

# Let The Games Begin

By Paul Borja

1994

The first Micronesian Games, 1969, held in Saipan of the Northern Marianas, was borne out of concern for the youth and people of Micronesia.

To help the youth and the people cope with change, the members of the Second and Third Congresses of Micronesia saw sports as educational, as one means of helping society grow and progress, as a way to build character and as a mechanism for unifying the islands.

Micronesia in those days was in many ways quite different than it is today. Then, Micronesia was considered those districts in the United States-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In the TT were the Marianas -but not Guam-, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Yap, Truk (now Chuuk), Ponape (now Pohnpei) which also included Kusaie (now Kosrae).

Members of the Congress saw that their islands were moving rapidly in many ways - outside influences were more and more affecting their islands and cultures. Since the beginning of the 20th Century, islanders had to weather and to endure a societal typhoon of changing values - from traditional, to Japanese, to American to a mixture of all those.

And it was at this point when the Congress passed its resolution exploring a Micronesian Olympic Games. In that resolution, the Congress requested the TT High Commissioner to initiate and coordinate a territory-wide program of competitive sports, games and other recreational activities.

From that desire to help the people and youth of Micronesia blossomed the First Micronesian Olympics which were held in Saipan in July 1969. Heading up the committee was Felix Rabauliman, ably assisted by Elias Okamura and Al Snyder. The committee dedicated the Games to the members of the 2nd and 3rd Congresses of Micronesia for their foresight in helping the youth of Micronesia.

The Games were to be held every three years after 1969, but various reasons - lack of political status development, lack of economic development, lack of funding - eliminated any opportunity to do so.

In 1988, interest in another Micronesia-wide Games was revived in a curious way, almost like a relay race of some sort. Mobil Oil of Guam/Micronesia was approached by the late Ben Munoz, president of the Guam Amateur Baseball League, and former Tamuning (Guam) Mayor Greg Calvo, Sr., league vice president, about sponsoring a regional baseball tournament.

Munoz, also a longtime official for Little League in the region, sold Mobil on the idea by reminiscing about the action and atmosphere of the 1969 Micronesian Games baseball tourney. In making his proposal to Mobil, Munoz peaked the corporation's interest in a more



comprehensive games.

Mobil took the ball and ran, so to speak. That year, in Saipan, the first Mobil Games was played. Featured were a team from Palau, one from the Northern Marianas, and two Guam squads from the GABL.

During those Mobil Games, longtime statistician Frank Palacios of the Northern Marianas brought out his original scorecards for the 1969 Micronesian Games baseball competition. Tournament announcers and those on radio used Palacios' information, giving audiences tidbits here and there about the 1969 Games. (Coincidentally, Palau won the 1969 gold as well as the Mobil Games title in 1988.)

In Saipan in 1989, Ed Manibusan, Bill Sakovich, Frank Rosario and Bob Coldeen (who announced the radio broadcast of the '88 Mobil Games) began talking about the possibility of a second Micronesian Games. Their talks culminated in Coldeen writing to the Northern Marianas governor, and the men got a supportive go-ahead.

They organized a coordinating committee and recruited Duty Free Shoppers, Ltd., the Shimizu Corp., and Mobil (whose officials were already primed about the potential for a regional games) as major sponsors.

So in 1990, the Second Micronesian Games happened. The 1990 organizing committee successfully prepared for the event by remembering the unity and friendships made through the 1969 Games; they had not forgotten how the people and youth of Micronesia benefitted so much. By all accounts, the Saipan Games were a tremendous success and true to the spirit of the original Games in 1969.

Those 1990 Games not only revived the Games themselves but also fanned the flames of friendship among the athletes and rekindled a unity among the islands not felt since 1969.

And it was in the high spirits of those 1990 Games that Guam accepted the great honor to host the 1994 Games.

Now, in remembering the legacy of the 1969 Games, in continuing the success of 1990, the people and athletes of Guam welcome old "amigos" (friends) and they also eagerly await the making of new friends in the 1994 Games.

And as Guam was the newcomer in 1990, the Republic of Nauru joins the rest of Micronesia in Guam in 1994 as the newest member of the Micronesian Games.

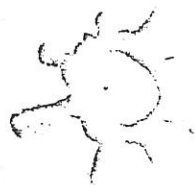
In honoring the memories of the 1969 and 1990 Games, in hosting the Third Micronesian Games, Guam does its part to enhance the unity of Micronesia and to provide a tremendous venue for peace and goodwill.

