

BEYOND THE OLYMPIC BURNER

By David Bernier

President of COPUR and Organizing Committee Mayagüez 2010



A very diverse, but well representative group of Puerto Rican sportsmen and leaders traveled to Cuba in the summer of 2004 to request that Puerto Rico serves as host of the Central American and Caribbean Sports Games of 2010. The city of Mayagüez was presented as an alternative and was defended with enthusiasm and passion by the Puerto Ricans that were in charge of the Mayor of the

city. The act was accomplished. For the third time in history it was given to our country the honor of celebrating the most important and old sport event of Central American and the Caribbean.

As usual, questions began immediately. Is Mayagüez ready to accomplish such complex event? Why not San Juan that already has the sports facilities needed?

It makes sense to think that the existence of the Natatorium, the Puerto Rican Coliseum, the Hiram Bithorn, the Convention Center, among other installations in the San Juan Metropolitan Area, will allow the celebration of the Sports Games with a limited amount of economic resources. This would be logic if the only ambition is to celebrate a great sport event. Knowing the genesis of the idea is fundamental to understand why Mayagüez and no other place. Mayagüez 2010 is not only a sport event, it is the best reason to bring progress to a whole region.

To invest over \$300 million in sport competitions makes no sense specially when we face a great challenge in our economics. But using sports as a catalitic agent for economical activity is a good idea. "Why now?" someone could ask. Because this should have been done a long time ago would be the answer of a good Mayagüez citizen. He would have lots of reasons.

The western region of the Island has lacked the attention and state support for the past few years. To ask a city to postpone its progress is not acceptable, specially when it has the moral strength.

To limit the economic investment strictly needed for the celebration of the sports events could be considered as a practical and economical alternative. The construction of the Village, the Central American Stadium, and the Aquatics Complex would have been sufficient. The Cholo García, the Palacio de los Deportes, the Arquelio Torres, and the Canena Márquez are sport facilities that did not need a lot of investment to comply with CACSO's technical requirements. They are first class facilities in terms of Central American standards. Nevertheless, they deserve to be at a 21st Century level.

The Arquelio Torres deserves to be renewed, not only for the Central American Games, but to improve the home of the San Germán Athletics from the Puerto Rico National Basketball League. It is the same as to other sport facilities. Thirteen millions will be invested in Aguada to complete a Coliseum that has been unfinished since the '90's. This is not as important for the Games as for the people of Aguada which deserves a first class facility for their recreation.

The organizational component will bring growth and development oportunities to the western area commerce. Transportation services, lodging, food, security, among others, are necessary for the realization of the Games. Focusing on the economical development will allow businessmen from the western area to make decisions that have greater impact.

To achieve the goal of 2010, we have to think beyond the olympic burner so that the legacy would be prosperous and not problematic. That the operation, maintenance, and future use of the sport facilities are carefully planned in the same way that the designs were made for these structures.

An investment of more than \$40 thousand millions has allowed China to comply with the plan, but did not exempt it of controversy. An organized vision allowed the city of Barcelona capitalize the celebration of its Olympic Games to improve their quality of life. We bet Mayagüez would have the same results. The same way sports could change the life of those who practice it, it is capable of transforming cities as well.

HOCKEY



Hockey is one of a family of sports in which two teams compete by trying to maneuver a ball or a round solid disc called a puck into the opponent's net or goal using a hockey stick. Out of 20 different forms of the game, the most popular and most practiced in the world are the field and ice hockey. Historical records show that a primitive form of hockey was played in Egypt 4000 years ago, and in Ethiopia about 1000 years later. There's also evidence that a form of the game was played by Romans and Greeks, and by the Aztec Indians in America several centuries before Columbus landed in the New World. The modern form of hockey evolved around schools in England in the mid 18th century.

Modern field hockey is played with a little solid ball hit by a J-shape hockey stick made out of wood, glass fibre or carbon fibre. The first club was formed in 1849 at Blackheath, a suburb located on the southeast of London. It soon spread out making hockey the national sport of India and Pakistan. In 1908, hockey made its first appearance at the Olympic Games in London with the participation of six (6) teams, and where England, Scotland, and Ireland played as separate teams. Hockey was dropped from the 1912 Stockholm Games and from the 1924 Olympics in Paris, this last one because French organizers refused to include hockey on the basis that the sport had no International Federation. That same year in France, the International Hockey Federation was founded under the initiative of Frenchman Paul Léautey, who became the first President. Six (6) countries, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, and Spain organized the "Fédération Internationale de Hockey", FIH including both men and women hockey. Women's field hockey made their first entry in Olympic Games in 1980, and since then, field hockey has been played for both genders in every summer Olympic Games.

