great runs on his way to earning the gold medal in the Tricks discipline. His victory made him the youngest gold medalist in

Mexico's history at the Pan Am Games. Patricio went on to also be crowned the World Champion, giving him both the Junior and Senior World Titles in 2019. In recognition of these outstanding achievements and his bright future, Patricio Font is honored with the NextGen Male Award from the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

At just 18-years old, Evita Griskenas has proved she belongs on the world stage of gymnastics. The talented Rhythmic Gymnastics repeatedly impressed the crowd at Lima 2019, dominating her competition on the way to winning four gold medals and one bronze, the most by any athlete at the Lima

2019 Pan American Games. In recognition of these outstanding achievements and her bright future, Evita Griskenas is honored with the first NextGen Female Award from the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

NOMINEES



Andrew Abruzzo



Alison dos Santos



Daniel Restrepo



Gabriel Rosillo

NOMINEES



Adriana Díaz



Daniella Rosas



Delfina Pignatiello



Katherin Nuevo



Yenny Sinisterra

PANAM SPORTS VALUES



Julio Castillo

Boxing - 91kg

PANAM SPORTS AWARDS 2019



LIMA 2019

CHANGEMAKER



Mariana Pajon

BMX

PANAM SPORTS AWARDS 2019



LIMA 2019

Julio Castillo gave his all in the boxing ring at Lima 2019, fighting hard to bring a medal back home to his beloved Ecuador. Julio fought his way through the heavyweight division to reach the gold medal bout against a fierce Cuban competitor. Although Julio lost the bout, he showed the Americas the value of sportsmanship and showing grace in defeat. Many at the Miguel Grau Coliseum believed Castillo had

defeated his Cuban opponent and booed loudly in disapproval of the judges. However, Castillo made sure the crowd respected the decision and cheered for Cuba's Erislandy Savon who won the gold medal. In recognition of this incredible display of Excellence, Innovation, Integrity, Solidarity and Inclusion, Julio Castillo is honored with the Panam Sports Values Award from the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

Not only is Mariana Pajon a two-time Olympic gold medalist, six-time World Champion and two-time Pan American Games Champion, she is also committed to helping her community. Mariana founded "Pedaleando Por Un Sueño" in 2013, a non-profit entity with the intention of bringing alternatives and clear opportunities to the children and youth of Colombia to see sport as a real option in their lives. Pedaleando Por Un Sueño is always willing and available to provide assistance and collaboration to Colombian communities that are

experiencing difficult times. To achieve their goals, the organization uses dynamic and innovative activities that posits the family as the fundamental driving force of every athlete, using educational and motivational tools to raise excitement and passion for sport in the youths that they help. For her incredible athletic and humanitarian efforts, Mariana Pajon is honored with the Changemaker Award from the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

NOMINEES



Claudio Biekarck



Luis Scola



Krystina Alogbo



Nathan Adrian

NOMINEES



Jennifer Dahlgren



Marco Oneto



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

BEST COACH



Deysiana Mena
Athletics



LIMA 2019

Training an athlete to reach the top of the podium at the Pan American Games is one of the toughest challenges in sport, especially when it comes to Athletics. Although she had no previous training as a coach, Deysiana realized the potential that her daughters Andrea and Noelia Vargas had in Athletics. Her greatest achievement came at Lima 2019, when Andrea broke 13 seconds for the first time in the 100m Hurdles to win the gold medal. Noelia also

competed well at Lima 2019, finishing 6th with a Personal Best in the 20km Race Walk. Andrea and Noelia often credit their mom for learning how to become a coach that can help them reach the highest levels of success. For her incredible story and dedication to helping her daughters succeed, Deysiana Mena is honored with the Best Coach Award from the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

NOMINEES



Gabriel Aramburu



Iván Bautista



Rolando Acebal



Stephen Francis

NOC AWARDS



BEST NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

With countless Olympic and World Champions descending upon the Peruvian capital, the athletes from the United States came to the Lima 2019 Pan American Games ready to prove they are still the best of the Americas.

The biggest athlete delegation from the United States in history competed at Lima 2019, as more than 640 athletes helped Team USA top the medal standings at the Pan American Games for the 16th time in history.