Let the Games begin!

# 1969



# 1990



# 1994



# In The Beginning

By Paul Borja

In 1990, 21 years after the first Micronesian Games, the Second Games were held, unfurling its athletic splendor for the second time in Saipan. More than 900 athletes, coaches and officials participated in the competitions held throughout Saipan.

Guam, not part of the former Trust Territory and thus not a part of the original Games, and Palau, the sole remaining member of the former TT, were the dominant teams in 1990.

Guam's athletes harvested 54 medals - 21 gold, 20 silver and 13 bronze - just ahead of Palau's team members who tallied 44 medals - 19 gold, 10 silver, and 15 bronze.

Other team totals were Pohnpei with 38 (9 gold, 17 silver, and 12 bronze); the Northern Marianas with 32 (12 gold, 11 silver, and 9 bronze); the Marshall Islands with 19 (7 gold, 5 silver, and 7 bronze); Chuuk with 15 (one gold, 6 silver and 8 bronze); and Kosrae with a bronze.

And just as it was in 1969, it was a man from Pohnpei who gave the performance of the 1990 Games. Twenty one years after Ishiro Hairens dominated the long distance events for four golds in the 1969 Games, fellow Pohnpeian Elias Rodriguez captured four golds in 1990. Rodriguez forged his golden performances in the 800 meters, 1500 meters, 5000 meters and the marathon. Rodriguez, who missed a fifth gold in the 10,000 meters by one half second to Yong Choi of the Northern Marianas, was named male Outstanding Athlete of the Games for his efforts.

And there were others who gave outstanding individual performances in the Second Games. Two women, each of whom captured at least four gold medals, were also named as the Games' outstanding athletes: Marie Benito of Guam, and Cindy Friesz of the Marshall Islands.

Leading Guam's charge onto the medal stand was track and field runner Benito. She ran for the gold in the 800 meters, the 1500 meters, the 5000 meters

and 10,000 meters. This was Benito's first international competition.

Ngirailab was one of Palau's stars, snagging golds in the shot put, the discus, the high jump as well as the long jump. Joining her in Palau's domination of track and field were Daniel Adachi, Anelize Emiliano, and Foti Cooper.

Speedster Adachi grabbed two gold medals in the 100 meters and 200 meters, then helped teammates for the gold-winning relays in the 4x100 and 4x400.

Emiliano contributed to Palau's golden count with gold in the 100 meters and 200 meters, then gathered a third gold as she anchored Palau's 4x100 relay.

Palau simply outclassed competition in the field events. Along with Ngirailab's golds were the pair of gold medals claimed by strongman Cooper for the shot put and discus.

Overall, Pohnpei led the teams with 23 swimming medals, followed by Guam's 20, and 18 by both the Northern Marianas and the Marshalls. Host Northern Marianas struck gold in swimming. Sakovich, the sister of golden boy Jonathan Sakovich of the 1987 South Pacific Games, and Rosaleen Marquez represented the commonwealth well.

At home at the swimming venue in Marpi, Sakovich claimed golds in the 200 meters freestyle, 200 meter individual medley, 400 meter freestyle, and the 800 meter freestyle. She won a silver in the 100 meter butterfly. A fifth gold came when Sakovich anchored the women's 200 meter free style relay.

The Marshalls, led by Cindy Friesz and Glee Garlie, were blessed with bounty at the Games' swimming events. Nipping Sakovich by almost a full second for the 100 butterfly gold, Friesz, also tallied gold in the 50 meter free, the 50 meter butterfly and the 100 meter freestyle.

Friesz, the Marshalls' supervisor of pools and beaches, also took another gold - her fifth of the Games - for the 200 meter medley relay as well as a bronze medal for the 400 meter freestyle.

Garlie snapped up a gold in the 100 meter breast stroke but, like the Northern Marianas' Marquez, for the rest of the





Games had the misfortune to swim in events against either Friesz or Sakovich.

Garlie's tally in the Games for individual events was one gold and five silver. She also captured another gold by anchoring the Marshalls' 200 meter medley relay team.

Marquez of the Marianas swam to golds in the 50 meter and 100 meter backstroke, and the 200 meter freestyle relays; silvers in the 50 meter butterfly and 200 meter medley relay, and a bronze in the 100 butterfly.

