

editorial



Dear Friends,

The most-awaited event in the world, the Games of the XXIXth Olympiad in Beijing, is now history. For the seven years since its adjudication by the IOC to the world's most

populated country, but in particular in the last few years and months leading up to the Games, curiosity and expectations had been rising about almost all features of this gigantic event. The world was eager to discover the mysteries of China, of its huge capital,

and hoped to get an insider's look into its secrets. Now, with the Olympic Games over about two months ago, we can say that even our highest expectations were overridden and our enthusiasm and awe has not lessened since 19th August 2008, when the barbell was

Dr. Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC, flanked by Dr. Tamás Aján, IWF President and the two Technical Delegates, Mr. Sam Coffa and Mr. Attila Ádámfi



replaced for the last time on the platform of the magnificent Beihang University Gymnasium.

These Summer Games have become a benchmark, a standard that will present a challenge to any future organiser for many years to come. By hosting perfect and extremely successful Olympics, the Chinese have seduced us and enchanted us. The country, the city, the BOCOG, the Chinese Olympic Committee and the Chinese Weightlifting Association pampered weightlifting's Olympic community providing conditions and an environment that were second to none. Hardly could the IWF find out a request not fulfilled by the hosts. The Games in 2008 have thus not only advanced Beijing and China but also the Olympic Movement by many years.

Remaining on the weightlifting platform: after scores of success abroad, China's competitors at home surpassed all anticipations. They were entitled to enter ten competitors –

six men and four women – and took eight gold medals. However, given the potential of Chinese weightlifting, including its structure, magnitude, technical level, management, education and training system and, last but not least, the inexhaustible talent pool available, we feel certain that they would and will be capable of such achievements even outside the boundaries of their country. It may sound peculiar but weightlifting, despite its great success internationally, had not been a very well known or widely popular sport in China, prior to the Olympic Games. Now, with each day bringing Olympic champions and the visibility entailed, weightlifting became a smashing success story in this vast country. And no doubt it will stay as such. We have guarantees if from none other but from the Chinese Weightlifting Association, ably led by President Ma Wenguang and assisted by a squad of top-level coaches, scientists, medical, physiotherapy and psychology

experts, specialised weightlifting schools, talent search and athlete supporting systems, governmental programs that find no par in any other country of the world.

In terms of the organisation of the Olympic weightlifting competitions, Seoul 1988, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 had been outstanding. Their success lives on even if Beijing 2008 may have opened a new chapter in Olympic history. We daresay that according to a new chronology, there will be Games before and Games after Beijing.

What happened on the Olympic platform will be dealt with in detail on the pages of this **World Weightlifting** magazine. Let us now express our extreme appreciation and gratitude for perfection in organisation and generosity and warmth in hospitality to Liu Qi, President of the Organising Committee, Yang Shuan, Vice President of BOCOG, Wang Yan, Weightlifting Competition

Manager and all the thousands of people helping them. Let us also thank for the professional contribution of the two IWF Technical Delegates, Sam Coffa and Attila Ádámfi. We could not conclude this eulogy without pointing out proudly the cleanliness of the Olympic weightlifting competitions. With the exception of one athlete, all anti-doping tests turned out negative in Beijing. It cannot be explained by anything else but the IWF's ruthless and systematic fight against doping in the years prior to the Games. Ladies and Gentlemen: That is the **ONLY** way for us to go on! At the same time, we must thank all the National Federations, National Olympic Committees, the athletes, the coaches involved. Let's continue from this point: hard work and clean athletes will lead to further success.

Dr. Tamás Aján
IWF President

Yannis Sgouros
IWF General Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our Editor-in-Chief, Jenő Boskovics turned 80 years old. Age, however, doesn't stop him from working. He is just trying to write an article for **World Weightlifting** on his brand-new typewriter – but it is made of chocolate!