Nathan Adrian, Sarah Robles, Brady Ellison, Cat Osterman, Kim Rhode, Chloe Dygert, Jeff Henderson, Kyle Snyder, Jordan Burroughs are just a few of the superstar athletes and Olympians who helped propel team USA to an outstanding 120 gold, 88 silver and 85 bronze medals, good for 293 in total. These totals represent Team USA's best performance at the Pan Am Games since Mar del Plata 1995.

From Brady Ellison setting a new World Record in Men's Archery to Evita Griskenas winning four gold medals to become the most decorated athlete of the Games, Nathan Adrian's triumphant comeback winning two gold and five total medals, and future WNBA #1 pick Sabrina Ionescu taking home the first 3x3 Basketball gold medal, the memorable moments are nearly too many to count.

For their undisputed and unmatched dominance, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee was recognized as the Best NOC at the first Panam Sports Awards.



FINAL MEDALS

COUNTRY				TOTAL	
1°	United States	120	88	85	293
2°	Brazil	55	45	71	171
3°	Mexico	37	36	63	136
4°	Canada	35	64	53	152
5°	Cuba	33	27	38	98
6°	Argentina	32	35	34	101
7°	Colombia	28	23	33	84
8°	Chile	13	19	18	50
9°	Peru	11	7	21	39
10°	Dominican Rep.	10	13	17	40
11°	Ecuador	10	7	14	31
12°	Venezuela	9	15	19	43
13°	Jamaica	6	6	7	19
14°	Puerto Rico	5	5	14	24
15°	El Salvador	3	0	1	4
16°	Guatemala	2	9	8	19
17°	Trinidad & Tobago	2	8	3	13
18°	Uruguay	1	4	4	9
19°	Paraguay	1	3	1	5
20°	Bolivia	1	2	2	5
21°	Grenada	1	1	0	2
22°	Costa Rica	1	0	4	5
23°	Saint Lucia	1	0	1	2
24°	Barbados	1	0	0	1
24°	British Virgin Isl.	1	0	0	1
26°	Antigua & Barbuda	0	1	2	3
27°	Honduras	0	1	1	2
28°	Panama	0	0	4	4
29°	Nicaragua	0	0	3	3
30°	Aruba	0	0	1	1
30°	Bahamas	0	0	1	1





MOST IMPROVED NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
11	7	21	39

To say that Peru benefitted from hosting the Pan American Games of Lima 2019 would be a vast understatement. Not only have these Games defined a turning point for the nation in terms of its sporting infrastructure and development, but the tremendous enthusiasm and support of the Peruvian people for the nation's athletes lifted the country to unprecedented heights at the Pan Am Games.

With their nation behind them, Peru's athletes performed at their absolute best to win more gold medals than ever before in history. Led by stars such as #TeamPanamSports Ambassador Alexandra Grande and surfing legend Piccolo Clemente, Team Peru won an amazing total of 11 golds, 7 silver, 21 bronze for 39 total medals. Peru had never won more than 14 medals at any single Games in history and had won a grand total of eight golds before Lima 2019.

At Toronto 2015, Peru won three gold medals and 12 total medals. This gold medal total was nearly matched on the very first day of competition at Lima 2019, as Marathoners Gladys Tejeda and Cristhian Pacheco both struck gold for Peru on July 27. This dream start set the stage for the rest of Peru's athletes who did not disappoint with their biggest delegation in history.

Peru also dominated Surfing in the sport's debut at the Pan Am Games, with an incredible three gold medals, three silver medals and 1 bronze, including gold medalist Daniella Rosas securing a spot at the sport's Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020.

With Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra often in attendance, Peru's athletes stepped up to the challenge to honor their country protect their home turf at the Pan Am Games. For their unprecedented improvement in just four years, the Peruvian Olympic Committee was recognized as the Most Improved NOC at the first Panam Sports Awards.



BEST NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POP. <1,000,000)



Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	1	0	2

After 30 years and nine editions of the Pan American Games, the national anthem of Grenada finally rang proudly at the Pan Am Games for the first time in history at Lima 2019. The small island nation won its first ever gold medal at the most important sporting event of the Americas in the Peruvian capital, as Anderson Peters absolutely dominated the Men's Javelin competition.

Peters won the gold medal with his best throw of 87.31 meters, which was not only nearly four meters further than the silver medalist, but also set a new Pan American Record held since Guadalajara 2011. Peters used this momentum to go on to win another gold medal at the IAAF World Championship of Doha 2019 shortly after the Games.