Also contributing to the CNMI gold count was Michael Villagomez, who scrambled to first place in the 100 meter butterfly and the 200 meter individual medley.

For Guam, swimmer Glenn Diaz shone golden in the Games. He added to Guam's total medal count by scorching the competition for three golds (in the 100 meter free, 50 meter and 100 meter breast stroke) and a bronze in the 50 free.

Palau's Rosendo Skang also was a swimming standout in the Games, carrying on a family tradition. The younger brother of 1969 Games stars Katsusi and Shobert Skang, Rosendo powered to golds in the 50 meter and 100 meter backstroke events and also took a bronze in the 200 meter medley relay.

Pohnpei's Mariano Kilmete took the Micronesian All-Around gold by scoring first in three of the five competition segments. Following him for silver and bronze were two Palauan athletes, Skang and Rekemmesik Becheselchad. Skang fell just short of defending his older brother Katsusi's gold in the same event in the 1969 Games.

In fishing, Jimmy Orak of the Northern Marianas hoisted the heaviest amount of fish to take the gold. Claiming silver was Adolip Penendios of Pohnpei, and bronze went to Jonathan Watson of Guam.

Where swimming was a toss-up among teams, it was quite the opposite in table tennis and tennis where Guam swept the competition to capture the gold in all eight events.

In tennis, it was a family affair for Guam. Longtime champion Qui Huynh led

the team with a gold in singles and then joined Vic April to take the men's doubles. In women's tennis, Qui's daughter, Wendy Nguyen Huynh seized the singles crown of gold and then teamed up with Anita Feria for more gold in women's doubles.

What happened in tennis would be *deja vu* in table tennis as Guam again rolled. In singles, Guam went 1-2-3 for the gold, silver and bronze. Cristobal Enriquez won first place followed by Henry Magallanes and Frank Gumataotao. In doubles, Magallanes teamed up with Ed Pabalinas for the gold.

In women's table tennis, Guam again went 1-2-3 as Debbie Felipe took gold, Josephine Espiritu captured silver, and Crisalda Enriquez claimed bronze in singles competitions. In doubles, sisters Crisalda and Nancy Enriquez paired up to turn back the Northern Marianas duo of Patricia Yap and Boksook Hwang for the gold.

In the team sports, Palau beat back a strong Guam squad for the baseball gold. Palau recorded two shutouts, allowed only 11 runs and scored 38 in the five-game tournament while successfully defending its 1969 gold medal.

In volleyball, Guam's young squads dominated both men and women's tournaments. Guam's men steamrolled to a straight set victory over the Northern Marianas to finish undefeated at 6-0. Chuuk was awarded the bronze.

In women's volleyball, it again was *deja vu* for Guam. The women scrambled to the gold medal over a stubborn Pohnpei team. Bronze went to the Northern Marianas.

Guam also easily gunned down opponents in men's basketball as Joey Gogue and John King led the tournament in scoring. The Guam squad took the gold while going 5-0. Pohnpei garnered the silver and Palau claimed the bronze.

The Saipan Games were memorable for all the athletes who participated. Now that the Micronesian Games are a permanent part of our region we can all look forward to higher levels of sporting achievement.

# 1969



# 1990



# 1994



## MICRONESIAN GAMES

Peter S. Calvo, Co-Chairman  
Paul Shimizu, Co-Chairman

### History of the Games

#### **1969 Games-Saipan**

Trust Territories participation

#### **1990 Games-Saipan**

Eight islands participating, Guam invited

Guam designated as host for '94 Games

#### **1992 Micronesian Games Council meeting-Guam**

Charter

Officers

13 Sports approved for '94 Games

#### **1993 Micronesian Games Council meeting-Guam**

Games particulars

Nauru invitation to become member of Council

#### **Micronesian Games Organizing Committee**

1991 Chairmen appointed

1992 Council chartered

1992 Organizing Committee formed

1993 Executive Order signed establishing Coordinating Committee

March 1993, Announcement of MOBIL as official sponsor

June 1993, First round of Team Continental Sports Clinics

July 1993, Presentation at APIL Annual Assembly

August 1993, Second round of Team Continental Sports Clinics

August 1993, Beginning of PDN Countdown to '94 weekly column

August 31, 1993, Presentation to Tumon Bay Rotary Club



# 1994

## Micronesian Games Calendar of Events

	Saturday March 26	Sunday March 27	Monday March 28	Tuesday March 29	Wednesday March 30	Thursday March 31	Friday April 1	Saturday April 2
Opening								
Athletics								
Baseball								
Basketball								
Lawn Tennis								
Micronesian All-around								
Outrigger Canoeing								
Softball								
Swimming								
Table Tennis								
Underwater Fishing								
Volleyball								
Weightlifting								
Wrestling								
Closing								

This is a preliminary schedule of events as of July 28, 1993.

