

SAMOA WINS ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR'S PREMIERS LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

PREMIERS LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the unbeatable Samoa in winning for the second year in a row, the Premiers League Email Tournament. What a fantastic year it has been for Samoa. Right through the seven rounds the produced world class performances and more so they have been so committed to this tournament. Congratulations to Jerry Wallwork, the President and Coach of the Samoa Team in producing so many outstanding performances. Undefeated right throughout the year.

Congratulations also to Australia for placing second to Samoa. Importantly, Australia produced the highest aggregate points of the tournament. Another special mention must go to Fiji. In the last three rounds Fiji came up with some excellent results and jumped into fourth place overall.

The final results and prizes in Australian dollars are as follow: 1st place Samoa \$12000, 2nd place Australia \$10000, 3rd place New Zealand \$8000, 4th place Fiji \$7000, 5th place Papua New Guinea \$6000, 6th place Solomon Islands \$5000, 7th place Nauru \$4000, 8th place Kiribati \$3000.

LEAGUE A TOURNAMENT



Congratulations also to Guam for winning the League A Email Tournament for the second year in a row. They were undefeated right throughout, producing some outstanding results. New Caledonia improved remarkably in the last two years and finished up in second position on the ladder. The winning prizes in Australian dollars were as follows:

1st place Guam \$7000, 2nd place New Caledonia \$5000, 3rd place Tahiti \$4000, 4th place Tonga \$3500, 5th place CNMI \$3,000, 6th place Vanuatu \$2,500, 7th place Cook Islands \$2,000.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS-COLOMBIA

Fourteen lifters from the Oceania region took part at the World Championships in Colombia. These are the results of our lifters:

Female:

49kg Dika Toua PNG – placed 24th with a total of 165kg
59kg Brenna Kean AUS – placed 34th with a total of 187kg
59kg Halle Mifsud AUS - placed 37th with a total of 184kg
59kg Myonly Stephen NRU – placed 41st with a total of 158kg
64kg Sarah Cochrane AUS – placed 6th with a total of 211kg
64kg Kiana Elliot AUS – placed 10th with a total of 206kg
71kg Maximina Uepa NRU – placed 30th with a total of 201kg
76kg Olivia Shelton AUS – placed 13th with a total of 213kg
+87kg Kuinini Manumua TGA – did not finish

Male:

61kg Morea Baru PNG – placed 25th with a total of 258kg
102kg Joshua Uikilifi RTGA – placed 20th with a total of 339kg
102kg Taniela Rainibogi FIJ – placed 22nd with a total of 333kg
+109kg David Liti NZL – placed 16th with a total of 396kg

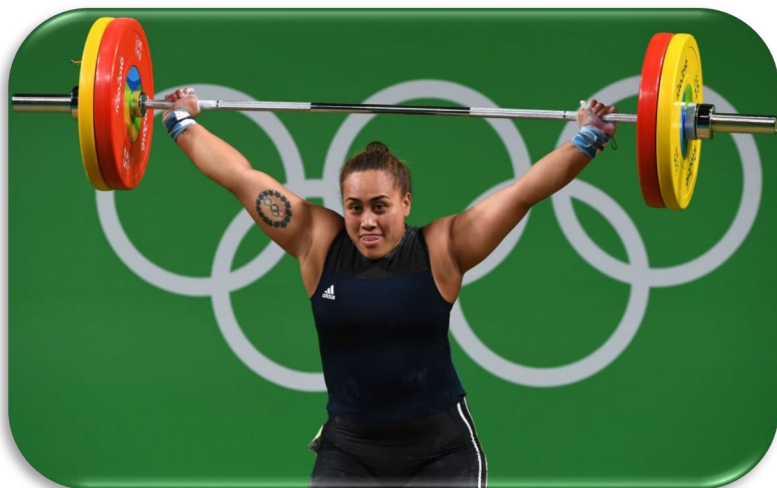


Eileen Cikamatana -Australia , made history in Colombia last week by winning three medals ,one silver and two bronze medals at the World Senior Championships .

ELEIKO

IWF ATHLETES COMMISSION

Congratulations to Luisa Peters from the Cook Islands and also David Liti from New Zealand, for being elected last week in Colombia to the IWF Athletes Commission. They are Oceania's representatives.



Luisa Peters -Cook Islands



David Liti -New Zealand

VALE MARINO ERCOLAI

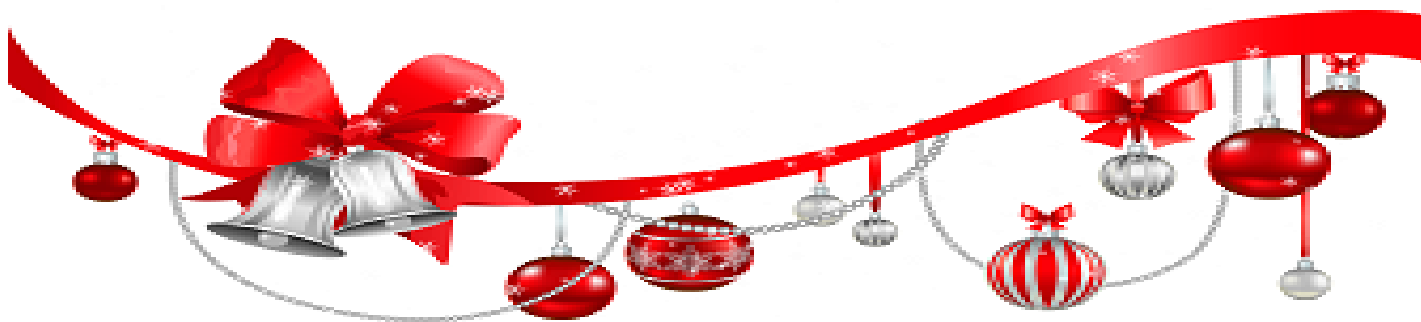


Marino Ercolai to the right with Paul Coffa and Yokio Peters from Nauru at the Commonwealth Championships in Cyprus 2009.

