

**NEW JERSEY OLYMPIAN DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION  
STUDY COMMISSION**

**FINAL REPORT**

**December, 1989**

NEW JERSEY OLYMPIAN DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION  
STUDY COMMISSION

Members

Senator Thomas F. Cowan - *Chairman*  
Thirty-Second Legislative District

Ralph A. Dougan - *Vice-Chairman*  
Executive Director, Governor's Council on Physical  
Fitness and Sports

Assemblyman Joseph Charles, Jr.  
Thirty-First Legislative District

Marilyn Laurie  
New Jersey State Chairman  
United States Olympic Committee  
(through January, 1989)

Bradley S. Brewster  
Hopewell Township, New Jersey

Milton Campbell  
Plainfield, New Jersey

Thomas Curtin  
Mendham, New Jersey

Theresa Greutz  
Rutgers University  
Piscataway, New Jersey

Douglas Heir  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

William E. Simon  
Morristown, New Jersey

Former Members

Peter P. Garibaldi  
Monroe, New Jersey

Anthony M. Villane, Jr.  
Long Branch, New Jersey

David J. Rosen, *Secretary*

## INTRODUCTION

Senator Thomas F. Cowan first introduced legislation to establish this commission in 1984. A primary motivation for the bill was the experience of Milt Campbell, a Plainfield resident who won the gold medal in the 1956 Olympics. Milt Campbell's great accomplishment remained unrecognized by the State of New Jersey for more than a quarter of a century.

The people of New Jersey have enormous ability and have achieved great success in all realms of endeavor. We have many of the world's most outstanding scientists, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, physicians and athletes. Yet for too many years we have failed to view the accomplishments of New Jersey citizens with a full measure of pride or to offer on a state-wide basis the encouragement which fosters future success. Clearly these realities are changing. New Jersey residents are demonstrating great pride in the accomplishments of our state and our fellow citizens.

The focus and concern of this commission is one dimension of this growing sense of pride in New Jersey. New Jersey is the home state of over 57 Olympic gold medal winners and hundreds of Olympic athletes. New Jersey is also the home of many of the athletes who will make us proud in the Olympic games of 1992 and beyond. It is time that we establish state policies to ensure both the recognition of current and past Olympic athletes from New Jersey and the development of the next generation of Olympic stars.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This commission was charged by the Legislature and the Governor to conduct "a comprehensive study of the ways in which the development and recognition of New Jersey Olympic athletes may be encouraged." We held a series of public hearings across the state and engaged in consultations with a broad range of citizens. While we were privileged to have several experts sitting as members of this commission, many of the best ideas came from the athletes, coaches, supporters of the Olympic movement, and other citizens of this state who came before us.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the members of the commission who gave of their time and commitment to the completion of this study. I am especially appreciative of the work of Ralph Dougan, our vice chairman. I also want to thank two former legislative colleagues - Peter Garibaldi and Doc Villane - who were original members of this commission and served with distinction.

Thomas F. Cowan, Chairman

FINDINGS  
AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS

## RECOGNITION OF OLYMPIC ATHLETES

1. The New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame is the most appropriate mechanism for honoring New Jersey's most outstanding Olympic athletes.
2. The Hall of Fame should be encouraged to adopt selection procedures which will ensure recognition of amateur athletes in all Olympic sports.

A primary motivation for creating this commission was the desire to see an appropriate recognition of the nearly 60 New Jersey residents who have won Olympic gold medals and the hundreds of other New Jersey residents who have participated in the Olympic Games. During the time that this commission was in operation a series of related events have permitted the commission to shift its focus away from a "bricks and mortar" tribute to our Olympic athletes. Plans are now well under way for the establishment of a New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame. We support this project and do not believe it would be wise or beneficial to duplicate these efforts.

We have been assured that the New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame will provide prominent attention to our Olympic athletes. We hope to work with the Hall of Fame to ensure fair representation for participants in those Olympic sports which may not receive the media coverage and notoriety of other sports.

