

PAHF Director Visit Report

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February 14, 15 and 16

2013

Opening of the first synthetic
hockey sand based field in the
Republic of Paraguay



REPORT OF REPRESENTATION PANAM FEDERATION IN OPENING OF FIRST SYNTHETIC PITCH IN PARAGUAY.

The first objective was to continue to engage government in policy development and creation of new poles that support hockey in the belief that hockey is a sport that will bring team values, and constant effort, developing intelligence of those who practice it.

Therefore, after half an hour of entering in Paraguay, it was decided by the Paraguayan Hockey Directive Board a briefing with representatives of clubs affiliated to the Association about Panamerican vision of this new venture in Paraguay.

The meeting was set at CURDA Club, with delegates of the affiliated clubs (Club Universitario de Rugby de Asunción, Olimpia, Sajonia, Yacht y Golf Club Paraguayo, Deportivo Internacional, Deportivo San José, Centro Educativo Maria Auxiliadora, Luque Hockey Rugby Club, Universidad Americana, Club de Regatas, Bigua), members of the Paraguayan Hockey Directive Board (Marcela Pappalardo, Lilia Cardozo, Nelly Acuna, Rossana Vely, Liza Gaston, Ramón Gimenez, Carlos Pereira, Lujan Eijo), umpires (Alejandro Schon, Beatriz Mongelos, Claudia Russo, Laura Servian) and National teams coaches (Julio Russo) and Officials (Alberto Chamorro)

Here we extract what were the questions of all of them as well as their expectations for this new chapter in the history of hockey Paraguay. The aim was to know each other, get to know their actual participation in the national hockey and what their role so far in the sport was.

Friday, February 15th, MEETING WITH SPORTS MINISTRY

The meeting took place at the office of Mr. Marcelo Bedoya Murto, Sport Minister at the National Sports Secretary.

This office is located in the sports complex where APH Hockey court is located. This sports complex has approximately 7 Ha involving gymnasiums, tennis courts, running tracks and other facilities in which they practice the following sports: Table tennis, Field Tennis, Football, Athletics, Basketball, Volleyball, Squash, Fencing and Hockey , from this opening. It also has the Superior Institute of Physical education, school of physical education. An entire sports city in preparation for a sports policy introduced by the Government for 2020. "Patria Deportiva 2020" is the logo.

The Minister was waiting for that meeting. The same went for over two hours when we talked about the importance of the advent of synthetic at Paraguayan Republic, knowing the advantages of the various synthetic, water and sand based, to inform the Minister of our sport.

The Minister expressed much interest in hockey and tale that the APH Board of Directors has his full confidence in the work and dedication with which it develops its task.

We explained to the Minister the importance of concrete in Paraguay the organization of an international event where a lot of American countries will be invited, with the tourist attraction that goes with it and the unique appeal for national hockey family to enjoy seeing their players represent the

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Paraguayan shirt. These tournaments have a high content for nationalization of sport, leading to an enjoyment of a unique spectacle, surrounded by family and friends.

I expressed Pan American interest of achieving the broadcasting of these events both locally and internationally and the Minister promised to do it and will provide it in case of Paraguay achieves an international tournament in its territory.



We explained to the Minister the importance of the Challenge Tournament qualifiers for the Pan American Cup, because if Paraguay organizes an spectacle in his house, and manages to invest in the work of their teams two years from now, Paraguay will make a decent role in the Tournament because in it does not participate highest ranked teams in America. This is a very attractive opportunity to Paraguay to bid an international tournament and must work hard with their selections for sustainable growth.

We also discussed that the Ministry will have to support the Paraguayan Association of Hockey with many staff, such as maintenance and surveillance for this tournament to be a success. And the Minister pledged that the PANAM will have all these requests to obtain this international championship.

We reached a financial settlement for the APH where Pan can be very sure that Paraguay will have sufficient funds to house officers, officials and umpires in first class hotels and excellent care.

After the meeting, I delivered to the Minister a plaque of appreciation from the Pan American Federation where we highlighted its work in managing the first synthetic pitch in Paraguay. He received it with great joy and excitement as we deliver it with his name recorded on it.

