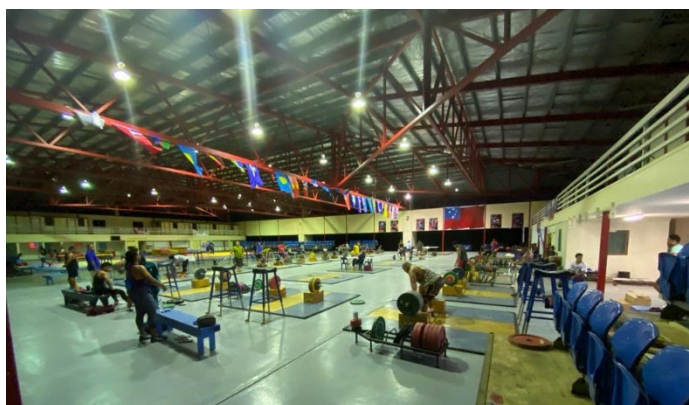


THE RETURN OF THE SAMOAN GAMES

On May 26th, the Samoa Games returned in Apia, after a number of years in hiatus. The weightlifting event was held at the High Performance Centre. The centre has over 25 platforms and I was very surprised to see that all platforms were in use during the training sessions. Eileen Cikamatana and Lilly Coffa also attended the Games. Spending a wonderful week in Samoa.

Whilst there, the training sessions were held in the morning and also in the afternoon. The intensity of training was phenomenal. Very few lifters from the Oceania region would be able to fully cope. And I suppose this is one reason why the Samoan lifters are so far advanced. Another factor which impressed me was the number of youth lifters training. Most important, so many of the past top lifters of Samoa, in the gym coaching the next generation.



During the actual weightlifting event, in attendance some of the guests were Seiuli Paul Wallwork, past President of the OWF and the first Samoan lifter to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games back in 1974 where he won a silver medal. Also in attendance was the President of the Samoa Olympic Committee Tala Pauga and the CEO of the Samoa Olympic Committee Tuala Mathew Vaea.

Jerry Wallwork, did a fantastic job in setting up the whole event and at the same time coaching the senior members of the team. There were some excellent performances from Nevo Ioane 67kg category, John Tafi 73kg category, Manuila Raobu from Tuvalu in the 73kg cat, Ruben Katoatau from Kiribati in the 81kg category, Sanele Mao 109+kg category, Iuniarra Sipaia 87+kg category. The best lifter was none other than Don Opeloge, who established a Commonwealth Senior Clean & Jerk record with a lift of 206kg in the clean & Jerk. Countries competing were: Samoa, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Australia and Marshall Islands.

Finally I would like to thank the President Jerry Wallwork for extending a kind invitation to take part in the Samoa Games. And also for the wonderful hospitality during a week long stay in Apia.

These are some of the images from the Samoan Games and the full results:

2023 SAMOA GAMES - WEIGHTLIFTING

Apia - May 26th

FEMALE

NAME	NAT.	D/BIRTH	B/W	SNATCH	C&JERK	TOTAL	PLACE
55kg category							
Anoni Iamanu	SAM	11/04/2006	54.61	56	68	124	1
59kg category							
Takenitti Atantaake	MHL	21-2-2002	58.68	61	80	141	1
Maria Kauri	SAM	19-11-2008	55.42	0	45	0	

64kg category				-			
Filiamata luamata	SAM	24-3-2008	61.38	62	75	137	1
Kitele Tuen	TUV	31-12-2003	63.48	54	65	119	2
Bella Filipo	SAM	4/02/2006	60.26	37	45	82	3
Linda Maluafou	SAM	26-11-2007	63.44	0	49	0	
Sefulu Seuao	SAM	13-5-2008	61.56	0	51	0	
71kg category							
Merean Atantaake	MHL	21-2-2005	70.27	60	80	140	1
76kg category							
Seine Stowers	SAM	30-4-2008	73.14	70	82	152	1
Marie Afele	SAM	21-3-2009	71.13	40	42	82	2
81kg category							
Eileen Cikamatana	AUS	18/09/1999	81.00	108	135	243	1
87kg category							
Malia Timo	TUV	12/04/2004	84.65	75	90	165	1
87+kg category							
Iuniarra Sipaia	SAM	25/06/1993	138.26	109	155	264	1
Lesila Fiapule	SAM	22/10/2002	121.57	108	144	252	2
Dorothy Ah Chong	SAM	24-8-2005	113.64	45	60	105	3
Fisaga Viane	SAM	16-12-2007	93.89	45	57	102	
MALE							
NAME		D/BIRTH	B/W	SNATCH	C&JERK	TOTAL	PLACE
55kg category							
Mike Enricel Riklon	MHL	11/11/2000	50.81	80	100	180	1
61kg category							
Elama Tafi	SAM	20/11/2006	59.81	70	85	155	1
Faifatasia Seuao	SAM	16-4-2007	61.00	55	72	127	2
67kg category							
Nevo Ioane	SAM	1988	66.20	121	165	286	1
Patterson Raymond River	MHL	12/06/1999	66.70	95	121	216	2
Joe Utufua	SAM	26-9-2008	65.00	50	75	125	3
Ahdonai Faasipa	SAM	23-5-2008	66.77	52	70	122	
73kg category							
John Tafi	SAM	2002	72.70	135	168	303	1
Manuila Raobu	TUV	2000	69.48	126	151	276	2
Vaafuti Iamanu	SAM	4/01/2005	69.00	80	105	180	3
Malo Peni	SAM	2009	71.15	70	95	165	
Niusila Opeloge	SAM	209	69.40	71	90	161	
Sione Ulula	SAM	18-1-2008	69.00	50	70	120	
81kg category							

Ruben Katoatau	KIR	1997	79.89	121	160	281	1
Emmanuel Palota Ulimasoa	SAM	6/11/2006	78.22	105	126	231	2
Penitito Gasio	SAM	26-5-2008	75.18	60	70	130	3
Feai'i Tavita	SAM	24-6-2008	74.29	45	55	103	
89kg category							
Tovio Ah Chong	SAM	23-8-2006	82.00	116	140	267	1
Kaueta Kausea	TUV	27/06/1905	81.73	105	126	231	2
Lauina Junion Vaai Mamao	SAM	26-8-2005	88.64	81	100	181	3
Brian Roebeck		12/03/2008	87.69	55	67	122	
96kg category							
Ma'eu Livigisitone	SAM	1999	96.00	152	182	314	1
102kg category							
Don Opeloge	SAM	1999	101.93	168	206	374	1
109+kg category							
Sanele Mao	SAM	1985	131.59	165	210	375	1
Fomai Molesi	SAM	9/08/2005	132.00	195	125	230	2



The famous Ele Opeloge 2008 Olympic Silver Medallist



Jerry Wallwork Samoa Weightlifting President with Paul Coffa OWF Gen Sec.



Young Fomai Faimanifo, Paul Coffa, SASNOC President Tala Pauga with SASNOC – CEO Tuala Mathew Vaea.



The Samoan Games medals



Eileen Cikamatana with Manuila Raobu and Luniarra Sipaia



Ruben Katoatau (Kiribati)



Sanele Mao Samoa 109+Kg Category



Don Opeloge Samoa 102Kg Category



Up and coming young lifter Logo Vaafuti



Another young star Niusila Opeloge Jun.



Young up and coming star Joe Fata



Young Emmanuel Ulimasao



Manuila Raobu -Tuvalu



Ma'eu Livigisitone