

# ATHLETES

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## ALL THAT IS NOT GIVEN IS LOST\*

BY SERGEY BUBKA

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More than ever, sport has an important place in today's society. More than ever, we, the athletes, have an active role to play within society. We are athletes as well as examples for younger generations. In this second issue of the Athletes' Bulletin, we will discover the

stories of two outstanding athletes who give back to sport. Like many other athletes, well-known or not, active or retired, Cecilia Tait, former volleyball player, and Roger Federer, tennis player, decided to share and pass on their experiences and knowledge, promoting

sport as an activity for human development. As ambassadors and role models, athletes should dedicate themselves by conveying the values of sport and Olympism to younger generations. We can motivate the youth of the world and encourage them to practise sport through the dreams we inspire in them of taking part in the Games. As President Rogge has said: there is nothing in the world like being an athlete.

An Olympian is a world citizen who belongs to a family that promotes its own

ideal, the Olympic ideal. As a fundamental principal, the Olympic Movement defends the human right to practise sport, whether for the masses or the elite, in all countries of the world, particularly the most disadvantaged ones.

As athletes, we have received a great deal from sport, and it is now up to us to give something in return. Each of us can contribute and all together we can build a better and peaceful world for future generations.

**Sergey Bubka**  
Chairman, IOC Athletes' Commission

## ATHLETES GIVING BACK TO SPORT

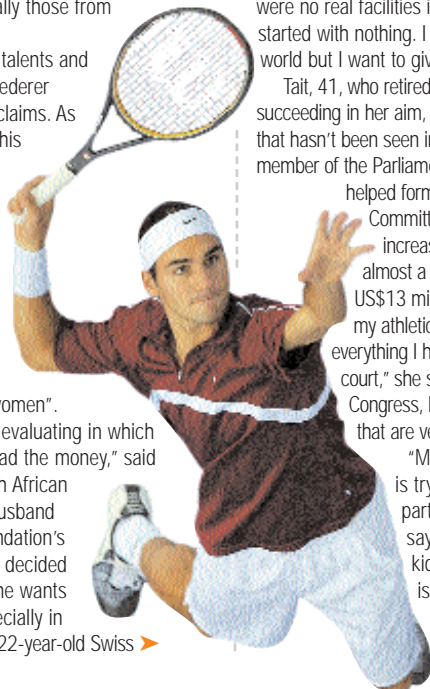
### ROGER FEDERER TENNIS STAR ROGER FEDERER HAS CROWNED AN AMAZING YEAR, WHICH INCLUDED WINNING WIMBLEDON, BY LAUNCHING A CHARITY TO HELP CHILDREN.



The professional tennis tour is known for its demanding schedule, with singles players often travelling the globe for up to 40 weeks a year. Yet despite the demands on his time and at the end of an exceptionally successful sporting year, Roger Federer has just launched a new project which aims to help children in sport, especially those from less well off backgrounds.

"Chances for young sports talents and children in need," the Roger Federer Foundation's motto boldly proclaims. As a young, developing player in his native Switzerland, Roger himself benefited from various youth charities. Now he has reached No.1 in the world and won the Australian Open, his second Grand Slam victory, Federer says he "wants to make his own contribution towards helping young sportsmen and sportswomen".

"We are in the process of evaluating in which direction Roger wants to spread the money," said Lynette Federer, Roger's South African mother, who along with her husband Robert is working on the Foundation's council. "This hasn't yet been decided on exactly. But Roger knows he wants to invest in children, and especially in less privileged children." The 22-year-old Swiss ➤



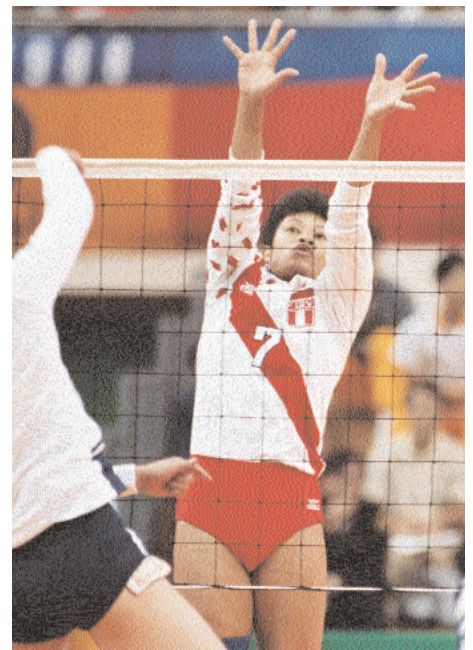
### CECILIA TAIT A GOVERNMENTAL ROLE IS ENABLING FORMER OLYMPIC VOLLEYBALL STAR CECILIA TAIT TO GIVE BACK TO HER HOME COUNTRY BY HELPING IMPROVE SPORTING FACILITIES IN PERU.



