

Day 83 – Olympic Torch Bulletin Board

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

MORNING

- The Rio 2016 Olympic Torch Relay had a thrilling start in São Paulo. A crowd of natives awaited the Olympic flame at Museu do Ipiranga (museum). The retinue proceeded to the iconic landmark that marks the place where Dom Pedro proclaimed Brazil's independence. The public applauded Amauri Ribeiro, the first torchbearer, and ran to follow Rony Gomes, who carried the Olympic torch descending the slope at Parque da Independência (park) by skateboard.
- **Rony Gomes**, 24 years old, was world champion of skateboarding in 2013. "The people went down along with me and had fun. It was very moving to carry the Olympic Torch here", he said.
- **Gustavo Borges** was a great representor of Brazilian swimming, and upon carrying the Olympic torch, he missed his times as an athlete. "Living all this Olympic memory makes me very nostalgic. I participated at several Olympic Games, now I'll be in the audience. The crowd is very important to support our athletes. I'm sure the Rio 2016 Games will be big thrill".
- **Walter Casagrande** made football history wearing the Corinthians uniform, in the 1980's. He remembered that São Paulo will also be the stage for some Olympic competitions. "I invite the Corinthians supporters to watch, at Arena, the male football semifinal and the dispute for female bronze".
- **João Carlos Martins**, one of the greatest musical conductors, told how he prepared for his course. "Music has everything to do with sports. If you watch a game or a race with music in the background, the emotion is a lot bigger. How did I prepare? Conducting. Every night there's a concert, so the arms are ok. The legs passed the test."

- **Maria Esther Bueno** is the biggest name of Brazilian tennis of all time. She won 19 Grand Slam tournaments. “Welcoming the Games at home is fantastic, it couldn’t be better. Carrying the torch really is as if I was participating at the Games. I was moved to be able to be here, still strong, representing Brazil. Tennis is doing very well; let’s see what’s going to happen. All who are going inside the pit will be playing a little bit for me”.

- **Padre Paolo Parisi**, responsible for settling peace at several places in the world, works to take care of citizens in delicate situations. “Refugees are not terrorists. They need our support and sports are a fundamental piece in this process”, he explains. “Last year, the Peace Mission managed to shelter 27 thousand people from 83 different nationalities. This work is important; the world is ever more globalized. It’s a single reality and there exists interdependence among peoples. Where there is misery, persecution and war, the people are provoked to go in search of a better life. Let’s do our part, being welcoming and opening our doors. That this flame may be a light of hope for all those who work sheltering, working in favor of others”.

- The **Demônios da Garoa** group sang the classic “Trem das Onze” and was accompanied by the audience, at the Centre of São Paulo, on the corners of Ipiranga and São João avenues. The iconic group of samba players Demônios da Garoa is composed by Sérgio Rosa, Izael Caldeira, Roberto Barbosa, Dedé Paraizo and Ricardinho Rosa. The group was born in 1943, in the freshmen programme Hora da Bomba, from São Paulo’s Bandeirantes radio station. The group was initially baptized Grupo do Luar, but it changed to Demônios da Garoa after being nicknamed so by the public. In 1949, the group made their first contact with Adoniran Barbosa, who acted in the movie “Cangaceiros”, which soundtrack was recorded by the group. In 1951, Adoniran composed his first samba, named “Malvina”, which made Demônios da Garoa champions of São Paulo carnival festivities. “In São Paulo we are at home. We are used to the public here, who baptized us. We are the face of this city”, said Sérgio. “For us it’s an honor to participate at something like the Olympic Games. We are very honored to make part of this big party and this global event”, added Ricardinho.

- **Marcus Vinícius d'Almeida**, 18 years old, will compete at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games representing Brazil on archery modality. Marcus has been World Cup vice-champion and champion of the sub17 world championship. For him, Korea and the US are Brazil's biggest opponents. But Marcus believes that the Brazilian team is very well prepared for the competition. "Our group has a goal: to do its best. And our best has big chances of earning a medal. Now there are only 12 days left to go, the emotion is knocking at our door; today I'll move into the Olympic Village. Archery has to be prepared to give its best and bring Brazil good results", he said.

- **Renata Falzoni**, 62 years old, is a BMX athlete and cycling activist. Precisely for that reason, Renata carries the Olympic torch riding a bike under Praça do Ciclista ('cyclist square'). "A big legacy that the Olympic Games must leave for Brazil is this mobility without motors, called active modal. I ride bicycles in the city and here's the thing: bikes are nice", said her, who passed the Olympic flame to Gustavo de Oliveira, regarded as one of BMX's biggest promises.

- São Paulo characters went to the streets wearing costumes, in a similar mood to São Silvestre, a traditional street race that happens at the end of the year.

- **Emanoel Araújo**, 75 years old, is director of the Afro Brasil Museum, at Parque Ibirapuera (park), and an artist. Emanoel started his course right in front to his working place, at Ibirapuera. "The Olympic Games are a unique opportunity for Brazil to show receptivity. I expect a big celebration of peace and unity", he said.

- Bob Burnquist is the biggest name of Brazilian skateboarding, and also one of the biggest in the world. He summoned the Brazilian crowd to support our athletes. "If you still haven't seen the Olympic Games, you'll have the chance to see them in Rio de Janeiro. It will be very fun. I like gymnastics, to see the athletes swimming; it is something very cool to do. If you are nearby, go check it out!".