3. *The state should provide financial support to help Glassboro State College establish a suitable location for the display of its collection of New Jersey Olympic materials.*

During its period of study the commission visited the campus of Glassboro State College and was impressed by the college's collection of materials on New Jersey's Olympic athletes. We commend the people at Glassboro for their athletes. We commend the people at Glassboro for their efforts and believe that the recognition of our Olympic athletes would be enhanced by a more appropriate showcase for these materials. Modest financial assistance would permit Glassboro to include provisions for a display gallery in a building currently being designed for the campus. The establishment of such a gallery would help ensure that all regions of the state are part of our recognition of Olympic athletes.

## GARDEN STATE GAMES

4. The Garden State Games should receive a state aid grant of \$250,000 per year, with an additional \$125,000 in State aid to be made available annually on a 1-to-1 match with private funds.

The first Garden State Games were conducted in 1983 to provide for Statewide competition for New Jersey athletes. In 1988, the games included 12,000 athletes who ranged in age from six to 68. They competed in 28 different individual and team sports. In most sports regional qualifying events precede the finals which are conducted at Rutgers University. The Commission believes that the Garden State Games are an outstanding partnership between the public and private sectors to encourage grass roots athletic activity, to provide recognition and encouragement to outstanding New Jersey athletes and to foster state pride.

While New Jersey has been increasing public support for the Garden State Games, we spend far less per capita and per athlete than do other states with similar programs. The commission recommends that the State's basic support for the Garden State Games remain at the fiscal year 1990 level of \$250,000. In addition the commission recommends that the state provide an additional \$125,000 if the Garden State Games can match that amount with private funds.



## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS

5. *The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports should be continued as a statutory body.*

The Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports was originally established by Executive Order No. 19 in 1982 as the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. Two years later, Executive Order No. 82 expanded the council's mission and amended its title to include sports.

With its 60 council members and small but effective staff, the council has played a major role in promoting and coordinating physical fitness and sports activities throughout the state. The council's role can be strengthened through the adoption of legislation which will ensure the council's continuation.

6. *The Governor's Council should be charged with attracting and subsidizing world class athletic events in New Jersey, until such time as a nonprofit sports corporation is in place to assume this role.*

The commission believes that New Jersey should seek to attract world class athletic events to New Jersey. The commission also believes that a private nonprofit entity (as is proposed in recommendation No. 12 below) is the most appropriate mechanism for attracting these events. However, until such time as a New Jersey Sports Corporation is established and operating, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports should work with other groups to fill this important role. A model for such activity was the council's role in the designation of the New Jersey Waterfront Marathon as the 1988 United States Olympic trials.

7. The Governor's Council should prepare an annual report on and accounting of all State expenditures to support amateur athletics.

The state provides modest levels of support for amateur athletic activity through various departments and programs. This report recommends an increase in both private and state funding for amateur sports in New Jersey. The commission believes that if the taxpayers are being asked to contribute more to these activities, they are entitled to comprehensive and uniform accounting of such expenditures. We see the Governor's Council as the most appropriate entity to prepare such an annual report.

## FACILITIES

8. *New Jersey needs to provide facilities which are suitable for world class competitions and to upgrade other facilities for amateur athletics.*

A recurrent theme in the testimony before the commission was the inadequacy of facilities for amateur athletics in the state. Witnesses testified to major national and international events that would have been held in New Jersey if an appropriate facility had been available. Other witnesses lamented the fact that the running track which they had used in their youth was gone and the children in their city no longer have the opportunity to run on a track.

New Jersey does not have a single facility which is appropriate for hosting a national or world event in track and field or swimming.

9. *Rutgers, The State University, located in the geographic center of the state, would be the most desirable site for world class facilities. A working group should be established including the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and appropriate Rutgers officials to inventory needs and examine the feasibility of shared facilities.*

There was a clear consensus that the Rutgers University campus in Middlesex County would be the best site for the premier track and swimming facilities that are needed in New Jersey. Rutgers is our State University. It is located in the geographic center of the state, and it is readily accessible to transportation routes. In addition, facilities constructed or expanded at Rutgers could be used by the university as well as by others.