Meeting with Olympic Paraguayan Comitee, Mr. Camilo Perez Lopez Moreira.



In this meeting, we told the President of the COP, the meeting with the Minister and the commitment of Panam Challenge Tournament bid for 2015, with the objective that the APH take advantage of International Olympic Solidarity programs, allowing to specialize their technical and coaches and support their work with nutritionists, psychologists, doctors and other specializations that allow national teams to work seriously and in a reliable framework.

We achieved his commitment and we deliver a plaque of appreciation from the Pan American Hockey Federation, which was welcomed with many compliments to the President, Mr. Antonio Von Ondarza.



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Interview at ABC Color newspaper, by Leo Diaz

We also have an interview in the afternoon in one on the most important newspaper in Asuncion.



After this interview, he stated that "The PAHF will contribute giving a content to the APH for the development of sport and the will of support to the country for future international events." And at the same time added my words that "... when a sport has an event of this magnitude, we have to thanks everyone, players, umpires and managers who have worked since the beginning of hockey in Paraguay and congratulate the current executive Board of the APH, in the person of its president Nelly Acuña, the sports minister, Marcelo Bedoya, president of the Paraguayan Olympic Committee and to all who were involved to make this dream of the first synthetic field for hockey"

SECOND MEETING WITH CLUBS DIRECTORS, BOARD, UMPIRES AND COACHES THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PANAMERICAN TOURNAMENTS

The first idea I try to emphasize to all participants is that Paraguay has great luck in America, because not only is one of the countries that have managed to install a synthetic field but the whole entrepreneurship is a venture of exclusive state use of the Paraguayan Association. Here is the great achievement of Paraguay compared to other Latin American countries that have made their first field joining forces between the Federations and clubs and local schools and have had to split its use and income, as the case of Uruguay, or only clubs or colleges, as the case of Chile.

It is also noteworthy that the field of Paraguay is installed on a municipal property that generates no cost of any kind to the Paraguayan Association of Hockey. Therefore, it will only receive revenue from the use of that field.

In my message I transmitted that only they will decide what are the best times for his national team practices, what the rent schedules for clubs and how many championships will be played on that field.



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In my speech I pointed out to the participants that the date of the opening of the field was also excellent because for the time of the year, it will allow the Association to organize a tournament for the 2013 season in a completely different way to all previous tournaments.

All hockey players should participate and work together ordering scheme function, umpiring and technical that will enable to play every weekend almost without suspensions. This is one of the characteristics of the synthetic grass.

All this development will bring exponential growth in the sport that should be preparing to face. It is a year where they must engage their clubs to bring people working in sports tables, in training well to address this growth. People who have been fortunate enough to participate in Pan American Tournament will be excellent references to support and lead this structure from the technical standpoint.

In Paraguay is time to rethink the hockey as a sport spectacle, emphasizing that at national level they have to work with rules, which clearly tend to assimilate international hockey, as control table, demanding the use of protective

materials for players such as shin guards, protectors, masks, and so on.

Rate hockey as a sport spectacle involves a precise place for entering all the players in order with the umpires, all of them identified with shirts all equal and distinct from their positions. This is an important step that APH will face if they want to manage a hockey show.

Having the only field in Paraguay, places the Paraguayan Association on a preferential spot during the year 2013 and this should be paraguayano logo to attract other institutions that already have hockey as school, high school students and Golden to use synthetic pitch. This will expand their affiliated players.

They should invite to participate at their tournament Collegiate's Leagues, attracting them by organizing a monthly tournament for them to achieve modernization.

Is important to note that the field allows the APH to have a property to offer its sponsors with static advertising presence and will also generate advertising revenue for the Association.

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The historical fact that Paraguay inaugurated its first field hockey will bring, without any doubt, an exponential growth for players who practice this sport since the athlete falls in love with synthetic when practicing the sport, while tempts him to work harmoniously their individual techniques and forced to work faster mentally and physically when making decisions during the game.

This field is situated in a sports center where several sports are practiced, both initially and in time of youth, both ladies and gentlemen. As we must attract followers to achieve hockey the AHP has to work organizing events being imaginative, creative and fun. Those will be one of the tasks for the Association as to meet the objective of attracting followers.

