

Georgia Topples Russia in Sand Duel

A day after Russia pledged to stop its military invasion of neighboring Georgia, the Georgia women's beach volleyball players spiked their Russian opponents and sent them home from the Olympics.

In a thrilling match Wednesday at Beijing's Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground, Cristine Santanna and Andrezza Chagas rallied from a huge deficit – saving match point – to force Natalia Uryadova and Alexandra Shiryaeva out of the Games by a 2-1 score.

Unlike the famous 1956 water polo match between the Soviet Union and Hungary that left blood in the water, there was drama but no blood in the sand.

But there was plenty of pride in the air. It made no difference to Georgia that its two players are Brazilians who switched sporting allegiances about two years ago. They were invited to represent Georgia to raise the level of play in the former Soviet republic.

"I really felt like a Georgian," team captain Cristine Santanna told reporters after the match. "I don't want to get political, because this is Olympic Games, but in my heart, I wanted to beat Russia for sure."

Santanna and Chagas use different names on the court: Saka and Ravelo. Together, the names form the word "Georgia" in the Georgian language.

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KODAK PHOTO OF THE DAY



© Getty Images

Vancouver 2010 Fueled by Beijing's Performance

Leaders of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics say they are ready for the final sprint to their Games, with the starting gun to sound as soon as the flame goes out here in Beijing.

"Come September, it will be all about Vancouver. We're expecting that and

NEWSMAKER BREAKFAST

preparing for it," said John Furlong, CEO of the Vancouver Olympics.

Furlong and British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell were featured guests for the Aug. 13 Around the Rings Newsmaker

Breakfast presented by McDonald's.

Ed Hula: What is your impression of what the two of you have seen in Beijing?

Gordon Campbell: I think the thing that strikes me most is how well they have managed both the transportation systems here, which were substantially different (when I was here) in May, and also what

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全世界同处一方 分享同一梦想

全世界各民族参加一个和平竞赛，庆祝我们拥有一个美好并充满青春活力的世界。这次，巴西有史以来最大的奥运代表团热切希望能亲身感受奥林匹克的价值，并且荣幸地期待上百万的巴西体育爱好者的支持。

里约2016年奥运申办委员会、巴西奥委会衷心祝贺中国人民和北京奥运组委会出色地准备了2008北京奥运会，让205个国家奥委会的一万多个运动员梦想成真。

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Vancouver Leaders Ready for Countdown

(continued from cover)

an incredible army of volunteers they have. Frankly, they help every single person have the best experience possible.

John Furlong: It's my sixth time to Beijing. I would say I've seen six Beijings.

With all the discussions we've had with BOCOG over the years I came with very high expectations, and I would say that I've seen every one of those expectations has been exceeded.

EH: What is the government doing here that you would like to see applied to Vancouver?

GC: One of the things I (want to) take home with me is to make sure that all the communities in B. C. have a sense of, not just the possibilities of the Olympics, but the excitement of the Olympics. We've been trying to do that, first with our bid and beyond our bid.

Our Olympics are not just Vancouver and Whistler's Olympics. We hope they will be shared with people in communities around B.C. and, of course, across Canada.

EH: The pace is about to get very speedy for you. Are you ready for a fast 18 months to the Games?

GC: I think VANOC has done an exceptional job getting the venues ready. A number of communities around the province will be providing training facilities. The challenge of any Olympics is the things you can't plan -- that you don't expect -- to try to get as much of those things on your dance card as you can beforehand so you know how you'll deal with them.

JF: Aside from the pace, which is becoming quite electric, it's the sense of scrutiny of everybody watching, everybody analyzing what you're doing, every word and decision that you take. Come September, it will be all about Vancouver. We're expecting that and preparing for it.

Media Question: What is the status of the Sea to Sky Highway and the new rail line from the Vancouver Airport?

GC: Both will be complete in 2009. They're



ATR Editor Ed Hula, British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell and Vancouver 2010 CEO John Furlong. (ATR)

coming in on time and on schedule. Clearly they will benefit the Olympic Games.

EH: Is it fair to expect the government to get involved in non-Olympic issues?

GC: My short answer to that is yes. We're not dealing with homelessness and mental health issues and addictions because the Olympics is coming. We're dealing with it because it's an important issue to deal with in any healthy urban community.

Media Question: You saw weather problems here in Beijing a couple of days ago. How are you prepared for the same in Vancouver?

JF: With respect to snow -- less is better than more. Most of the snow for skiing events is man-made, anyway. Here it was very interesting to watch what was going on on the rain days, there was some serious improvising going on. They got through it ok.