While there is much to commend Rutgers as a locus for new or expanded facilities, significant logistical and financial issues must be resolved. Who will own the facilities? Who will operate and maintain them? Who will control the scheduling of events and who receives priority use? The commission recommends that a joint effort to explore these issues begin immediately.

10. The State colleges should be considered as possible regional sites for upgraded athletic facilities that might be used jointly by the colleges and other amateur athletic groups, including high school teams.

The commission believes that in the same way that Rutgers might serve as the site for the state's major athletic facilities, the State colleges should become regional centers with high quality facilities for use both by the colleges and amateur athletes.

11. The State should fund amateur athletic facilities at an annual level equal to or greater than the current sales tax revenues derived from admissions to athletic events in the state.

The commission believes that funding for amateur athletic facilities in the state must come from a range of sources. Private fund-raising will play a critical role, but the commission believes that the state should be playing a more significant role. To date, state support for athletic facilities has been modest and variable. The commission suggests that state support should at least reflect the sales tax revenues derived from sports events in New Jersey. A preliminary analysis completed for the commission suggests that this level is approximately \$4 million per year.

## SPORTS CORPORATION

12. The creation of a private nonprofit sports corporation is highly desirable and should be encouraged. The corporation could generate financial support for New Jersey athletes who have the potential for world class performance and assume responsibility for financing and attracting major athletic events.

While the state can and should play a useful role to facilitate the further development of amateur sports in New Jersey, amateur sports is fundamentally and appropriately a private undertaking. Many of the witnesses appearing before the commission underscored this theme and pointed to the success of private groups such as the Indiana Sports Corporation. In Indiana and elsewhere, corporate and individual supporters of sports joined together to create organizations which provide financial and organizational assistance to amateur athletics.

The commission sees a New Jersey Sports Corporation as the most appropriate vehicle for financing and attracting major amateur athletic events to the state. We also believe that the corporation can play a role in providing or identifying sources of financial support for individual New Jersey athletes who are or may become world class athletes.

Many corporations and individuals within New Jersey have been supportive of amateur athletics and individual athletes. The commission believes that it is now time for these corporations and individuals to join together and to broaden this support.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

13. Current statutory requirements concerning physical education instruction in public schools should be retained.

New Jersey law now requires that all public school students in grades 1-12 take at least 2 1/2 hours of physical education and health per week (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-8). On January 10, 1989, Governor Thomas H. Kean proposed the abolition of this requirement for high school students. The commission opposes any change in this requirement. The physical development and health of school children is a very important factor in their ability to succeed in the classroom and in adult life. Ample evidence suggests that children are less physically fit now than in past. This is not the time to deemphasize physical education.

14. As part of the physical education curriculum, students should be exposed to as many Olympic sports as possible.

The commission believes that physical education classes should include a larger number of Olympic sports so as to make the children more aware of the range of athletic options. While some Olympic sports, such as luge or biathlon, may be impractical in gym class, others could enhance those courses .

15. Local recreation and athletic programs are important and should be supported by municipalities and boards of education.

The commission recognizes that school boards and municipal governing bodies faces difficult choices when allocating always scarce financial resources. The commission believes, however, that disproportionate cuts in recreation and sports programs are unwise.

## OLYMPICS

16. New Jersey should establish a state goal of hosting the Pan American or Olympic Games.

New Jersey, as a great state with an outstanding athletic tradition and located in the geographic and transportation center of the highly populated eastern corridor, is a most appropriate location for the Pan American and Olympic Games. The economic and other benefits which accrue to a host state justify this goal. The vigor of our economy and the dedication of our people make this a realistic goal.

Given the long lead time required for selection of Olympic and Pan American hosts and the facilities improvements which New Jersey must undertake, the commission urges the Governor to appoint a committee of distinguished New Jerseyans to begin the process.

17. New Jersey should provide for a voluntary \$1 check-off on the State income tax form to facilitate donations to the United States Olympic Committee.