It is with sadness to inform that Marino Ercolai passed away on the 17th December. Marino was for many decades the Secretary General of the European Weightlifting Federation and a very dear friend of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation.

For those thousands of people who had the opportunity to know Marino, they will remember him as a true gentleman, who would do anything to assist in whatever area was required.

For many years He was the backbone of weightlifting in Europe. Not only did he volunteer his time to promote the sport but his commitment to Europe was unmatched. He will be missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and to the European Weightlifting Federation.



THE OWF WISHES EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY FESTIVAL SEASON

December 16, 2022

By Brian Oliver

IWF honours Paul Coffa, coach of 540 weightlifters, with place in Hall of Fame



On the day when his athlete Eileen CIKAMATANA (AUS) won a sweep of bronze medals at the IWF World Championships in Bogotá, Paul COFFA (AUS) was officially inducted into the IWF Hall of Fame – after more than 60 years of service to the sport.

The man who is known as “the father figure of weightlifting in the Pacific region”, is the first coach to join the Hall of Fame.

Before Cikamatana competed in the women’s 87kg he was given his award on the platform by Mohamed Jalood, President of the IWF. Jalood praised Coffa’s huge contribution to the sport as a coach and as general secretary of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation (since 1992) and the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation (since 2006).

“This is a man who deserves so much respect, for his coaching, for helping to make weightlifting popular throughout Oceania – and for making sure it is a very clean sport,” said Jalood. No weightlifter from Oceania has tested positive in 16 years, Coffa said.

Coffa became a coach in unusual circumstances. “My last tournament as a competitor was in 1965, when I was in my early twenties,” he said. “All three referees judged my first and last attempts in the press a no-lift, and I didn’t make the second one. I was disqualified and I abused the referees for not knowing the rules, so I quit lifting.

“Sadly the three referees passed away, so you can’t question them why they disqualified my press.”

The highlight of his coaching career came at the Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games, where the Australian tuna fisherman Dean Lukin made a huge personal best clean and jerk of 240kg to win gold.



Coffa relived that event in Bogotá yesterday when he met another of the sport’s longest-serving coaches, the American Jim Schmitz, who coached the LA silver medallist Mario Martinez – the last American male weightlifter to win an Olympic medal.

After a successful time as Australia’s national coach, Coffa moved to Nauru – and weightlifting was about to take off around the Pacific islands.

He helped to promote the sport to such an extent that at one point in the late 1990s Nauru – population at the time 9,500 – had more weightlifters registered with the IWF than China.

The big boost came when Marcus Stephen, coached by Coffa, won Nauru’s first gold medal in any sport at the Commonwealth Games in 1994.

“Paul helped to make weightlifting so popular on Nauru that the Cabinet would stop its business to discuss why the split jerk is more effective than the famous Pyrros Dimas push jerk,” said Stephen, who became President of Nauru after he retired from competition.

Stephen, President of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, described Coffa as “the father figure of weightlifting in the Pacific region”. He added: “Don’t forget, Lilly (Coffa’s wife) is everything to us as well.”

Paul and Lilly founded the Oceania Weightlifting Institute, which moved around the region and hosted athletes from many Pacific islands, in 2001. Dika TOUA (PNG), another one of Coffa’s athletes, is attempting to qualify for a record-breaking sixth Olympic Games. She will be 40 when Paris 2024 begins.

Coffa, 80, and his elder brother Sam, chair of the IWF Technical Committee, fell in love with weightlifting while watching athletes train in a hall just down the road from their home in Hawthorn, for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

They emigrated to Australia from Sicily in the early 1950s. The brothers, who have maintained their links with Italy over the years and have trained there and held training camps, were both awarded the highest honour by Italy’s National Olympic Committee, the gold star, in 2018.

Paul Coffa was also awarded an MBE, one of the top honours bestowed in Britain and its Commonwealth nations, and the Australian Sport Medal in 2000.

“Paul has quite literally devoted his life to athletes,” said another of his former athletes, Matthew Curtain, general secretary of British Weight Lifting, who sits on the IWF Executive Board.

Coffa has coached 540 lifters from 15 nations since 1965 and has been responsible for 104 medals, including 39 golds, at the Commonwealth Games, plus two Olympic medals – it could be three if Cikamatana keeps up her progress – and hundreds more around Oceania. Cikamatana took Coffa’s IWF World Championships medal tally to 27 today. Asked who was his favourite lifter among those 540, he said, “Robert Kabbas, not just for his medals but for his attitude and his love of the sport.”

Kabbas, who was born in Egypt and emigrated to Australia, won an Olympic silver medal in 1984 and two Commonwealth Games golds.

Coffa has also been the chief organiser of 70 events including the 1993 IWF World Championships in Melbourne and the 2011 IWF Junior World Championships in Malaysia.

When will he finally quit? “When Eileen wins a medal in Paris,” he said.