Cecilia Tait started playing volleyball at the age of 12 in the streets of the shanty town where she lived in Lima, Peru. She became so good that she progressed to win an Olympic silver medal in 1988 and was heralded as one of the sport's greatest players. But this was not enough for Tait. "There were no real facilities in Peru at the time," she explains. "I started with nothing. I was able to become the best in the world but I want to give other kids opportunities."

Tait, 41, who retired from competitive action in 1991, is succeeding in her aim, giving back to sport in Peru in a way that hasn't been seen in the country before. Tait has been a member of the Parliament in Peru since 2000 and has helped form the government's Youth and Sports Committee, which has been instrumental in increasing public spending on sport by almost a third in the last four years, to US\$13 million a year. "When I had to hang up my athletic shoes because of injury I thought everything I had given for sport was left on the court," she says. "But with my election to Congress, I have been able to do other things that are very important to me."

"My focus as a member of Congress is trying to help youth in sport particularly – and sport overall," she says. "Now, there are more places for kids to play sport. One of the things is a law which creates soccer fields in the shanty towns. A dusty patch of land might not look pretty but



**Above:** Cecilia Tait, pictured at the 1988 Seoul Games, where she inspired Peru to a silver medal.

to the local kids, it means so much.

"Also, the funding is being used to help improve structure and help upgrade existing stadia around the country. Another benefit of greater funding is that the national athletes are now able to attend sports events abroad that they could not go to before," she adds.

In 2003 Tait received the IOC Women and Sport Trophy for America in recognition of her outstanding achievements to develop, encourage and strengthen the participation of women and girls in sport. "Winning prizes like that has given me greater incentive to do more," she says.

Peru's sport will be firmly in the spotlight this summer as the country is hosting the Copa America Soccer Championships.

Tait is now awaiting government approval on another law she has put forward which mandates the teaching of sports in schools. ➤

**ROGER FEDERER  
CONTINUED**

player enjoyed a stunning year in 2003. He reached two ATP tournament finals and won a staggering seven titles, including his Grand Slam victory at Wimbledon and his undefeated run at the Tennis Masters Cup in Texas where he was crowned year-end champion. He also earned more prize money throughout the year than any other male player which will of course help the financial side of the Roger Federer Foundation.

But perhaps more important is his function as a role model for the charity. He is still a



**Above:** Cecilia Tait receives the IOC Women and Sport Trophy in 2003.

**CECILIA TAIT CONTINUED**

"It gives the basis for 3,500 educational teachers around the country. The government has not yet funded these positions but I don't have any doubt that I am going to get the money."

Sixteen years ago, Peru was in the middle of a Civil War when the Olympic Games were taking place in Seoul. But the country was united to watch Tait and her team-mates play a thrilling gold medal match with the Soviet Union where they were narrowly beaten 3-2. She has remained in the public eye and when she retired from sport, began a non-profit group that taught volleyball to girls before she was elected to Congress. Now, she has taken that teaching a step forward by making an impact at government level.

**WWW.WOAOLYMPIANS.COM**

The website of the World Olympians Association provides information on scholarships, careers and other services the WOA offers Olympians. The site also contains the latest Olympians news.

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young player and therefore children all over the world will look up to him for inspiration. As he wins more titles (he has already won 12 singles and six doubles trophies in his short career, and more will undoubtedly follow), his name will become more famous around the world. This will in turn increase his Foundation's influence. Indeed, many of the sport's most experienced observers have already predicted Roger's path to tennis immortality. Former world No.1 and seven-time Grand Slam tournaments winner John McEnroe believes that when the Swiss mister is playing his best tennis, there's no other player anywhere in the world that can possibly beat him. "He's already one of the best players that has ever played," McEnroe states.

The Roger Federer Foundation's first beneficiaries are expected to be announced this spring.

