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International Handball Federation
Peter Merian-Str. 23
P.O. Box
4002 Basle
Switzerland
www.ihf.info
ihf.office@ihf.info

Dr Hassan Moustafa gives a positive WCh summary



Directly prior to the end of the 22nd World Championship in Sweden IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa gave a positive summary of the world title contests. "The Swedish organizers really did a fantastic job, all officials and teams were satisfied," the President stated.

430,000 spectators watched the 98 matches of this WCh in the eight

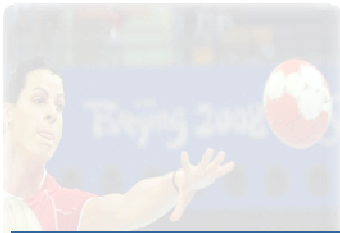
venues of southern and middle Sweden.

The TV coverage was also huge. People from 162 countries, including for the first time the UK, had the possibility to watch the final on TV; in total 43 TV stations were broadcasting live. The media interest on site was enormous, too. More than 1,500 journalists had accredited for the WCh. "We're all very happy, it was a top event," Moustafa said.

Negative doping tests

"After this WCh we can, more than ever, argue that handball is a clean sport," IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa said. This has been proven by numerous doping tests which were carried out before and during the competition. 36 training controls of twelve teams effected prior to the WCh as well as 64 tests of all 24 participating teams taken during the WCh all turned out negative.





Fourth WCh title for France after 1995, 2001 and 2009



In total 430,000 spectators attended the 98 matches in Sweden



France unstoppable Onesta team win their fourth World Championship title in Sweden

When team captain Jerome Fernandez raised the huge and heavy trophy in the confetti rain of Malmö, his team had written history again. By beating Denmark 37:35 (31:31, 15:12) after extra time in the most thrilling World Championship final for decades, the French team had broken a spell: They are the first since 1974 (Romania) to defend a WCh title in men's handball. "It is an absolute satisfaction, but it was a really hard struggle, as Denmark had pushed us to our limits," French coach Claude Onesta said.



His team, which is directly qualified for the Olympics in London and the 2013 World Championship in Spain, remained the only unbeaten team in this tournament and had three players in the All-Star Team: Goalkeeper Thierry Omeyer, pivot Bertrand Gille and Nikola Karabatic as the Most Valuable Player. For France it was the fourth WCh title after 1995, 2001 and 2009.



Whereas Karabatic & Co. were the clear favourites before the tournament despite the injuries of the top stars Daniel Narcisse and Guillaume Gille, Denmark was the biggest surprise. "We played a fantastic tournament and we didn't lose a match in normal time. Outstanding," coach Ulrik Wilbek said. His young team played highly fast and modern handball, but missed their first ever World Championship title narrowly. For Denmark this "home

match final" in Malmö was the first WCh Gold match since 1967. The top stars of the Danes were the youngsters: Goalkeeper Niklas Landin (22), who did not only save brilliantly in the final, and Mikkel Hansen (23), the top scorer of the tournament. "Hansen and Karabatic were the best players in Sweden," was the opinion of all experts including Wilbek.

The final was a real thriller: Mostly France was leading in the first 60 minutes, several times with a three goal difference. But when Bo Spellerberg hit the back of the net two seconds before the final whistle, everything was open again: 31:31, the extra time had to decide. And as in the 60 minutes before, both goalkeepers as well as Hansen and Karabatic were the key players of the game – both of them scored ten goals. When Denmark took the lead for the very first time at the score of 33:32, the French team was experienced enough to stand up to the pressure in front of 13,000 spectators. And team captain Fernandez, who took his third WCh title, decided the game with two late goals to 36:34. But both coaches believe there will be a re-match soon: "Both teams will meet in several finals in the future," Onesta mentioned. Onesta led the French to their fourth straight title: Olympic Champion 2008, World Champion 2009, European Champion 2010 and now World Champion again.



Denmark, Spain and Sweden will host Olympic qualification tournaments in April 2012.



Prior to this great final Spain had beaten Sweden in the bronze final 24:23 (11:11). Both teams were on a par with each other, too, and the Iberians decided the match against the host in the final minute.



France and Denmark were the dominating teams in the semis: France had no problems with host Sweden and won 29:26 (15:12). Afterwards the Danes ran over Spain, showing a much greater dominance, as the final result of 28:24 indicates.

Whereas France is directly qualified for the Olympics, Denmark, Spain and Sweden will host the qualification tournaments in April 2012.

Three more nations qualified in Sweden for those tournaments: Croatia (5th place), Iceland (6.) and Hungary, which beat the Poles 31:28 in the decisive match for the seventh place.

Like in Croatia two years before the best non-European team was ranked twelfth, but the Gauchos from Argentina won a lot of sympathies.

Ranking Summary:

Gold: France, Silver: Denmark, Bronze: Spain
4. Sweden, 5: Croatia, 6: Iceland, 7: Hungary, 8: Poland, 9: Norway, 10: Serbia, 11: Germany, 12: Argentina, 13: Korea, 14: Egypt, 15: Algeria, 16: Japan, 17: Slovakia, 18: Austria, 19: Romania, 20: Tunisia, 21: Brazil, 22: Chile, 23: Bahrain, 24: Australia

All-Star Team:

Left wing: Harvard Tvedten (Norway)
Right wing: Vedran Zrnic (Croatia)
Pivot: Bertrand Gille (France)
Left back: Mikkel Hansen (Denmark)
Centre back: Dalibor Doder (Sweden)
Right back: Alexander Petersson (Iceland)
Goalkeeper: Thierry Omeyer (France)
Most Valuable Player: Nikola Karabatic (France)



Qatar will host the 2015 Men's WCh, whereas the 2015 Women's WCh will be organized by Denmark



IHF awards Men's and Women's WCh



A few days before the final, the IHF Council held its meeting in Malmö during which the Council members dealt with the applications for the 2015 Women's WCh and the 2015 Men's WCh. The latter will be hosted by the desert country of



Qatar which prevailed over Norway, France and Poland. Denmark was awarded the organization of the women's tournament. The Danish Handball Federation was the only applicant for hosting the Women's WCh 2015.

Three more World Championships in 2011

The 2011 calendar of event of the International Handball Federation includes three more World Championships. The Men's Junior WCh will take place in Greece from 17 to 31 July. The men's youth teams will fight for the WCh medals in Argentina from 10 to 20 August. The highlight of the second half of the year will however be the Women's World Championship which will be played in Brazil from 3 to 18 December.



The International Handball Federation will keep you up to date about accreditation processes, and provide you with further important information on these three large events in the regularly published Media Service, in the World Handball Magazine (WHM) or at www.ihf.info.

IHF calendar of events until May 2011

Date	Place		Organizer	Event
May				
02-05/05	Marrakech	MAR	IHF	XXXIII Ordinary Congress
05/05		MAR	CAHB	Seminar for Managers, Presidents, SG
05-07/05	Marrakech	MAR	CAHB	Ordinary Working Congress
28-29/05	Cologne	GER	EHF	Men's Champions League Final4