



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Thomas Bach
President

Memorial for Patrick Baumann
Buenos Aires, 14 October 2018

This is a sad day for the entire world of sport, as we remember our dear friend Patrick Baumann.

At this moment, we send our thoughts and all our sympathy to his family.

We all know Patrick as a man of boundless energy and unbridled enthusiasm. Everyone of us remembers how he inspired us all with his positive outlook, with his kind-hearted smile, with his zest for life and with his passion for sport. Patrick was always active, always right in the middle of the action.

We are all still in shock. It is hard to believe that Patrick, who was so full of life, is suddenly and unexpectedly taken from our midst.

All of us who had the privilege to know Patrick as a friend, valued him for his wonderful sense of humour and his optimism. I am sure everyone of us gathered here today can remember a moment, when we were touched and inspired by Patrick's positive energy. Sometimes one may have felt that he was not only able to inspire others but that he inspired even himself with his energy.

As a sports leader, Patrick brought the same enthusiasm and passion to everything he did. He was both a jovial friend and a determined leader who passionately believed in the cause of the Olympic Movement.

This is why we are gathered here today, right here on the field of play, on the 3x3 basketball court. Without Patrick and his unwavering belief to innovate and modernise, we would not have 3x3 basketball on the programme of the Youth Olympic Games or of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The passion of the athletes that we see on this court is also a reflection of Patrick's passion. This is why I am sure that Patrick wants the athletes to continue with their Youth Olympic tournament. This is why we want to honour Patrick on this very



basketball court. As a symbol of his achievements. As a symbol for what he believed in with all his heart. As a symbol of the sport that he loved so much.

Patrick showed time and again why he was such an inspiring leader for all sports. He had the unique ability to unite people behind his vision, to bring them together with his passion for sport. We saw this in his role as chair of the Evaluation Commissions for the Olympic Games 2024 and 2028 when he was instrumental in bringing Paris and Los Angeles together.

Another recent example of this ability comes from the engagement with the esports community. He was the key bridge builder between esports and the Olympic Movement. During the recent esports Forum, there were moments when I thought his energy would even get the better of him and he would become a dedicated gamer himself.

Il a joué un rôle clé pour amener les Jeux Olympiques de la Jeunesse d'hiver à Lausanne et a dirigé le comité d'organisation de Lausanne 2020 avec son énergie caractéristique. Le concept novateur imaginé pour les Jeux Olympiques de la Jeunesse d'hiver de Lausanne 2020 montre comment il a donné vie aux valeurs olympiques et les a transmises à une nouvelle génération. Nous savons tous combien cela comptait pour lui personnellement d'amener les Jeux Olympiques de la Jeunesse dans son pays natal.

Knowing the passion and enthusiasm that Patrick brought to everything he did, our ceremony today should not only be one of mourning and sadness. Let us also celebrate Patrick's life, his many achievements and his great contribution to the Olympic Movement. Even in this moment of sadness we should celebrate the Olympic spirit of friendship and optimism because these are the values that Patrick personified. This is what Patrick would want us to do.

We are grateful for his legacy. We feel privileged to have had him among us and to call him a friend. Together, we promise Patrick today that we will carry his legacy and enthusiasm to the future.

Farewell, Patrick. We will make you proud.

Speech by FIBA President Horacio Muratore

Dear Friends,

This is without any doubt the hardest speech that I have ever had to make.

Today is a terrible day not only for our basketball family, but for the entire sports movement.

First, on behalf of the entire FIBA family, I want to express our deepest sympathies and pass on our condolences to Patrick's wife Patricia, his two children, Bianca and Paul, their family and loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this very difficult time.

We all knew Patrick as FIBA's Secretary General, IOC Member, and all the other important roles he took as a true believer in sport and the power it has to change lives.

But Patrick was a lot more than that. He was a very close friend of mine and of so many others in the basketball family and the wider sport community.

Since 2002, when he was appointed Secretary General by the Central Board, his vision and enthusiasm drove FIBA forward in quantum leaps. Under his leadership, FIBA became a truly modern organization in the world of International Federations. When Patrick took office, there was less than 20 people working for FIBA. Today, there are more than 200 staff active working around the whole world.

Patrick was a visionary, and always had clear ideas about how to grow our sport. He was not afraid to "shake the tree", as he often liked to say.

For FIBA, Patrick was a true game changer. He was at the forefront of radical changes to our governance structure. He was instrumental in the process of creating 'ONE FIBA', and putting National Federations at the core of our organisation in a more efficient, democratic, transparent and robust structure.

Patrick had a vision and understood that for basketball to grow, we needed a clear strategy with everyone looking and heading in the same direction in the best interests of our beloved sport.

Thanks to Patrick's leadership, our community has a real home - The House of Basketball, FIBA's Headquarters in Mies, outside of Geneva.

One of his biggest success was a project driven by his personal conviction: the launch of 3x3.