**THE ROLE OF  
AGENTS**

A study looking at the role of agents in modern sport promises to provide the IOC Athletes' Commission with valuable data. The nature of the relationship between athletes and commercial agents is being researched as part of a six-month project by three students of the International Master in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport run by the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. The CIES has a close working relationship with the IOC, who provided the idea for the study. The Athletes' Commission may then adopt some of these independent viewpoints as recommendations for how athletes deal with agents.

The relationship between an athlete and agent is critical. It can lead to difficulties if the competitor is not represented properly. The students will be interviewing athletes and agents. They will be looking at what is the role of a commercial agent, the legal framework of the relationship between the agent and the athlete, what their respective responsibilities and obligations are and how national and international federations can help their members.

**OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY****THE IOC'S OLYMPIC  
SOLIDARITY  
SCHOLARSHIP  
IS HELPING ATHLETES  
SUCH AS INDIA'S  
ABHINAV BINDRA  
ACHIEVE THEIR DREAM  
OF NOT ONLY  
COMPETING AT THE  
GAMES, BUT  
CHALLENGING FOR GOLD**

Through Olympic Solidarity, the IOC works with athletes, coaches, sports administrators, NOCs, continental associations and the Olympic sports IFs to support the worldwide development of

sport. It is the arm of the IOC responsible for administering and managing the share of the revenue generated by the sale of broadcast rights of the Olympic Games to the NOCs to help develop their local sports infrastructure and train athletes, coaches, and administrators.

Olympic Solidarity is split into 21 world programmes in addition to five continental programmes. The world programmes have a budget of US\$99,800,000, funding that is divided between athletes (43.59%), coaches (23.05%), NOC Management (20.54%) and Special Fields (12.82%).

Many athletes have been helped to prepare and qualify for the Olympic Games – and win medals – through the

Olympic Solidarity Scholarship programme. Some of the 201 member committees do not have sufficient funding to provide their athletes with the best facilities to prepare for the Games, even though they have representatives with the athletic potential to succeed. If an athlete does not enjoy the same level of facilities as his or her international competitors, then that athlete's NOC may apply to the Solidarity programme. The IOC awarded 632 scholarships to 122 NOCs in the run-up to Sydney 2000. Of those athletes, 70 won medals – with 28 golds, 21 silvers and 21 bronzes. The programme now rolls on towards this summer's Games in Athens.

**ABHINAV BINDRA**

At the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, Abhinav Bindra of India became the youngest ever competitor to take part in rifle shooting. He finished 11th but he had established his credentials on sport's grandest stage. Now he has an eye on gold in Athens, thanks in no small measure to Olympic Solidarity.

Bindra, 21, will compete in the 10m Air Rifle category in Athens. Since November 2002, until the Games begin, Bindra is being

funded to train at the Olympic training centre in Colorado Springs, USA. The outstanding facilities there are better than in his homeland, meaning that Bindra can take his training to a level where, when he arrives in Athens, he knows he will be as well prepared as possible.

The USOC training centre in Colorado involves much more than just shooting practice. Along with spending time on the firing ranges, athletes receive the benefit of sports psychology classes, and have their techniques analysed by video. Every element of the event is scrutinised.

Bindra was the youngest member of the Indian team in Sydney and is now judged as the country's best hope of winning a

gold medal in Athens. He appreciates how much he has benefited from the Olympic Solidarity scholarship.

"I really do not believe in this born-with-a-talent thing," he says. "Since my childhood, my father's rifles became an obsession with me and I spent more and more time with them. For the past four years I have been training for almost six to eight hours a day. It is tough and by the end of the day, I am totally drained of mental and physical energy."

Bindra won the Arjuna Award in India, the highest honour given to sportsmen in the country, after he had equalled the world junior record in the air rifle event during the 2000 World Cup in Munich.

The following year, Bindra set a junior world record in the 10m

Air Rifle, when he won the bronze medal. In 2002 he won a gold medal in an international competition in Germany and in 2003 he again won bronze at the World Cup.

"One has to simply work hard to achieve what one wants," says Bindra. "The Olympic gold is the aim now and I am working towards it. Winning the medal there is no joke. It is the ultimate in sports."

With his own dedication, the support of his NOC, and the backing of the Olympic Solidarity scholarship which has allowed him to train using facilities that are simply unavailable in his own country, Abhinav Bindra is a prime example of an athlete being given a sporting chance to achieve the ultimate goal.