Voluntary contributions to the United States Olympic Committee are facilitated by a check-off provision in California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Rhode Island and Virginia.

New Jersey currently provides a voluntary contribution check-off on the State's Gross Income Tax for the support of the "Endangered and Nongame Species of Wildlife Conservation Fund" and the "Children's Trust Fund."

## COMMISSION

18. *The life of the commission should be extended for 24 months to allow the commission to monitor the implementation of its report.*

This report contains a number of recommendations that will be considered by the Governor, Legislature, the private sector, and others. We believe that an extension of the commission for two years beyond its December 31, 1989 expiration date will allow the commission to sustain a dialogue with these actors during the report's implementation phase.

This continuation of the commission would not require additional staffing or appropriations.

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***Sixteen of the commission's eighteen recommendations were adopted unanimously, with nine of the ten members supporting each of the other two recommendations.***

***The vote on recommendations 1-3, 5-12, and 14-18 was 10 in the affirmative, none in the negative.***

***The vote on recommendation 4 was nine in the affirmative and one in the negative (Heir voting in the negative),***

***The vote on recommendation 13 was nine in the affirmative and none in the negative (Laurie abstaining).***



APPENDIX A

LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION

CHAPTER 108, LAWS OF 1986

**AN ACT** creating the New Jersey Olympian Development and Recognition Study Commission and making an appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The Legislature finds and determines that:

a. The citizens of New Jersey shared the excitement and pride of our nation over the success of the United States Olympic team at the 1984 summer games in Los Angeles;

b. New Jersey is the home state of over 55 Olympic gold medalists and over 150 Olympic athletes, among whom are Milt Campbell, the 1956 decathlon champion, who is regarded as the State's greatest athlete, and Abel Kiviat the oldest living Olympic medalist;

c. These athletes, who have represented the State in Olympic games with dedication and distinction, have not been properly recognized for their outstanding athletic ability and accomplishments;

d. There is a need in the State to provide motivation, support, and opportunities for young New Jersey athletes who aspire to prepare and train for Olympic competition in the future; and

e. It is, therefore, proper and necessary that a commission be created to study and recommend way to implement the development and recognition of New Jersey Olympic athletes.

2. There is created a commission to be known as the New Jersey Olympian Development and Recognition Study Commission, consisting of 10 members as follows:

a. Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President thereof, no more than one of whom shall be a member of the same political party;

b. Two members of the General Assembly to be appointed by the Speaker thereof, no more than one of whom shall be a member of the same political party;

c. Four public members to be appointed by the Governor, no more than two of whom shall be of the same political party; and

d. The Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the State Chairman of the United States Olympic Committee.

Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds, be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

3. The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable after the appointment of its members and shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its members and a secretary, who need not be a member of the commission.

4. The commission shall conduct a comprehensive study of the ways in which the development and recognition of New Jersey Olympic athletes may be implemented.

5. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes, and to employ professional and clerical assistants and incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary, in order to perform its duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

6. The commission may meet and hold hearings at places it designates, and shall, within six months following its organizational meeting, report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature with any legislative bills it may desire to recommend for adoption by the Legislature.

7. There is appropriated \$10,000.00 to the commission from the General Fund to effectuate the purposes of this act.

8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire six months after the submission of the final report required in section 6 of this act.

Approved September 19, 1986.

CHAPTER 372, LAWS OF 1987

**AN ACT** concerning the membership of the New Jersey Olympian Development and Recognition Study Commission and making an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*:

1. Section 2 of P.L. 1986, c. 108 is amended to read as follows:
2. There is created a commission to be known as the New Jersey Olympian Development and Recognition Study Commission consisting of 12 members as follows:
  - a. Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President thereof, no more than one of whom shall be a member of the same political party;
  - b. A public member to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
  - c. A public member to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;
  - d. Two members of the General Assembly to be appointed by the Speaker thereof, no more than one of whom shall be a member of the same political party;
  - e. Four public members to be appointed by the Governor, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party; and
  - f. The Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the State Chairman of the United States Olympic Committee.

Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall, within the limits of available funds, be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

2. Section 8 of P.L. 1986, c. 108 is amended to read as follows:
  8. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on December 31, 1989.

3. In addition to the sums appropriated under P.L. 1987, c. 154, there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for the purpose specified.

DIRECT STATE SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
01 Legislature  
09 N.J. Olympian Development and Recognition  
Study Commission

09-0054 N.J. Olympian Development  
and Recognition Study Commission.....\$10,000

Special Purpose:

Expenses of the commission.....(\$10,000)

This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 7, 1988.

## APPENDIX B

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

The commission held four public hearings during the preparation of its report.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| August 4, 1987     | Interpretative Center<br>Liberty State Park<br>Jersey City, New Jersey                  |
| September 15, 1987 | Hale Center<br>Rutgers University<br>Piscataway, New Jersey                             |
| September 22, 1987 | Student Center<br>Glassboro State College<br>Glassboro, New Jersey                      |
| March 29, 1988     | Wood Lawn<br>Douglass College Campus<br>Rutgers University<br>New Brunswick, New Jersey |

APPENDIX C

WITNESSES

The following individuals testified before the commission at one or more of the public hearings:

David Brown  
Former Member at Large  
Executive Board of US Olympic Committee  
(8/4/87, 3/29/88)

Dr. Edward Dear  
Facility Coordinator, Physical Education Dept.  
Glassboro State College  
(9/22/87)

Elliott Denman  
Former Olympian  
Sports Writer, Asbury Park Press  
(8/4/87, 3/29/88)

Larry Ellis  
Trustee, NJ Athletic Congress  
Track Coach, Princeton University  
(3/29/88)

Lorraine Fasullo  
Coach, Synchronized Swimming  
(3/29/88)

William P. Fitzpatrick  
Treasurer, Rutgers Friends and Alumni of Scarlet Track  
(3/29/88)

Ron Freeman,  
Olympic Gold & Bronze Medalist  
Vice President, Metrotropolitan Olympic Association  
(9/15/87)

Bill Fritz  
Physical Education Dept.  
Glassboro State College  
(9/22/87)

Raymond Funkhouser  
Executive Director  
Garden State Games  
(8/4/87, 3/29/88)

Joseph W. Goodspeed  
Former President, New Jersey Athletics Congress  
(9/15/87)

Bud Heilman  
Associate Director of Athletics  
Rutgers University  
(3/29/88)

Dr. Herman James  
President, Glassboro State College  
(9/22/87)

Abel Kiviat  
Oldest Living Olympic Gold Medalist  
(8/4/87)

Edward R. Koch  
President, New Jersey Athletics Congress  
(3/29/88, 9/15/87)

Randy Krakower  
Chairman of Officials  
New Jersey Athletics Congress  
(9/15/87)

Martin Levine, M.D.  
General Practice & Sports Medicine  
Bayonne, NJ  
(8/4/87)

Charles Mays, Sr.  
Olympic Gold Medalist  
Former NJ Assemblyman  
(8/4/87)

Timothy McLoone  
Executive Director, NJ Waterfront Marathon  
(8/4/87)

Theresa Purcell  
NJ Association for Health, Physical Education,  
Recreation, & Dance  
(3/29/88)

Dr. William Reed  
Treasurer, NJ Synchronized Swimming Association  
(3/29/88)

William Robertson, Esq.  
Roseland  
(9/15/87)

Ronald Speirs  
President, Rutgers Friends and Alumni of Scarlet Track  
(3/29/88)

Dr. Daniel P. Stanley  
Chairman, Physical Education Department  
Glassboro State College  
(9/22/87)

Dr. Jacquelyn B. Stanley  
(9/22/87)

Stafford Thompson  
Trustee, New Jersey Athletics Congress  
(3/29/88)



4728  
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December 1989

DATE	ISSUED TO
<del>12/21/89</del>	<del>Hoony</del>
9/29/94	<del>Hoony</del>

JUN 12 1990