EH: Sustainability is a key part of Olympic planning now. What can you say about how this applies to Vancouver?

GC: This will be the first carbon neutral games in history. We've set a goal to be the

most sustainable Games ever. It's a very important step for us to show the world that you can have a major event that is carbon neutral.

JF: Inside of Vancouver 2010 I'd say that what we've tried to do is take sustainability and the themes of sustainability and make them our culture.

The ATR Newsmaker Breakfasts present opinion-makers and leaders of the Olympic Movement in an informal, question and answer setting. The breakfasts take place at the 2,000-square meter McDonald's on the Olympic Green, the biggest in the world for the company.

Four more are scheduled through the Beijing Olympics: A panel of IOC members discuss the future of the IOC (Aug. 15); a sponsor roundtable (Aug. 17); and Sochi 2014 CEO Dmitry Chernyshenko (Aug. 19). The series concludes Aug. 23 with the first joint appearance by the four cities campaigning for the 2016 Olympics.

E-mail questions for guests to: newsmaker@aroundtherings.com.

- ATR Staff



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Today's Highlights

- **5 p.m.** – Media event featuring Cindy Crawford at Omega Pavilion, Olympic Green.
- **7:30 p.m.** – “Olympic Spirit of McDonald’s” video contest winners. Guests include Jacques Rogge and Carl Lewis. Loong Palace Hotel & Resort, Huilongguan, Changping District.
- **7:45 p.m.** – International Softball Federation president Don Porter press conference. Fengtai Softball field after U.S. v. Canada game.
- **8 p.m.** – Atlanta Legacy Night. Olympians Reunion Center, Sun Palace, Chaoyang Park.

Quote of the Day

“I think my mom could probably anchor this relay”.

- Olympic gold medalist and NBC announcer **Rowdy Gaines** on the 4x200 freestyle relay won overwhelmingly by the Michael Phelps-led USA.

Main Press Centre

- **11 a.m.** – Joint IOC/BOCOG Daily Press Briefing

Beijing International Media Center











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- **10 a.m.** – Press conference. Diversified development of Macau tourist industry with city tourism leaders. Hall 1.
- **12 p.m.** – City Culture Bureau officials hold a press conference on exhibits and performances since the Games began. Hall 1.
- **4 p.m.** – The vice governor of Hubei province and the deputy general manager of the Three Gorges Dam Project Corporation hold a press conference on the dam project. Hall 1.

Coming Up!

- **Aug. 15, 8 a.m.** – ATR Newsmaker breakfast. IOC members H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, Richard Pound, Kai Holm and Nicole Hovertsz will discuss the future of the IOC.
Venue: McDonald’s restaurant, Olympic Green, north end.

2008 Medal Projections

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total			Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
U.S.		49	24	32	105	Spain		7	5	9	21
China		38	21	29	88	Belarus		7	2	6	15
Russia		30	33	25	88	Kenya		5	3	5	13
Great Britain		19	10	20	49	Netherlands		5	6	12	23
Germany		19	14	23	56	Poland		5	5	7	17
Australia		14	7	13	34	Hungary		4	5	7	16
Italy		10	15	14	39	Cuba		4	8	5	17
France		9	19	11	39	Brazil		3	3	7	13
Korea		9	11	6	26	Canada		4	5	2	11
Japan		8	5	19	32	New Zealand		4	6	1	11

Based on results in recent World Championships. Projections are by Luciano Barra, former director of sport for the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), and deputy CEO of TOROC 2006. Barra has been projecting medal counts for 10 years by analyzing past performances.



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Water Cube Tickets In High Demand

Competition is just as fierce to get into the Water Cube as it is inside the pool, where sold-out sessions have cheered on Michael Phelps and other top swimmers in this first week of the Games.

The facility, officially known as the National Aquatic Center, has 6,000 permanent and 11,000 temporary seats.

The morning swimming finals are the only events at the Olympics for which media must also have a press ticket.

For spectators willing to pay, a single ticket for the Aug. 17 finals at which Phelps, who has already won five gold medals here and could possibly win a record eighth gold medal, recently sold for \$3,876.99 on eBay. A pair of tickets for Aug. 14 sold for \$2,799 on eBay though the average price is closer to \$2,000 for a pair. Face value can be as little as 200 RMB/\$15.

Although the events are sold out, there are empty seats on both sides of the pool for press and diving photographers. The

diving photo seats are not used during swimming. Press seats are ticketed because of demand.