But Peters was not the only athlete to share the spotlight. Decathlon star Lindon Victor put together a consistent performance across all 10 events in the discipline, climbing the podium to earn a silver medal. Lima 2019 marked the first time Grenada had won two medals at the Games since Santo Domingo 2003.

As the eighth smallest country of the Panam Sports family by population with just over 100,000 people, placing 21st on the overall Medal Table is an unforgettable accomplishment that will forever be written in the sports history of the nation.

For their unprecedented success as one of the smallest nations by population at the Pan Am Games, the Grenada Olympic Committee was recognized as the Best NOC (Pop. <1M) at the first Panam Sports Awards.

PANAM SPORTS LEGEND: CARL LEWIS

From competing as the youngest member of Team USA at San Juan 1979 to dominating the competition at Indianapolis 1987 and delivering gold medals to athletes at Lima 2019, the Pan American Games will always have a special place in the heart of Carl Lewis.

For his dedication and passion for the Pan Am Games, Carl Lewis has won the Panam Sports Legend at the inaugural Panam Sports Awards.

The story of how the Pan American Games have impacted and influenced the life of Carl Lewis begins 10 years before Carl was even born. The tale starts with the birth of the Pan American Games themselves, when the Pan American Flame was lit in Buenos Aires for the first time in 1951.

In the capital of Argentina, a rising star in women's hurdles was competing in her first international event. The rising star was none other than Evelyn Lawler, the United States National Champion and future mother to one of the most decorated and celebrated athletes in the history of the Olympic Movement.

While Evelyn placed sixth at the Pan Am Games and did not reach the podium, she unknowingly set a precedent for her future children to strive for greatness in sport. Ten years after her Pan Am triumph, Evelyn gave birth to the man who would become the "Athlete of the Century", the legendary Carl Lewis.

It would not take long for Carl to begin following in his mother's footsteps. Although injuries prevented Evelyn from qualifying for the Olympics, she continued her own training while also organizing an athletics club to help develop youth athletes.

This had a profound effect on Carl, who began to find his own passion for Athletics and the Long Jump at 13 years old. By the time he turned 17-years old, Carl was already ranked fifth in the world in the Long Jump. And he was ready to prove his talent to millions across the Americas at the San Juan 1979 Pan Am Games.

"The Pan Am Games are very special to me. It was the first international team I had ever made. My first Games, I was the youngest person on the whole [U.S.] team at 17," Lewis told Panam Sports while attending and serving as a medal presenter at the Lima 2019 Pan American Games, demonstrating how these Games are still dear to him.

Despite his youth, Lewis proved he was ready to be a force on the world stage of Athletics. With an incredible jump of 8.13 meters, Lewis earned his first international medal, placing third to win the bronze medal. One year later, Lewis was deprived of his first Olympic opportunity at Moscow 1980 due to the U.S. boycott of the Summer Games in Russia.

Shortly after his first Pan Am Games, Carl began to emerge as not only a threat in the Long Jump competition, but a legitimate contender for the title of "Fastest Man in the World". By 1981 while still in college, Lewis was ranked #1 in both the Long Jump and 100m for the first time in his career. It certainly would not be the last.

Over the next 11 years, Lewis became the epitome of excellence and consistency while on the track. After claiming two gold medals at the first World Championships in history, Lewis set his sights on his Olympic debut at Los Angeles 1984.

His performance at these Games would be enough to rank among the greatest athletes all time. Entered into the Long Jump, 100m, 200m and 4x100m Relay, Carl set out to match the legendary performance of Jesse Owens at the Berlin 1932 Olympics – win four gold medals at one Olympic Games. Not only did Lewis achieve this goal with ease, he did so in the exact same events that Owens had more than 50 years before.

Although his Olympic legacy was solidified, Carl was not done with his domination. He went on to become one of just three people in history to win a gold medal in the same event at four consecutive Olympics, dominating the Long Jump for more than a decade and winning a total of 9 Olympic medals from Los Angeles 1984 to Atlanta 1996.

In 1987, Carl made his triumphant return to the Pan American Games in Indianapolis, eyes set firmly on claiming the one gold medal he didn't already own. His mission was accomplished as he took home two

gold medals in his home country, winning both the Long Jump and the 4x100m Relay.