**MICRONESIAN GAMES ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**  
P.O. BOX 2950•Agana, GUAM 96921  
Tel: (671) 472-8931•Fax: (671) 477-4826

**The Economic Benefits  
as it relates to Corporate Sponsorship of the  
Micronesian Games 1994**

**NEW FRONTIERS** • The Micronesian Games is an opportunity for sponsors to explore new frontiers in promotions. International sports has quickly become a major business venture, and in Micronesia, it is no different.

**A CELEBRATION** • The 3rd Micronesian Games will be a gathering of over 1,500 athletes from throughout the Micronesian region in friendly sporting competition and cultural interaction. The Games will showcase premier athletes from throughout the region, many of whom will be participating in their first international competition.

**THE STAGE** • There are over 2,000 islands in Micronesia, of which 96 are inhabited. Micronesia encompasses a geographical area (water included) of three million square miles, equivalent to that of the continental United States. Aside from the 8 member islands associated with the Micronesian Games Council, there are 2 nations that desire entry into the Games. The island nations of Nauru and Kiribati are eligible for entry into the Council.

**POPULATION** • Participating in the Micronesian Games are 8 member islands. The approximate population of the 8 member islands are Guam-133,152; CNMI-43,345 pop.; Marshall Islands-43,417; Palau-15,122 Yap-10,886; Chuuk-48,853 pop.; Pohnpei-33,346; Kosrae-7,435; bringing the grand total population to 335,556. With the possible addition of Nauru at 9,300 and Kiribati at 72,298, this would bring the regional total to 417,154.

**COMMUNICATIONS** • In the days before modern times, the only interaction throughout the region was via the outrigger canoe. Despite the many miles of ocean between islands, there was and always remains a close link that bonds all the peoples in Micronesia. Today, modern communications networks are evident in all the islands. Satellite hook-ups are available in the major islands with live CNN and other international broadcasts. Telephone communications between the islands is frequent and reliable. Each island has the convenience of local radio stations. TV broadcast stations are also available, with some fortunate islands having two or more. Additionally, radio transmissions to several islands can be coordinated simultaneously.



**AIR TRAVEL** • With the advent of modern telecommunications, air transportation has also seen a dramatic increase in Micronesia. There are frequent connecting flights throughout the islands, and in many cases daily. Continental Micronesia is the premier carrier of Micronesia. Air Nauru also provides connecting flights between the FSM and the Marshalls. There are also smaller commuter airlines which service the smaller island states.

**TOURISM** • Along with increased travel, Micronesia has opened its doors to the explorer. Tourism is beginning to play a major role in the development of Micronesia, which has been described as the New Frontier. Micronesian charm not only describes the people but also the Nan Madol Ruins in Pohnpei, the Rock Islands of Belau and the underwater dive wrecks of Chuuk which annually attract thousands of visitors from throughout the world. Guam enjoys a healthy tourism market, capturing over 1 million tourists annually, the majority coming from Japan. As tourists seek new sights to explore, so too do international sporting events seek new venues to stage their competitions.

**DEVELOPMENT** • The Northern Pacific Region is in its infancy stages of sports development. Government officials realize the importance of sport and have established government supported sports councils within their islands. All member islands have the potential to participate in the South Pacific Games, while, only Guam & Saipan have competed in those Games, the Micronesian Games provide a forum for sports development in the region.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER** • Guam is host to the 3rd Micronesian Games, the first major sporting competition to be held on Guam since the 1975 South Pacific Games. The Games organization is a cooperative effort of Guam's private, public and military organizations. Executive Order 93-01 established the 1994 Micronesian Games Coordinating Committee. Governor Joseph F. Ada has appointed Mr. Peter Calvo and Mr. Paul Shimizu to co-chair the enormous task of insuring the success of the Games in Guam.

**COLLABORATION** • The Organizing Committee is working hand in hand with the Guam National Olympic Committee (Guam NOC), member of the Micronesian Games Council, to insure that the technical aspects of the Games are met.



**INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION** • As a member island of the Micronesian Games Council who is recognized by the International Olympic Committee, the Guam NOC has received patronage of the Games by the International Olympic Committee.

**RESOURCES** • The Guam NOC is utilizing many of its resources in the technical development of sports, athletes and officials on Guam and in the region. Sports Seminars conducted locally have been and will continue to emphasize Micronesian Games Sports. Neighboring islands have been invited to participate in these clinics. In addition, the Guam NOC is currently developing a schedule of clinics to travel throughout the islands in various sports, at the request of the member islands.

**COMPETITION** • There will be thirteen sports contested at the 1994 Games. These include: athletics, baseball, basketball, lawn tennis, Micronesian All-around, outrigger canoeing, softball, swimming, table tennis, underwater spearfishing, volleyball, weightlifting and wrestling. The 1994 Games may also have demonstration sports.

**SHOWCASE** • The primary objective of including these many sports is to showcase the athletes and their abilities in our region. Furthermore, the opportunity to project confident administrative ability in the operations of these Games will enhance Guam's opportunities to host future international events. Hosting such events will provide marketing and sales opportunities to our local business community.

**SUPPORT** • Funding for the Games will be raised privately through sponsorships, donations and licenses while government support will primarily concentrate on facilities improvements, logistics, and other aspects of the Games operations and administration. Sponsorship packages will emphasize the joint partnership of the Sponsor and the community.

**ACHIEVEMENT** • The opportunity for Micronesian Games sponsors is overwhelming. Because of the widespread enthusiasm of participation at these Games by all the member islands, it is fast becoming a regional marketing tool. Government and community leaders are fully supportive and quickly maneuvering resources to provide the best climate of preparation for competition for their athletes. Athletes are training vigorously in hopes of making their national team and having the opportunity to compete against the best in the region. Providing an olympic-style competition with the Micronesian Games will be, perhaps the highest achievement in sports competition for many Micronesian

athletes. Experiences shared by athletes competing in the Games will greatly impact each of them and their families creating a memory that will live with them for generations.

**COMMITMENT** • The long-term benefits of sponsoring any portion of the Micronesian Games is equivalent to the handshake of a longtime friend, or in Micronesia, the warm invitation to stay as long as you wish. It is inevitable that the 1994 Games will be talked about for many years to come. To have your company's name associated with such a positive, regional-wide endeavor will only enhance your company's image in Micronesia. Your support demonstrates a sincere commitment, not only to the development of sports but also commitment to the grander vision of development throughout Micronesia.

**THE INVITATION** • Guam has invited the entire region to gather for a week-long celebration of sport and goodwill. Play your part in the Micronesian dream . . . the Micronesian Games.