Diving and swimming take place this week at the Water Cube. Next week synchronized swimming is scheduled there.

Inside the Cube

The 3,100 pillows covering the outside of the facility give the appearance of being enclosed in a giant piece of bubble wrap. The water motif is everywhere, from cascading water running down one side of the building and collecting in a pool, to the cut-out circles in the elevator ceilings.

The pool itself is 3 meters (about 10 feet) deep with state-of-the-art filtration and guttering systems.

Swimmers have found the pool to be extremely fast.

So far, 12 world records have been set in 16 finals, including two in the men's 400-meter freestyle relay.

Temple of Swimming

"It's the temple of swimming," FINA vice president Dale Neuburger of the U.S. told ATR. "It's the finest facility in the world."

He also said the lighting is fantastic. "The overall atmosphere of the building gives one the feeling that this is a very special place. I think swimmers will respond the same way baseball players do in Yankee Stadium or cricket players at the Melbourne Cricket Grounds."

U.S. spectators, including President Bush last Saturday, have been drowned out by a Chinese group in the athletes section who shake rattles, hit a gong and cheer as Chinese swimmers compete.

Chinese officials have not divulged the final cost of the building, but estimates say it could be higher than \$200 million. But the financing for the facility has come from outside China: ex-patriots around the globe have contributed the money to build the venue.

- ATR Staff

Georgia Strives to Produce 'Happiness'

(continued from cover)

After her match Monday, Santanna said she returned to the Olympic Village to a disturbing sight. News had spread of the violence in Georgia that had forced 100,000 people from their homes.

"Everybody was outside crying, very upset," she said. "They were going home. The whole Georgian team was leaving the Olympics, and then they decided to stay."

Georgia President Mikhail Saakashvili, whose wife is a volleyball player, asked the entire 35-athlete team to stay in Beijing.

"We stayed to continue to give some happiness to our country," said Georgia volleyball federation president Levan Akhvlediani.

He said although some athletes from other sports wanted to go home, he was in favor of staying.

"We have to respect the Olympic principles," Akhvlediani said. "Many other countries also have problems, but they stay and compete here."

Although a Georgian shooter won a silver medal Tuesday, judo players didn't win any medals despite being strong contenders entering the Games.

"They cannot even compete," Santanna said. "I know they have family back in Georgia and it's very hard to concentrate."

The stakes were high in Wednesday's match. Both teams knew that whichever team lost would be eliminated from the Olympics.

Different Spin

The Russian players tried to downplay the loss.



Georgia's Cristine Santanna (in red) reaches to smash ball. (Getty Images)

"We regret we lost this game," Uryadova said. "We are not actually playing against the Georgian team. We are playing against our Brazilian friends."

Santanna, sitting at the same press conference table, didn't accept that comment.

"Despite where we're from, they fought hard and we did," she said. "I want to congratulate them. I don't want this to be a war between us."

- ATR Staff

EYES ON THE FUTURE



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On the Scene in Beijing: *Protest Announcement*

BOCOG's security director promises to announce the number of applications for protest permits approved and rejected at Thursday's press briefing.



Beijing's World Park is one of three protest zones. (Getty Images)

There are three officially designated protest zones including World Park, a theme park about one hour's drive from the Games' main venues.

Beijing police and security officials have acted swiftly to quell any signs of protest in and around the city during the first five days of the Games.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) reports Wednesday that a Chinese activist who applied for permission to protest against corruption during the Olympic Games has been taken away by security agents.

Ji Sizun traveled to the Olympic city from the southern province of Fujian and planned to demonstrate in one of three protest zones. He apparently wanted to call for "greater participation of Chinese citizens in the political processes, and denounce rampant official corruption and abuses of power," HRW said.

The group reports that he applied for a permit Aug. 8 but vanished three days later when he went back to find out about his application.

According to reports, police said no one had been arrested or taken away.

Also Wednesday, police arrested a British journalist after he covered a Free Tibet protest close to the city's main Olympic zone. Activists from Students for a Free Tibet mounted a protest outside Ethnic Minorities Park. Police reportedly forcibly removed the protesters after detaining

the journalist. The reporter was later released.

Bush Meets Baseball's Schiller

U.S. President George W. Bush met with the International Baseball Federation President Harvey Schiller on a visit to Wukesong Baseball Complex in Beijing for the Team USA vs. Team China exhibition game.

Bush, who was wrapping up a four-day visit to Beijing, said his highlight of the event was "getting his picture taken with the teams."

