

## Day 80 – Olympic Torch Bulletin Board

News of the Rio 2016 Olympic Torch Relay across Brazil. An update on the day's events

### **AFTERNOON**

Before Arriving at Osasco this Thursday (21), the Rio 2016 Olympic Torch Relay stopped at the cities of Indaiatuba, Itu and Jundiaí.

In Indaiatuba, at Praça da Ampulheta (square), a free dance lesson opened the city's programme. The pedaling group Aci/Deparc also paid tribute to the event. They gather once per year to go from Aparecida do Norte with around 50 cyclists.

Anselmo Gomes is an athlete of the 100 metre hurdles. He started his career in Indaiatuba, at 15 years old, in the Physical Education trainings. In 1996, his teacher saw his performance during a school competition and encouraged him to frequent more serious trainings. After four months, Anselmo was among the four best in Brazil, and three years later, was already in the national team. He lived in Trento, Italy, to compete in the European circuit. He had seven participations at world championships and competed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. "This torch is a piece of me along with the athletics team of the Rio 2016 Games. I feel very happy to participate at such an important event", he said.

Felipe Caltran is hyperactive. The only place that calms him down is the swimming pool, which he discovered aged 3. He started to compete at 10 years old, and since then, has earned many medals and trophies. This week he was summoned to compete on 200metres freestyle (S14 Class) at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. "Swimming is everything in my life and I'm happy to be carrying the torch precisely in the week I got to know that I'm going to Rio 2016. It's two unforgettable moments that didn't allow me to sleep properly out of anxiety", he said.

Marcio Dutra is a taekwondo master and didn't neglect his moves upon carrying the torch. He played for the Brazilian national team for seven years, won silver at the World Cup, was three times Brazilian champion and world vice-champion. "I represent all of my students; I thank my parents who always dreamed along with me. It was very moving and I managed to show some of the moves I teach. I always say that, more important than learning to kick properly is learning how to be honest, honored and disciplined", he stressed.

Armando Reis Da Costa Camargo Filho. 'Piá', 33 years old, was elected best BMX athlete in the world in 2005 and is part of the Brazilian national team. "Being able to carry the torch is recognition for the years I've practiced this high performance sport, and I'm also representing many people who either directly or indirectly helped me remaining it", he affirmed.

The population of Itu also accompanied from nearby the passing of the relay. About 2500 people occupied the bleacher of Dr. Noveli Júnior Stadium to check out the performance of 1.900 children of 24 years of primary education. Members of the Parents and Friends of the Handicapped Association (APAE) also cheered up the passing of the Olympic flame by the town with a performance.

Rogério de Brito was a paper collector in the streets of Santo André when he became acquainted with boxing, a modality which took him to Olympic Games. "Sport accompanied me throughout all of my life. I started on athletics, but it was with boxing that I travelled the world and saw myself among the best. I never thought I could get to the Games, but I ended up competing at two editions", said the former athlete, who was Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996.

Sixty years after his first Olympic diving, at the 1965 Melbourne Olympic Games, the current diving coordinator Fernando Ribeiro takes the Olympic flame to the athletes heading for Rio 2016. "This sport evolved a lot throughout all these years. Today I can say that we are at the same level as the foreign countries. Every detail makes a difference", said Ribeiro, who also hopes that the Olympic games encourage more athletes to try out the modality.

The torchbearer Márcio Ravelli was the Brazilian representor at the mountain bike modality's debut in the Olympic programme, in Atlanta 1996. "Cycling is a sport, a form of leisure and still offers contact with nature, which is fantastic. Participating at the Olympic Games in my sport's debut was the height of my career", said the athlete, who bets in Henrique Avancini at Rio 2016.

The city of Jundiaí also prepared cultural presentations to welcome the Olympic torch. The band Guri and the Rainha do Nilo Dance Group cheered the public who showed up at the start of the relay. City inhabitants mounted set up an Olympus, and dressed according to the role, represented Greek gods during the flame's passing.

Marcel de Souza is a basketball legend in Brazil. He achieved the title of second biggest scorer of the national team with more than 5.000 points, staying behind only of Oscar Schmidt. The former athlete has four participations at Olympic Games (Moscow 1980, Los Angeles 1984, Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992). "Jundiaí is my home; I always lived here, leaving only to play. I was very happy for being invited. It was one of the marks that lacked in my career", he celebrated.

Rudá Franco is a water polo athlete, starting his career aged 13 in Jundiaí; He played for Club Desportivo Waterpolo Turia, in Spain, for two seasons. Back to Brazil, he was an athlete for Club Athletico Paulistano (team) until being hired for SESI, in 2011. A member of the national team, the athlete is confirmed for Rio 2016. "There are few days left to go for the Games and it was very moving to be with the greatest symbol of all sports History. I always dreamed of being an Olympic athlete, but I never imagined I would carry the flame. It was good for starting the Games with a lot of luck", he commented.

Magic Paula dedicated 28 years of her life to basketball. She competed at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics Games and Atlanta 1996, where she helped the national team achieving a silver medal. She was part of the team that earned gold at the World Basketball Championship, in Australia 1994, and at the 1991 Havana Pan-American Games. "I thought I had lived through it all and was moved again. I started to cry as soon as I got out of the bus. When I saw my family there, I was stunned. They said they wouldn't come because they saw Branca carrying it yesterday, in Campinas. I started to play basketball for real here in Jundiaí and then I was summoned for the national team. It means a lot to carry the torch here", she said.

The sisters Helen and Silvia Luz have a history in national basketball and were together at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, where they won bronze, and were together again to carry the Olympic flame. “It’s very good to share this moment with my sister, we always tried to play at the same team, we were together in the national team and it couldn’t be different now. We are going to share one more happiness, multiply it”, said Helena.

Mariana Brochado, muse of Brazilian swimming, was an athlete for Flamengo during her whole career. For the national team, she competed at the 2003 Santo Domingo Pan-American Games, where she earned the bronze medal for 200 metres freestyle and silver on 4x200 metres freestyle, and at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. Currently she is a producer and commenter for SporTv. “It’s a huge joy to carry the Olympic torch. I’m going towards my third participation at the Games. I was at Athens 2004 as an athlete and London 2012 as a commenter. Two distinct ways which were very nice experiences. Coincidence or not, I got to an Olympic final participating of a relay and my specialty were the 200 metres freestyle, the same distance I ran here, with the Olympic flame”, she observed.

Former tennis athlete Carlos Alberto Kirmayr is considered to be one the ten Brazilian athletes of the modality from the Open Era period and is also among the then best Brazilian tennis pair players of all time. His best position at the world ranking wasd number 32, reached in 1981. He was captain of the national team at the Davis Cup and trained the British team in 1986. From 1990 to 1995, he was coach for Argentinian Gabriela Sabatini, champion at the US Open in 1990 and finalist at Wimbledon. He also trained Arantxa Sanchez and Conchita Martínez, summing up 22 titles of simples in five years as a coach in the female circuit.

The tennis athlete Vanessa Menga earned a bronze medal athlete at the 1995 Mar Del Plata Pan-American Games and gold at the 1999 Pan-American Games. She competed at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and Sydney 2000. Throughout her career, she achieved 70 championships and 42 vice-championships. She was the only tennis player to win four consecutive championships in Europe. “It’s a thrill to participate at Rio 2016 by carrying the Olympic torch in Jundiaí, the city which I made a home of. It’s a strength, an energy that comes from inside us”, she affirmed.

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