From the very start, he was convinced, that this half-court version of basketball would bring more players and fans to our sport. He fought tirelessly to develop this urban style of play, even though many in the basketball community had strong doubts. I remember how happy and excited he was when, last year, in June, 3x3 was included as part of the Olympic Basketball program in Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

I felt the same happiness in November 2017, when we witnessed our first Qualification games for the FIBA Basketball World Cup that will be played next year in China. We started to work on this project in 2012! To have 80 countries playing at the same time, to feel the power of basketball right across the world was an achievement that Patrick was rightly proud of.

For all of this and for so much more, FIBA is forever indebted to Patrick.

Without doubt we would not be where we are today were it not for everything that he did. His unwavering commitment, tireless work ethic and pure passion for basketball mean he will forever have his place in FIBA's history.

Thanks to Patrick, FIBA is today a very strong organization, with a clear vision: to make basketball the world's most popular sports community.

Patrick has shown us the way, and we will carry his torch to achieve that goal, drawing on his inspiration to guide us every step of the way. This is his legacy and even these most heartfelt words cannot express basketball's gratitude.

Rest in Peace, Patrick.

Discurso del presidente de la FIBA, Horacio Muratore

Estimados amigos:

Sin duda alguna, este es el discurso más duro que he tenido que pronunciar en toda mi vida.

Hoy es un día terrible, no solo para nuestra familia del baloncesto, sino también para todo el movimiento deportivo.

En primer lugar y en nombre de toda la familia de la FIBA, deseo presentar mis más sentidas condolencias a la mujer de Patrick, Patricia, y a sus dos hijos, Bianca y Paul, así como al resto de su familia y seres queridos. Nuestros pensamientos y oraciones les acompañan durante este momento tan difícil.

Todos conocíamos a Patrick por su labor como secretario general de la FIBA y miembro del COI. Desempeñó, además, una serie de importantes puestos durante una carrera en la que demostró que creía apasionadamente en la capacidad del deporte para cambiar vidas.

Pero Patrick fue mucho más que eso. Fue muy buen amigo mío y de muchas otras personas en la familia del baloncesto y del deporte en general.

Desde su nombramiento por el Buró Central en 2002 como secretario general, su ambición y entusiasmo hicieron avanzar a la FIBA a pasos agigantados. Bajo su liderazgo, la FIBA se convirtió en una federación internacional con una organización genuinamente moderna. Cuando Patrick tomó posesión de este puesto, la FIBA solo empleaba a 20 personas. Hoy, cuenta con más de 200 empleados en todo el mundo.

Patrick fue un visionario, y siempre tuvo ideas muy claras sobre el desarrollo de nuestro deporte. En sus funciones, no tenía miedo de «sacudir el árbol», como a él le gustaba decir.

La labor de Patrick supuso un punto de inflexión para la FIBA, pues él se situó en la primera línea de una serie de cambios radicales a nuestra estructura. Su trabajo fue clave para la creación del programa ONE FIBA, que permitió situar a las federaciones nacionales en el corazón de nuestra organización mediante una estructura más eficaz, democrática, transparente y robusta.

Patrick tenía en mente un concepto bien definido y entendió que, para que el baloncesto se desarrollase, necesitábamos contar con una estrategia clara, en la que todos mirásemos y avanzásemos hacia la misma dirección al servicio de los intereses del deporte que tanto amamos.

Gracias a su liderazgo, nuestra comunidad dispone de un auténtico hogar, la Casa del Baloncesto, sede de la FIBA en Mies, a las afueras de la ciudad suiza de Ginebra.

Uno de sus mayores éxitos fue un proyecto impulsado por su convicción personal: el lanzamiento del 3x3.

Desde el primer momento, estaba convencido de que esta versión del baloncesto a media pista atraería a más jugadores y aficionados a nuestro deporte. Luchó sin descanso para desarrollar este juego urbano, pese al escepticismo de muchos miembros de la comunidad del baloncesto. Recuerdo su alegría y emoción cuando, en junio del año pasado, el baloncesto 3x3 se incluyó en el programa de los Juegos Olímpicos de Tokio 2020.

En noviembre de 2017 me embargó la misma alegría cuando presenciamos los primeros partidos de clasificación para la Copa Mundial de Baloncesto FIBA, que se disputará el próximo año en China. ¡Habíamos comenzado a trabajar en este proyecto en 2012! Patrick sentía un merecido orgullo por haber logrado que 80 países compitiesen al mismo tiempo y que la fuerza del baloncesto se sintiese en todo el mundo.

Por todo ello y mucho más, la FIBA siempre se sentirá en deuda con Patrick.

Sin duda alguna, no habríamos llegado tan lejos no haber sido por todo lo que hizo. Su compromiso inquebrantable, su inagotable ética del trabajo y su pasión por el baloncesto le han valido un lugar en la historia de la FIBA.

Gracias a Patrick, la FIBA es hoy una organización robusta con un objetivo claro: lograr que el baloncesto sea la comunidad deportiva más popular del mundo.

Patrick nos ha marcado el camino. Tomaremos su testigo para lograr dicho objetivo, dejando que su inspiración nos guíe en cada paso. Ese

es su legado, y ni siquiera las palabras más sinceras pueden expresar la gratitud que siente el mundo del baloncesto.

Descanse en paz, Patrick.