**Celebrate Sports! Celebrate the Micronesian Games!**

## SPORTS

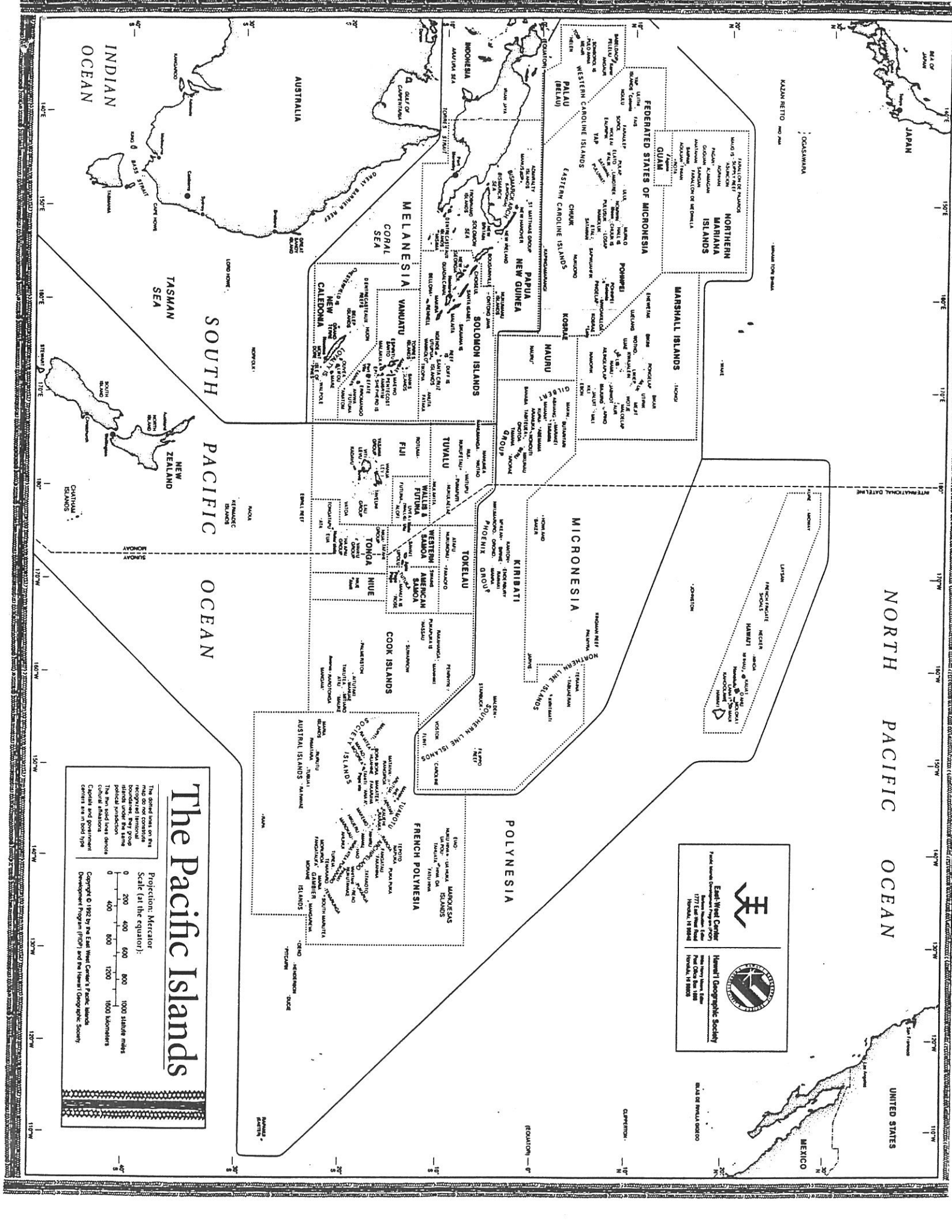
F.	<b>Sport</b>	<b>#of Representatives</b>	<b>Medals G-S-B</b>			<b>Totals</b>
1.	Athletics - M/W	20	42	42	42	126
2.	Baseball - M	23	20	20	20	60
3.	Basketball - M/W	28	24	24	24	72
4.	Lawn Tennis - M/W	10	17	17	17	51
5.	Micronesian All-Around-M/W	5	2	2	2	6
6.	Outrigger Canoeing - M/W	16	18	18	18	54
7.	Softball - M/W	34	30	30	30	90
8.	Swimming - M/W	20	35	35	35	105
9.	Table Tennis - M/W	9	17	17	17	51
10.	Underwater Spearfishing -M	4	1	1	1	3
11.	Volleyball - M/W	28	24	24	24	72
12.	Weightlifting - M	13	10	10	10	30
13.	Wrestling - M	13	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>30</u>
	Team Officials	<u>8</u>	<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>
	<b>Total per team</b>	<b>231</b>	Extra			<u>100</u>
	# of member islands	<u>X 8</u>	<b>Total</b>			<u>850</u>
	<b>Total # of participants</b>	<u><b>1848</b></u>				

Note: Sports played determined by host member island. Must have minimum of four (4) member islands participating in sport to be played. Participants per member island may be reduced due to these factors. M-MEN; W-WOMEN

Medals are for G-Gold, S-Silver, and B-Bronze in all categories of sporting competition. This may be reduced if competition categories are not filled.

### Member Island Team Officials

1. President - National Sports Committee
2. Vice President - National Sports Committee
3. Secretary General - National Sports Committee
4. Team Manager
5. Medical
6. Medical
7. Team Official
8. Team Attache/Liaison (residing on Guam)




# The Pacific Islands


Projection: Mercator  
Scale (at the equator):

0 200 400 600 800 1000 statute miles  
0 400 800 1200 1600 kilometers

The shaded areas on this map do not constitute recognized international boundaries. The shaded areas represent political jurisdiction under the same political jurisdiction. The thin solid lines denote colonial boundaries. Capitals and government centers are marked with stars.



East-West Center  
Foreign Service Development Program (1970)  
Bureau of Ocean Affairs  
1777 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20540



Hawaii Geographic Society  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
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