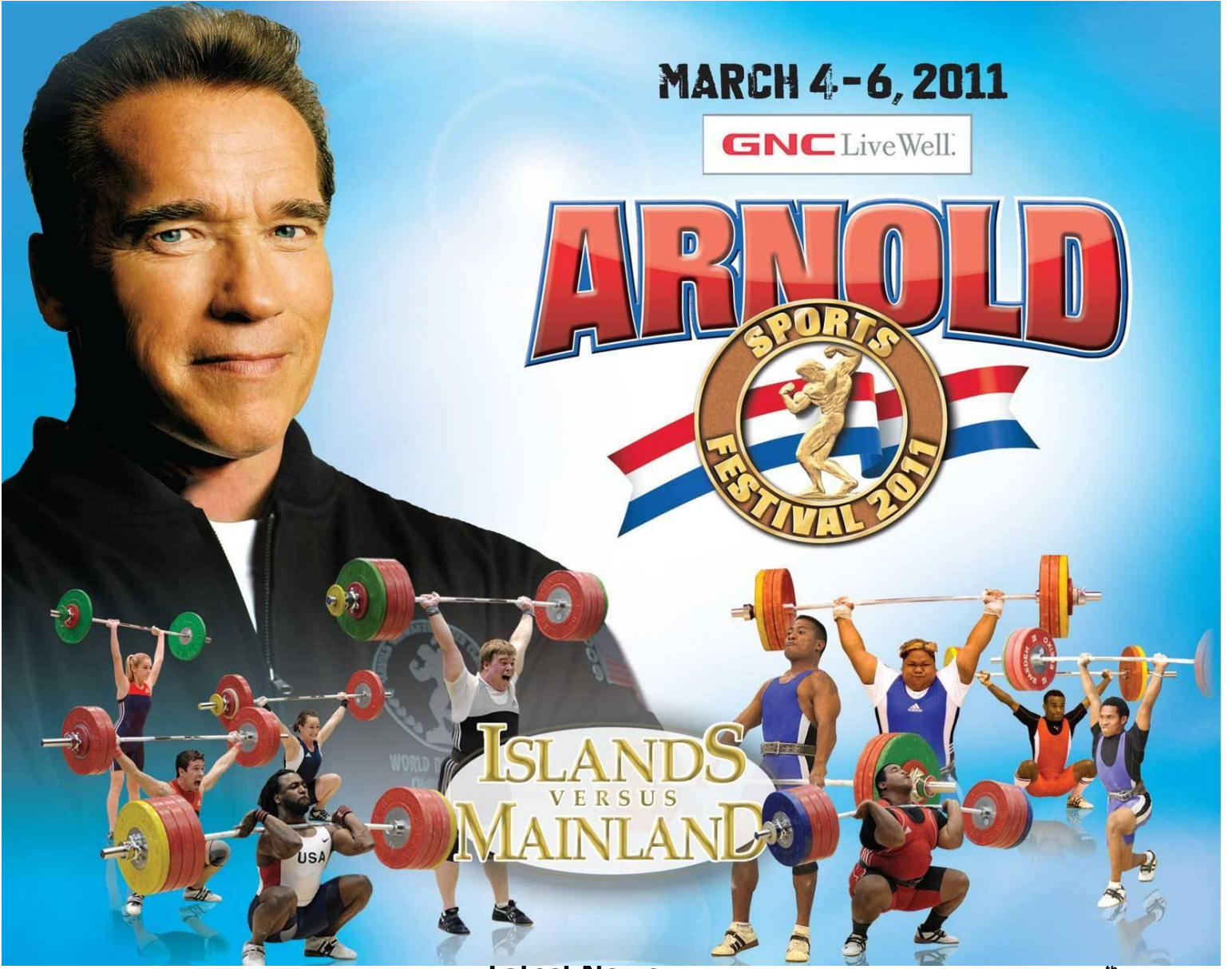


MARCH 4-6, 2011

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ISLANDS VERSUS MAINLAND

Latest News

March 9th 2011

Oceania Institute lifters surprise USA at the Arnold International.

The highlight of this years annual Arnold Festival Weightlifting Championships was the competition organized by Mark Cannella and Dan Bell, between the Pacific Islands versus Mainland USA. Although the islanders team was handicapped due to not having a full team, nevertheless they came out on top of the tournament, beating Mainland USA - by winning 5 categories of the 7 categories contested.



The six lifters representing the Pacific Islands were all from the Oceania Weightlifting Institute. They were, **56kg Manueli Tulo (Fiji)**, **62kg Manuel Minginfel (FSM)**, **77kg Yukio Peter (Nauru)**, **85kg Steven Kari (PNG)**, **94kg David Katoatau (Kiribati)**, **105+kg Itte Detenamo (Nauru)**. All the lifters won their categories with the exception of the 77kg category and also the 69kg category.

The Arnold Festival which attracts 200,000 visitors for the three days covers many sports. It is a very successful multi-sports festival. Weightlifting is one of the highlights of the three day festival. The competition directors, Mark Cannella, Dan Bell and all the Organising Committee team must be congratulated on their outstanding organisation of the event. The competition was run smoothly with almost 300 competitors over the three days. Mike Burgener, Dennis Reno and other officials did a great job as MC's, keeping the large crowd entertained.

It was terrific to see so many USA coaches assisting their lifters over the three days. The weightlifting venue was situated at the main entrance of the Convention Centre. Therefore the 200,000 people who came to the Arnold Festival, would pass through the warm up area of the weightlifting event, which was an open area. This attracted huge crowds watching the warm up area as the competition hall was already full. It was also great to have **Arnold Schwarzenegger** presenting the team trophy to the Pacific Island lifters. Upon receiving the trophy, Paul Coffa stated, **"We'll be back – next year for a rematch"**. Turning to Mark Cannella, he added "hopefully with a full team."

This achievement would not have been possible without the assistance of Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC) through Olympic Solidarity, the athletes respective Olympic Committees and their National Weightlifting Federations, the Government of New Caledonia, the City of Mont Dore and the CTOS (Olympic Committee). Thank you also to Stephen Powell, Ryan Kyle and Rachel Crass for assisting the Pacific Island team during the competition.



56Kg Manuli Tulo –Fiji, cleaning 130Kg



62Kg Manuel Minginfel –FSM , Jerking 140Kg



85Kg Steven Kari –PNG ,with 170Kg jerk



Arnold Schwarzenegger congratulates Paul Coffa in winning the tournament.



Arnold Schwarzenegger congratulates Steven Kari – PNG and the rest of the team.



David Katoatau tasting snow for the first time in his life. He is holding the winning trophy. David was named Captain of the Team.



94Kg David Katoatau – Kiribati with the winning lift of 187Kg in the clean & jerk.



Mark Cannella the competition director of the Arnold Weightlifting championships Introduces the Pacific Islands team to Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Itte Detenamo – Nauru, with the winning lift in the super-heavy category of 215kg clean & jerk.



77Kg Yukio Peter- Nauru, snatching 145Kg.



The Pacific Islands team together with Mark Cannella- the Competition Director.



Arnold Schwarzenegger referees the competition for a short while.



Crowds watching the warm up area.