"I absolutely have a lot of memories from the Pan Am Games. I came back in 1987 and I was actually trying to break the World Record at Indianapolis 1987. So it wasn't just a matter of coming, I used that event as something that I wanted to make historic. But the bottom line is it has always been a special event to me," says Lewis.

His advice to the next generation? Compete at as many international events that you can.

"A lot of times athletes say, 'oh I'll compete there next time,' but guess what, most times there isn't a next time. Focus on getting these titles, the Pan American Games titles, World Championship and Olympic titles. These are the things you'll cherish for the rest of your life," Lewis says.

For all of his achievements in Athletics and the Olympic Movement, and for his passion and commitment to the Pan American Games, Carl Lewis will forever be remembered as an undeniable Panam Sports Legend.



BEST PHOTO OF THE GAMES



Photo: Manuel Jiménez
Dominican Republic
Hoy y Vespertino El Nacional

Athlete: Robert Pigozzi / Lima 2019 Gold Medalist
Dominican Republic
Waterski - Slalom

BEST MOMENTS OF LIMA 2019



1. Guatemala / 2. Brazil / 3. Barbados / 4. Chile / 5. Xpress Media-Chile / 6. Colombia / 7. Xpress Media-Chile / 8. Cuba



By Farid Barbosa

COLOMBIA'S SPORTING LEGACY GROWS WITH INAUGURAL JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN GAMES

A city that reverberates with the memories of some of the greatest sporting events ever held in Colombia, Cali is now preparing to welcome the first ever Junior Pan American Games that will be held between June 5 to 20, 2021.

The multisport event will be held 50 years after the capital of the Valle del Cauca staged the sixth Pan American Games in which 2,935 athletes from 32 countries participated. Jump forward 50 years, and more than 4,000 athletes from all 41 countries of the Panam Sports family will compete at the Cali 2021 Junior Pan American Games.

With its rich sporting tradition, exuberance and expertise for hosting sporting events, Cali once again prepares the battlefields of sport on which many legends have proven their greatness as a new generation seeks their own universal glory. These world-class venues have the ability to rise to the challenge of hosting these continental Games.

Four regions known for their commitment to high-performance sport development and 26 facilities built for world-class performances will welcome the rising stars of the Americas to compete in an immense sporting program. These venues will be found throughout cities of Jamundi, Palmira, Buga and Darien.

"I am impressed with the sports infrastructure of Cali. Here you can



organize very good Pan American Games without having to invest a lot of money," said Panam Sports Secretary General Ivar Sisniega in his most recent visit to Cali.

The Games have the full support of the local, regional and national governments as well as the Colombian Olympic Committee, ensuring the successful execution of this continental event. The experience garnered from hosting the Cali 1971 Pan American Games, 2013 World Games and two FIFA World Cup events in the last five years will only help serve the young athletes of the Americas. The Cali 2021 Organizing Committee was established in July 2019 with Jose Luis Echeverry Azcarate appointed as its Director to begin implementing the vision of the bid.

The Panam Sports Executive Committee, led by President Neven Ilic, recently added its piece to the puzzle to help Cali stage these Games in 2021, facilitating a transfer of knowledge using the Organization's wealth of experience from 18 editions of the Pan American Games. Cali is undoubtedly off to a great start as it prepares to make history in 2021.



Cecilia Pérez, Minister of Sports of Chile

“WE ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO MAKING SANTIAGO 2023 UNFORGETTABLE”

The current socio-political state of Chile is no mystery to those who follow global news events, yet the Organizing Committee of Santiago 2023 and the Ministry of Sport continue to work tirelessly to deliver one of the country's greatest challenges – organizing their first Pan American Games in just four years.

Panam Sports sat down with Chilean Sports Minister Cecilia Perez, an avid fan of sport who witnessed the Lima 2019 Pan Am Games firsthand, to understand how the Chilean capital is progressing towards hosting this great event.

How was your experience in Lima and what is your opinion of how Peru organized the Pan American Games?

