



LAKES AT JUCLAR (FROM THE BOOK «ANDORRA VOL INSÒLIT»)

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A COUNTRY FOR SPORT



MAGNIFICENT SPORTS FACILITIES AND THE EXISTENCE OF NUMEROUS FEDERATIONS AND CLUBS MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE PART IN MORE THAN THIRTY SPORTS, BOTH ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS AND FOR RELAXATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CLIMATE AND ALTITUDE OF THE COUNTRY HELP TO MAKE ANDORRA THE IDEAL PLACE FOR THE PHYSICAL PREPARATION OF ATHLETES.

SERGI NADAL DIRECTOR OF TOURISM AND SPORT



Andorra, the Pyrenean Country", known mainly for its tourism, is also a country with a great vocation for sports.

Some sporting organisations were set up more than fifty years ago, which means that the Andorrans have been practising and taking an interest in sports for a long time.

The Olympic Committee of Andorra was set up on 30 April 1971, when its statutes were approved by the *Consell General*, and on 14 May 1975 it was accepted by the International Olympic Committee. In 1976, in Innsbruck, Andorran athletes took part in the Olympic Games for the first time.

There are currently more than 20 federations and 80 clubs in Andorra, allowing a large number of athletes to take part in more than thirty different sports. All these organisations promote different areas of sport: basic sport, training and school sports, which are undoubtedly the most important for the country's sporting future, spare-time sport for all those who want to keep fit while enjoying the countryside, the



mountains and everything this little principality has to offer and also, of course, competitive sport. In this field, the professional basketball, football and volleyball teams take part in the corresponding championships in Spain.

It is important to stress the effort being made by the institutions, not only on the level of the country's physical education, but also because Andorra has achieved important international recognition through sport. This was demonstrated during the celebration of the IV Games of the Small States of Europe, held from 21 to 26 May 1991, with the participation of athletes from eight countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, San Marino, Cyprus and Andorra. The high sporting level reached in the eight disciplines—athletics, basketball, judo, swimming, tennis, shooting and volleyball—, the good organisation, magnificent sports installations and the presence of the maximum political and sporting authorities made these games the best in the event's short history. The next will be held in Malta in 1993.



In the Olympic world, we must underline the importance of the celebration of the Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992. The proximity with Catalonia and the fact that the rowing events will be held in the Canal del Segre, in Seu d'Urgell, mean that Andorra will live the event at first hand. Furthermore, the Winter Olympics will be held in Albertville in 1992, and Jaca's application to host the Winter Olympics of the year 2002 will be a boost for skiing in general.

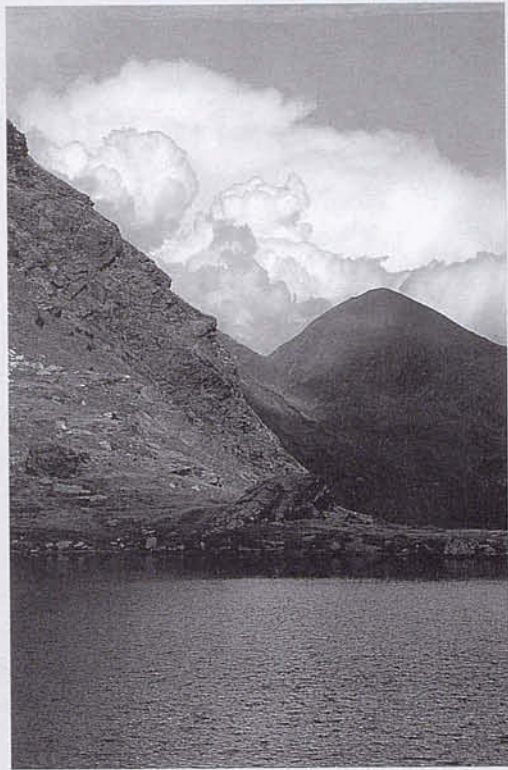
Today, Andorra has an impressive sports infrastructure. The latest constructions are the La Rabassa Shooting Range (one of the best in the world), where every variety of shooting can be practised, the covered tennis courts at Aldosa and the Els Serradells Olympic Swimming Pool. The country also has four covered Sports Complexes offering a wide range of sports including basketball, indoor football, volleyball, judo, karate, taekwondo and gymnastics. Several 25 metre swimming pools, an athletics track, a number of football and rugby grounds and the Palace of Ice



at Canillo complete this infrastructure. This range of installations allows the organisation of different national and/or international events. Apart from the IV Games of the Small States of Europe, the World Championships in Hunting and in French Bowls will also be held during 1991. It is foreseen that the Group B Hockey World Championship will be held in 1992.

The altitude, the climate and the sports infrastructure make Andorra the ideal place for the physical and sporting preparation of athletes. National selections like the Spanish basketball, waterpolo, hockey or swimming teams, as well as important teams like Barcelona Football Club or the Saragossa Sports Club, make regular visits to this little principality. The 1st Summer Basketball League will be held in June, with the participation of teams like Barcelona Football Club, IFA Granollers, CAI Saragossa and POP'84 from Split (1991 European Champions).

As you can see, the Principality of Andorra is more than a tourist country; it is also the place for physical training. ■



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THE VILLAGE OF LES BONS