- “My torch represents people in wheelchairs”. It is with this purpose that **Laís Souza** carried the Olympic torch this Sunday in São Paulo. Demonstrating her strength and dedication, she stood on her feet at Ibirapuera. Laís was one of the main Brazilian gymnastics athletes between 2004 and 2008, but an accident while she practiced freestyle skiing left her tetraplegic in 2014. “I’m carrying not only my happiness, but also the will and happiness of many people. The participation of people in wheelchairs, and Brazilians in general”, she concludes.

- **Fernando Fernandes** took his family and friends to accompany his participation at the relay inside Parque do Ibirapuera, a São Paulo postcard. He carried the Olympic torch by tricycle. Fernando, who became a champion of Paralympic canoe slalom after an accident in 2009, believes Brazil will go up two positions at the Paralympic Games. “The meaning of the Olympic flame is mainly to bring hope to Brazilians, to Paralympic athletes, who have the power to bring this breaking of paradigms. I hope we can use the Games to modify society and construct a more human world, more beautiful. I believe Brazil, at the Paralympic Games, will manage to go up two positions to the 5th overall position”, he said.

- According to the Military Police, five thousand people went to Parque do Ibirapuera to accompany the torch relay.

- Actor and director **Tony Ramos** has a long list of works. He acted on more than 50 soap-operas, among them “Selva de Pedra”, “Torre de Babel” and “Passione”, and participated at around 14 movies, among them, the big hit “Se Eu Fosse Você” (2006) and “A Partilha” (2001). “If you still haven’t bought a ticket, try to. So many beautiful things will happen. Support Brazilian athletes. I wanted to see Zanetti, this golden boy. I hope he earns a medal. I’m happy to be able to participate at the relay, but bringing attention to sports, which is what the country needs the most. Education, health and sports. These children to be occupied all day long, how wonderful it would be. Being invited made me very happy, but more than that, I see this act of inviting all of us – there are doctors, engineers, journalists, singers, constructors here, a bit of everything- as a way of paying tribute to Brazilian athletes”, he said.

- The pursue for the third Olympic medal made judo athlete **Tiago Camilo** plan his retirement for after the 2017 World Championship, at Budapest. This seasoned national athlete decided not to end his career at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games to let go of the pressure of competing at home and raise his achievements. Camilo won silver at Sydney 2000 and bronze at Beijing 2008. "I'm very thrilled and honored for being a torchbearer. This here has always represented the start of my dream, since childhood. I hope its supporters, its emotion, love and vibrations for Brazil and its athletes also light up, like the torch. There are few days to go until the Olympic Games, I count with your support", he said.

- Between 1980 and 1997, singer **Daniel** paired with João Paulo, interpreting regional songs, which soon became big hits in the radio, such as "Estou Apaixonado" and "Desejo de Amar". The partnership came to an end with João Paulo's death after suffering a car accident. In his solo career, he has recorded 17 albums. "We are here, very happy, with this spirit of faith and hope for a better country, in a better world. Sports bring us all of that. I always liked sports, and still play my football. I'm very happy to be here, with a simple participation but representing our people, our country, our athletes, which I'm sure will do very well in these Games", he said. "I leave here an invitation for you to participate at these Games along with is, to go support Brazil and our athletes. Make part of this union among peoples and nations, practice sports", he concluded.

- **Fofão** got up the highest position at the podium along with the Brazilian female national volleyball team at Beijing 2008. The former setter also earned a gold medal at the 1999 Winnipeg Pan-American Games. Another two bronze medals were achieved at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and Sydney 2000. "I lived through several moments playing, competed at five Olympic Games. At each edition, a different emotion. Each achievement, a different story, but the shivers down the spine are always the same", she remembered.

- "The happiness of being able to carry the torch in my country is an indescribable emotion. It's a very big joy to share this with the Brazilian people, the people who always supported me and Brazilian sports. I believe female volleyball will bring us a lot of happiness. I can picture the gold medal, because they are coming in with a lot of previous experience. That makes a lot of difference", he said.

- **Shigueto Yamasaki Junior** competed at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, and his father is a judo referee, who is going to work at the Rio Games. “I lived a very big emotion at the 1992 Barcelona Games. I’m very happy to be participating at Rio 2016”, he said.
- Former judo athlete **Walter Carmona** risked a guess for the Rio 2016 Games. “It will be Brazil’s biggest number of judo medals”, said this former athlete who competed between 1976 and 1988 and achieved Bronze at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.
- **Ricardo Prado** was a worldwide swimming phenomenon in the 1980’s. In 1982, at 17, he was world champion on 400 metres medley at Guayaquil, Equator, beating the world record. At the 1983 Caracas Pan-American Games, he earned two gold and two silver medals. At the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, he was a silver medalist. “I want to encourage energy, ambition, will and discipline by the Brazilian people to make this a better country, to incorporate the Olympic spirit”, he said.
- **Roberto Lazzarini** had his first contact with fencing at 12, when he watched a competition at Criolo Italiano and was invited by the coach Angelo Pio Buonafina to train. At 19, he won his first freestyle category championship and was summoned to make part of the main national team. He was champion at the 1983 Caracas Pan-American Games. He participated at the 1987 Indianapolis Pan-Americans, the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, the 1991 Havana Pan-Americans and the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, where he achieved the 20th overall position among the 72 participants, the best result for a Brazilian athlete at Olympic Games. “It’s an honor to be here, it’s what was missing in my career. I went to the Games, have won so many championships. But the flame wads only in my heart. Now it is in my hands and I’ll pass it forward. I think the torch must leave behind this legacy of union, friendship and peace. As well as making everybody aware of the great value of sports”, he said.

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