The Pan American Games of Lima were extraordinary. I experienced the emotion and had the honor of seeing in person the venues that were built, the commitment that the city displayed, the spirit of competition and the immense work of the volunteers in each of the venues. The infrastructure was consistent with the level of such a major international event. The exclusive lanes of the transport system were well received, creating the necessary flow to transport athletes, coaches and the

public. In that sense, it was clear that Lima shared a total commitment to the Games. The 740,000 spectators who watched the Pan American and Parapan American Games enjoyed a great show and we, as Chileans, were happy and proud with the great performance of our athletes. Team Chile achieved historical results at Lima 2019, with a record number of 50 total medals along with the 34 earned by the Chilean Paralympic team. In conclusion, Lima 2019 was an incredibly valuable period of observation and learning where we learned the areas we can improve for the next edition of the Games that we will hold in four years.

We know the difficult socio-political climate Chile is currently experiencing. Does this affect the organization of Santiago 2023?

Chile is experiencing a historically significant social moment that as a government,

we respect, value and believe will result in progress. It is a very important process, but that does not hinder or change the priority and commitment that we have at the State level. Santiago is going to organize some exceptional Pan American Games and the Chileans will receive the great Pan American family with open arms and we are thrilled to share our vision for this unique sports festival. When President Sebastián Piñera gave the go ahead for our country to chase this dream, he immediately began working to offer the maximum guarantees in terms of sports infrastructure, urban conditions, transportation systems and security, among other relevant aspects. All of our commitments and plans for the Games have not moved an inch.

Santiago has already developed advanced sports infrastructure after organizing the 2014 South American Games. What is the investment plan to further the infrastructure for 2023?

For Chile, the South American Games were a first step towards receiving great sporting events. For Santiago 2014, the government committed to the construction of great venues that have fueled the development of our athletes and that are now the basis on which we work for the next Pan American Games. For example, if the Pan American and Parapan American Games in Lima cost approximately \$1.135 billion, the Games in Chile will cost less than half, given our existing infrastructure and reasonable and responsible budget that will still allow us to hold Games to the highest of standards. We will only build new venues or improve existing facilities based on thoughtful and careful consideration of the impact of such work. We also plan to use temporary facilities to realize several sporting events while still catering to the fans in the stands.

How important is it for the Chilean government to organize an event of this nature for the social and sports development of the country?

Organizing the next Pan American Games will fulfill a dream shared by all Chileans who deserve and want the Games. The Games are historically significant in terms of the sports as well as the social and economic impact and the creation of a healthier culture that promotes physical activity and sport. This path is a tremendous oppor-



tunity to create new generations of athletes while uniting those still competing, all who dream of winning a medal at the Pan Am Games in Chile, our home, with their families and a whole country supporting them. Santiago 2023 will be a multicultural party where we will welcome people from all countries and cultures from the Americas as their sporting heroes compete in our capital. By 2022, the Chilean Government aims to have more than 5-million Chileans living active lifestyles and practicing sport. We believe that sport can help build a better society in our nation, increasing the quality of life and the amount of happiness, respect, solidarity, inclusion, equality, empathy and unity for all who participate. For us, this is the message that sport teaches us, and we know this feeling will be shared by all at the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games.

What is your message for the sport leaders and great athletes of the Americas who will come to Chile to compete at Santiago 2023?

Chile is waiting for you with open arms, from the Andes to the Pacific. We are working with love, passion, commitment and responsibility to receive every delegation in our capital. We want every visitor to discover the wonders of Santiago and the friendship and respect of our citizens, so that together we can enjoy unforget-

table Pan American Games. The spirit, passion, strength and discipline of each of our Olympic medalists will be felt throughout Chile. Our greatest sporting legends such as Manuel Plaza, Óscar Cristi, Marlene Ahrens, Claudio Barrientos, Ramón Tapia and Carlos Lucas, Alfonso de Iruarrizaga, Fernando González, Nicolás Massu and our footballers will welcome all to Santiago 2023. Inspired by our national heroes, supported completely by our city and Government and united by our common strength and passion, Chile will welcome the world with shouts of ‘Ceachei!’



On October 31, Luis Mejia Oviedo became the seventh president of the Central American and Caribbean Sports Organization (CACSO), after beating out the incumbent President of the Organization, Steve Stoute of Barbados, at the recent General Assembly held in Panama City, Panama.

Luis Mejia Oviedo is the second Dominican to occupy the role after Jose Joaquin Puello presided over the organization for several years. Mejia returned to his home in the Dominican Republic after his victory in Panama, with the IOC Member and new CACSO President taking the time to speak to Panam Sports about his new charge.