In the Central American and Caribbean Sports Games hockey was first practiced in the men's category in the 1982 Games and in the female competition since the 1986 Games. For the 2010 Games, field hockey would be played in a new 100 x 60 yards field that will be constructed in the Olympic Village in Salinas. We expect the participation of 16 countries, eight (8) in each gender.



As of February 1st, 2009
There are 531 days left for the GAMES
We'll see you at Mayagüez
from July 17—August 1st, 2010

OUTSTANDING ATHLETES FROM MAYAGUEZ

Wilfredo Maisonave

Wilfredo Maisonave was born in Aguadilla in 1950 and grew up in the City of Mayagüez where he studied his elementary and secondary grades in the Manuel A. Barreto and Eugenio María de Hostos Public Schools. Then he finished a Bachelor in Arts with a major in Physical Education at the "Colegio de Mayagüez".

Maisonave was a National Athlete from 1969 to 1976 in Athletics and he represented the Island in the 1975 Martin Luther King Games. He was the gold medal winner in the Long Jump in the XII Central American and Caribbean Sports Games in Dominican Republic in 1974. While studying in the Colegio, he won the Long and Triple Jumps at the University competitions from 1971 to 1973. He participated in the 1972 Olympics where he obtained the 12th place in the Long Jump.

He was the Athletics Head Coach for the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus (RUM) for several years and also was the National Trainer for the Jump events. Currently he is a Professor of Physical Education at the RUM.

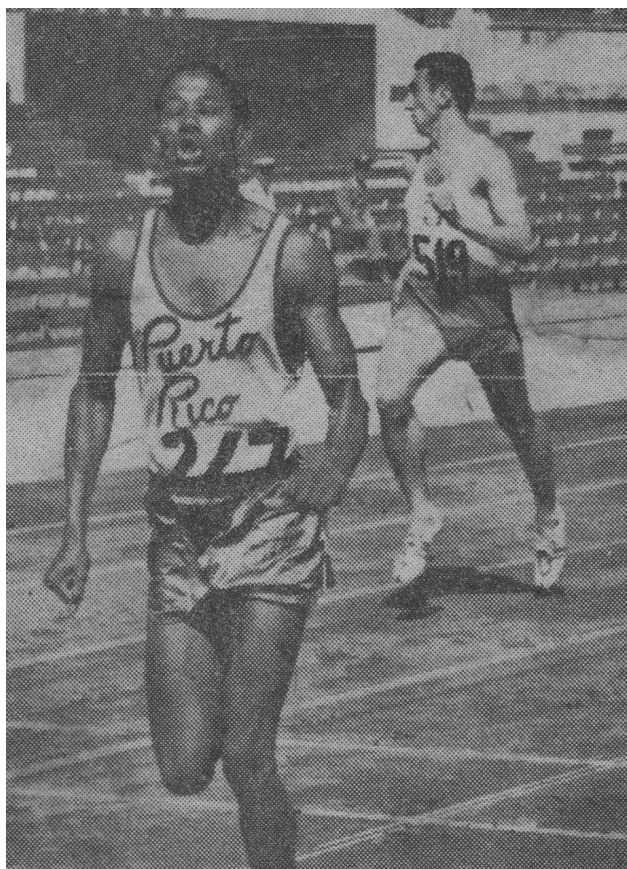


Maisonave's Jump that won the gold medal in 1974



Germán Luis Guenard

Germán Luis Guenard was born in Mayagüez in 1942, being a student-athlete of Manolo García from 1958 to 1961. In 1961 he established three (3) high school records in 100 m (10.6 sec), 200 m (21.3 sec), and 400 m (47.2 sec) events. He never lost a race in 200 and 400 meters during his three years in high school. In the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome he was the youngest (17 years old) athlete to compete in the Games. For seven (7) years he was considered one of the best 400 meters runners in Puerto Rico. In 1962 he competed in the IX Central American Games of Jamaica winning a bronze medal in the 4 x 400 meters relay. In 1966 he participated in the X Games of San Juan also winning a bronze medal in the 4 x 400 meters relay. He won a gold medal in the 400 meters in the 1967 Iberoamerican Games. Currently, Guenard is a Physical Education Assistant in the Athletics Department at the Mayagüez Campus of the University of Puerto Rico, and a trainer for the Athletic Team in that Institution.