The field itself says nothing, only the organization that arms the Association will be able to give life to this endeavor beautiful but empty until they get to work all hockey players to give content. This is the great mission of the Paraguayan hockey during 2013.



The municipal land has the Institute of Sport in Paraguay in its property, about thirty yards from the court. This will attract more players to their training and their modernization both annual courses in specific talks of hockey.

Facilities that are on the side of the field shows the installation of bathrooms and changing rooms in the first instance to cover perfectly the needs of the local tournament but they must be restructured for the organization of an international tournament.



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OPENING ACT OF THE FIELD

SATURDAT FEBRUARY 16TH



Opening Act

Coincidence or not, the day elected for the opening act of the field met the past 22 years of Paraguay wining a silver medal by the women's national team at South American Championship.

The work done by the Sport Minsitery of Paraguay has been delivered to the Paraguayan Association of Hockey for its use.

The inauguration was animated with the Orchestra "Sonidos de Cateura", playing folk music and the national anthem.

It was very emotional to see that all players of all ages waiting for the President of the Republic of Paraguay with a bridge of sticks that allowed him to reach the stage that was established for this purpose.



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During the ceremony were present government officials and different institutions representing the Paraguayan sport very early in the morning. They were : President of the Republic of Paraguay Dr. Federico Franco Gómez, Minister of Sports, Mr. Marcelo Bedoya Murto, President of the Olympic Committee, Mr. Camilo Pérez López, President of the Association of Presidents of Paraguay's sports and Chairman of the Paraguayan Football Association: Juan Angel Napuot. And presidents of the various sports federations of Paraguay and of affiliated clubs.



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The Pan American Federation delivered a gratitude plaque, congratulating the Board of the Paraguayan Association of Hockey for their hard work in building the field. The plaque is made of bronze objects such as stick, ball, goal, whistle, referees card, giving a clear distinctive to our hockey. At the time of giving the plaquette on behalf of the Pan American Hockey, I emphasized the importance of all players in the sport to come together to build the content of this field, I harmoniously emphasizing the love of hockey as the nexus or union of all to achieve exponential growth in a short time. I highlighted Pan American's commitment to provide content to this field, assigning any international tournament in Paraguay, which was hard exclaimed by the audience. Also highlight Panam will do it best to collaborates with some coaches courses, as to insert hockey going strong in the draft PATRIA DEPORTIVA 2020, raised by the Paraguayan Government.



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After the culmination of each and every one of the speeches that gave the authorities present, highlighting notably the presence and work of support provided by the Pan American Hockey Federation to Hockey in Paraguay during this ceremony. The President of the Republic and the President of the Paraguayan Hockey Association made official the opening of the hockey pitch, performing the traditional cutting of the ribbon. And that gave hockey family income to the hockey pitch.



While everyone present entered the field, it belonged to the President of the Republic to play the first hit to the ball on the synthetic field. After I explain how the stick should be handle, with the stick resting

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on the floor, the President of the Republic reached down to place his hands on the stick, stood up, with his stick handled perfectly and gave his first shot at the ball, which was photographed by everyone.



A crowd of players and the general public began to take pictures for the first time stepping on the field, which was officially inaugurated.

Then an exhibition game between National team under 18 and under 16 against Racing Club of Argentina, who performed for the entire hockey family, that looked forward to play on the field their first game after this match exhibition. Much joy, lots of pictures, lots of smiles, many illusions that identified and focused on the first synthetic Paraguay Hockey field.



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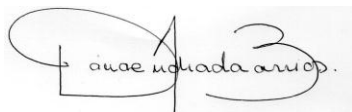
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In summary, Paraguay has a new story to start writing, having taken a major step with the inauguration of the first synthetic pitch. We need to work continuously advising hockey in this country to achieve the best use of all the circumstances that lead to the sustainable growth of the sport that joins us. The hockey family is very receptive to the advice we can give and like all developing group needs great motivation to fulfill the objectives set out during this visit. Note that the Paraguayan government is making first level investments and very significant for the sport in general, so the Panamerican Federation authorities should work very close to their government authorities to achieve greater focus on hockey as a main sport.

Transmitting the Hockey advantages allow the Government to redouble its current bet.

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