“CACSO is a challenge that we will tackle with all of our strength. It is a giant and is the oldest Sports Organization in the world that needs each one of its leaders. We want to bring the leaders together, inspire unity among them and concentrate our efforts on the development of specific projects,” said Luis Mejia, new CACSO President.

Luis Mejia has been a great supporter and promoter of Panam Sports’ initiatives since Neven Ilic assumed the Presidency in 2017. The Dominican Republic has held more of our Training Camps than any other nation in the Americas over the past two years, not only demonstrating their commitment to sports development, but also reflecting the great leadership of Mejia who has dedicated his life to his passion for sport.

His goals in this new challenge are very clearly defined. The idea is to continue and further develop the organization while undoubtedly working side-by-side with Panam Sports.

“We have to work hand-in-hand with Panam Sports. We cannot go on different paths, we have to work together for the development of sport. We have to be more connected so that our Games are qualifiers to the Pan American Games and that the Pan American Games are qualifiers to the Olympic Games. Our dream is unity and integration. Our purpose is to work. All of this to achieve a greater level of sport in the Americas,” concluded Mejia.

LUIS MEJIA: “CACSO MUST WORK WITH UNITY AND COLLABORATION”

The newest elected President of CACSO is very happy and motivated to start his latest career challenge. The President of the Dominican Republic Olympic Committee who is also an IOC Member and member of the Executive Committee of ANOC spoke with Panam Sports about his election and his goals for the next four years.

PANAM SPORTS FULFILLS DREAMS OF AT-RISK COLOMBIAN CHILDREN

The Samper neighborhood in the city of Quibdo is often recognized as one of the poorest and most dangerous areas in all of Colombia. Panam Sports President Neven Ilic visited the neighborhood to inaugurate the first multi-field complex with artificial grass (turf) that was financed with resources from the Olympamerica Program of Panam Sports, along with the support of the Colombian Olympic Committee and Inter-American Development Bank.

More than 500 people participated in the colorful ceremony that featured the traditional ribbon cutting, unveiling of the ceremonial plaque and the official opening of the facility by the highest authority of sport in the Americas.

The ceremony marked a dream come true for thousands of young people living in poverty and facing the constant threat of entering the dangerous world of crime and drugs.

“What we have here, a place filled with people and children is simply a joy for us Quibdosenos. It brings us immense happiness. We are grateful to Panam Sports, as a dream of many children has come true. The children here needed this sports facility and we are sure that many athletes and footballers will come from here to compete for our nation and hopefully we will be represented well internationally,” said Alexa Prada, Secretary of Sports and Recreation in Quibdo.

“I am very proud because this shows that Panam Sports is doing something for the community. I think we have come very far inside Colombia, to a less-fortunate community where children need help in terms of infrastructure and having a beautiful place to develop their skills, have fun, get out of the streets and play sports. So we are very happy with this alliance with the Colombian Olympic Committee and the Inter-American Development Bank because we believe that we are fulfilling our social duty, which makes me and everyone at Panam Sports very proud,” said Panam Sports President, Neven Ilic.

The inauguration also represented a dream come true for the Colombian Olympic Committee. After more than three years trying to find resources, the project finally received the support of Panam Sports in order to fulfill their promise to the community of the Samper neighborhood.

“I believe everyone is very satisfied and the importance this has for the community that has closely followed the development of the problems that we are trying to solve with the creation of this facility cannot be understated. This is a community that needed a space for recreation, to interact with the community, as well as to develop the sport talent of the region. We cannot rule out the possibility that we will find great talents here, but above all else this is a space that will motivate children to use their free time in healthy ways and we hope it can be a space that can open up doors for more connections and interactions between these communities,” concluded Colombian Olympic Committee President, Baltazar Medina.

The aid to Quibdó materialized thanks to one of the many programs Panam Sports has to support the National Olympic Committees, athletes and the countries that need it most within the continent.





THE XXIV ANOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY QATAR 2019

More than 1,000 delegates from the International Olympic Committee, the 206 National Olympic Committees and the International Federations met on October 17 - 18 in Doha Qatar, to participate in the XXIV ANOC General Assembly and the ANOC Awards held just after the first World Beach Games. Panam Sports and its 41 members of course were present at this important annual meeting.



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