

Collection #
M 1279

CHARLES J. SCHISLA
COLLECTION, 1982–1994

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 color photo box

COLLECTION DATES: 1982-94

PROVENANCE: Charles J. Schisla, Indianapolis, IN; 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Clipping File: Gymnastics -- Tournaments -- Indiana; Clipping File: Sports; 1982 National Sports Festival bumper sticker R 2878; Mark D. Miles oral history interview SC 3090

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0067, 2015.0294

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles J. Schisla was a member of the Indiana Sports Corp, a non-profit founded in 1979 as the country's first sports commission for world-class events. Some of its most notable events include the 1982 National Sports Festival, the 1987 Tenth Pan American Games, and the 1991 World Gymnastics Championships. In January 1985 the organizing committee for the Tenth Pan American Games, titled PAX/Indianapolis (PAX/I), was formed under the Indiana Sports Corp until its incorporation as a separate entity in March 1986. Schisla served as chairman of the PASO/NOC (Pan American Sport Organization/National Olympic Committees) relations committee, one of several sub-committees of PAX/I. The committee was the official channel for communication between PAX/I, PASO, and the NOCs of the participating countries.

Pan American Games: During the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the Mexican delegation proposed creating a sports organization for athletics in the Western Hemisphere. In August 1940 the Pan American Sports Congress met for the first time in Buenos Aires and planned to host the first Pan American Games in the same city in 1942. However, the games were postponed due to World War II. The second Pan American Sports Congress met in London during the 1948 Olympic Games and continued making plans for the Pan American Games. The first Pan American Games were held in Buenos Aires in 1951. The Pan American Sport Organization (PASO) governs the games, which are held every four years. In 1987 the Tenth Pan American Games were held in Indianapolis from 7 August to 23 August.

National Sports Festival: Originally called the National Sports Festival, the first U.S. Olympic Festival was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1978. The U.S. Olympic Committee sponsored the festival, which was to occur every year except for Olympic years, with the hope that the event would stimulate young talent and bring attention to U.S. Olympic teams and athletes. The Indiana Sports Corporation helped organize the 1982 festival in Indianapolis, from 23 July to 31 July. The last U.S. Olympic Festival was held in Denver, Colorado in 1995.

World Gymnastics Championships: The first World Gymnastics Championships were held in Antwerp, Belgium in 1903. The World Championships for each of the gymnastic disciplines (Gymnastics for All, Men's and Women's Artistic, Rhythmic, Acrobatic, Aerobic, and Trampoline) are organized by the International Federation of Gymnastics (FIG). FIG originally launched under the name Bureau of European Federations on 23 July 1881 when French, Dutch, and Belgian representatives first met. In 1991 the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships were held in Indianapolis from 6 September to 15 September.

World Rowing Championships: The World Rowing Championships are organized by the World Rowing Federation (FISA). The first championships were held in Lucerne, Switzerland in August 1962. The event was held every four years until 1974, when FISA began to hold it annually. In 1994 Indianapolis hosted the World Rowing Championship from 15 September to 18 September.

Sources:

Collection materials.

Dawn Mitchell, "National Sports Festival Sparked City's Sports Prominence," Indy Star, 21 Aug 2016, <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/history/retroindy/2016/08/21/national-sports-festival-olympics-indianapolis/88561304/>

Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, "About," <http://www.fig-gymnastics.com/site/about/federation/brief>

Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, "History," <http://www.fig-gymnastics.com/site/about/federation/history#>

Indiana Sports Corp, "About Us," <http://www.indianasportscorp.org/about-us>

Joe Jares, "It Was a Towering Success," Sports Illustrated Vault, 7 Aug 1978, <http://www.si.com/vault/1978/08/07/822866/it-was-a-towering-success-the-first-national-sports-festival-took-place-in-the-shadow-of-pikes-peak-and-2165-athletes-had-their-day-in-the-sun>

Pan American Sports Organization, "Pan American Games," <http://www.paso-odepa.org/en/pan-american-games>

World Rowing, "About FISA," <http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/>

World Rowing, "Results," <http://www.worldrowing.com/events/results>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of materials related to the history of sports in Indiana. In particular, a significant portion of the collection relates to the Tenth Pan American Games hosted in Indianapolis, Indiana. These materials include a Pan American Games guidebook, a volunteer leadership handbook, a PASO information manual and assorted issues of the following newsletters from 1985 to 1987: Pan Am Update, Paso a Paso, PAX Facts, and Voice of the Village.

Other materials in the collection are membership certificates for the Indiana Sports Corporation from 1983 to 1986, maps for the National Sports Festival in Indianapolis in 1982, reports of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and photos of the 1991 World Gymnastics Championships and the 1994 World Rowing Championships, both held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

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World Gymnastics Championships, Welcoming Ceremonies Committees A and B photos, 1991	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Folder 1
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