Germán Luis Guenard winning the fifth heat 400 m event at Rome Olympics

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SPORTS GAMES

DID YOU KNOW.....

- **Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Honduras did not participate in the VIII Central American and Caribbean Sports Games in Venezuela. Guyana made its debut in these Games.**
- **1150 athletes competed in these VIII Games. Mexico was the leader winning 132 medals, Venezuela second with 100, and Puerto Rico third with 36 medals.**
- **In Athletics, the best event for Puerto Rico has been the pole vault. During the years 1938 to 1966, for seven (7) Games, Puerto Rico won 15 medals, six (6) gold, six (6) silver, and three (3) bronze.**
- **The VIII Games were scheduled to be held in Caracas in December of 1958, but due to the celebration of general elections in Venezuela, the Games were moved to January 1959. Therefore, these Games coincidentally were celebrated at the same time as the World Basketball Championship in Chile. The twelve (12) basketball players of Puerto Rico decided to divide the team in order to participate in both events. The decision probably cost Puerto Rico the gold medal in Venezuela, being El Salvador the winner.**
- **The female discus throw event was first celebrated in the 1938 Panama Games. The Puerto Rican Rebekah Colberg won the gold medal being the only medal that Puerto Rico has won in this event in the history of the Games.**
- **After the 1974 Games the participation of athletes in individual sports was restricted to only two (2) athletes with the option to win a medal. Before the implementation of this regulation, Puerto Rico won six (6) times the three (3) medals in an athletics events: Long Jump and Shot Put in 1938 in Panama and Pole Vault and Triple Jump in 1950 Ciudad de Guatemala, and 1959 Caracas.**
- **Cuban fencer Ramón Fonst was the first Latin American Olympic Champion winning a gold medal in the 1904 San Luis Olympics. Twenty six years later he won two gold medals in foil and épée in the 1930 Habana Games.**



**POSTER ALLUSIVE TO THE VIII 1959 GAMES
VENEZUELA**

MEDALLISTS OF PUERTO RICO IN 1959

Event	Medals	Medal Winner
Athletics		
100 m	Gold	Manuel Rivera
200 m	Gold	Manuel Rivera
400 m	Gold	Ovidio de Jesús
	Silver	Iván Rodríguez
110 m Hurdles	Silver	Teófilo Colón
400 m Hurdles	Gold	Ovidio de Jesús
High Jump	Silver	Julio Llera
Pole Vault	Gold	Rolando Cruz
	Silver	Rubén Cruz
	Bronze	Miguel Rivera
Long Jump	Silver	Julio Llera
Triple Jump	Gold	Pedro Camacho
	Silver	Rumildo Cruz
	Bronze	Julio Llera
Shot Put	Silver	Ramón Rosario
Hammer Throw	Silver	Rubén Dávila
Decathlon	Silver	Héctor Román
4 X 100 m	Silver	Miguel Rivera, Rubén Díaz, Ramón L. Vega, Manuel Rivera
4 X 400 m Relay	Gold	Frank Rivera, Manuel Rivera, Ovidio de Jesús, Iván Rodríguez
Basketball	Silver	Male
Baseball	Gold	Male
Boxing		
51.0 k	Gold	Pablo L. Lugo
60.0 k	Bronze	Immer Rivera
81.0 k	Silver	Simón Ramos
Weightlifting		
60.0 k	Bronze	Pedro Serrano
75.0 k	Silver	José M. Figueroa

Event	Medals	Medal Winner
Weightlifting		
82.5 k	Bronze	Jorge Soto
90.0 k	Silver	Fernando Torres
110.0 k	Silver	Roberto Santana
Tennis		
Men's Doubles	Silver	Carlos Pasarell and Desiderio García
Women's Doubles	Silver	Grace Valdéz and Cindy Colberg
Mixed Doubles	Silver	Cindy Colberg and Carlos Pasarell
Shooting		
Skeet	Silver	Jaime Loyola
Olympic Trap	Bronze	Angel Marchand
Deer Shooting	Bronze	Félix Medero
Volleyball	Silver	Male

BRIEFS

Below we can see different steps in the constructions of Aguada Coliseum, Aquatics Complex, Central American Stadium, Tennis Complex, and the Fencing and Table Tennis Pavilion. Photos taken January 27, 2009

Aguada Coliseum



Aquatics Complex



Central American Stadium



Tennis Complex



Fencing and Table Tennis Pavilion