Meanwhile, his father George H. W. Bush said Monday that politics should be kept out of the Olympics and that he is not sympathetic to those who try to embarrass China. He was visiting Beijing as the honorary chef de mission of the U.S. Olympic team.

The baseball competition kicks off Wednesday at Wukesong Baseball Field, with Cuba hoping to continue its dominance of the sport. Cuba has won three gold medals and one silver in four Olympics.



George Bush and Harvey Schiller. (IEBF)

Chicago 2016 Hosts World Press

Chicago 2016 turns on the charm for the world's media, hosting a party for the press this week at USA House in Beijing.

Journalists from Europe, Asia and the Americas were on hand; probably about



USOC chairman Peter Ueberroth and 2016 chair Patrick Ryan. (ATR)

75 reporters. USA House is located in a well-known Beijing restaurant, taken over completely as a hospitality headquarters for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Mayor Richard Daley, bid chair Patrick Ryan, and USOC International Vice President Bob Ctvrtlik made brief speeches; a new video presenting the city was debuted to the crowd.

Five Up for Phelps

"Arguably the greatest ever Olympic athlete," said the announcer at the Water Cube Wednesday after U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps racked up his fourth gold of the Games and edged closer to Mark Spitz's record seven golds at a Games. He later notched a fifth in the 4x200m freestyle relay. If Phelps eclipses his hero's medal haul, he stands to earn a \$1 million bonus from swimsuit maker Speedo. He is on the brink of becoming the greatest Olympian.

Armored Vehicle Gone from MPC

The armored personnel carrier parked outside the Main Press Center on Tuesday has been removed following the furor kicked up by media over supposed security increases and the reasons for them.

Beijing by the Numbers

BOCOG says 250,000 visitors attended the Olympic Green Aug. 12.

Where's Jacques?

IOC President Jacques Rogge took in judo at Beijing Science and Technology University Gymnasium and weightlifting at Beijing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics Gymnasium Wednesday.

- Mark Bisson

Event of the Day: Tennis Stars Bring Crowds In

BOCOG may be struggling to attract visitors to other venues on the Olympic Green, but tennis fans are flocking to the north precinct of the site. Swiss ace Roger Federer and his Spanish rival Rafael Nadal are big draws.

Newly built for the Games, the venue includes a 10,000-seat center court, two show courts (4,000 and 2,000 respectively) and seven outside courts. There are six practice courts.

Around 170 of the world's top men and women players are competing for four gold medals: men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles and women's doubles.

"I am very proud," Ricci Bitti, president of the International Tennis Federation, told *Around the Rings*.

"It was a long fight to get a new facility," he said, recalling the time several years ago when BOCOG went back on a bid book promise to construct from scratch in favor of refurbishing an old facility 40 miles south.

After Athens 2004, Bitti said it took

almost two years of discussions before BOCOG agreed to the new-build plan.

ATR spoke to Bitti outside No. 1 court where he spent time watching a little of Brit Andy Murray's shock defeat to the Taiwanese player Lu Yen-Hsun Monday.

Bitti expressed his satisfaction with crowds and the smooth running of venue operations on day two of the tennis competition.

He ascribed low turn outs early on to the fact that the Olympics is a multisport event with other competitions pulling crowds in all directions.

"For the U.S. Open or Wimbledon, people stay and enjoy. Here, people go to see many different sports," he said.

After Federer eased into the second round with a straight sets victory over Russian Dmitry Tursunov Monday night, he dismissed any suggestion that air pollution is affecting players.

"Honestly, when I am out there I don't see a pollution problem," he told reporters. "I think it's more humidity



Roger Federer is on his way to the final rounds of the Olympic tennis tournament. (ATR)

for us players that is the problem."

Federer expressed his enthusiasm in moving the sport forward in the Olympics. "By my presence, and Nadal and Roddick in past years, that is only going to make it more important for the future generations," he said.

Asked what the Olympics mean to him, he remarked, "Representing my country, living the dream, being part of the Olympic Village. Being here is something quite unique."

Federer has now moved into the fourth round of play.

The British Olympic Association's Chairman Colin Moynihan was among the guests in the VIP block of seats. He spent several hours on No. 1 court watching Murray, who is ranked sixth in the world, crash out of the tournament. IOC member from Guatemala Willi Kaltschmitt was another enjoying tennis.

Bitti said the Olympic Green Tennis Center "will leave a great legacy for the sport."



The tennis stadium on the Beijing Olympic Green is one of the new venues built for the Games. (ATR/M.Bisson)

- Mark Bisson

Sports Day

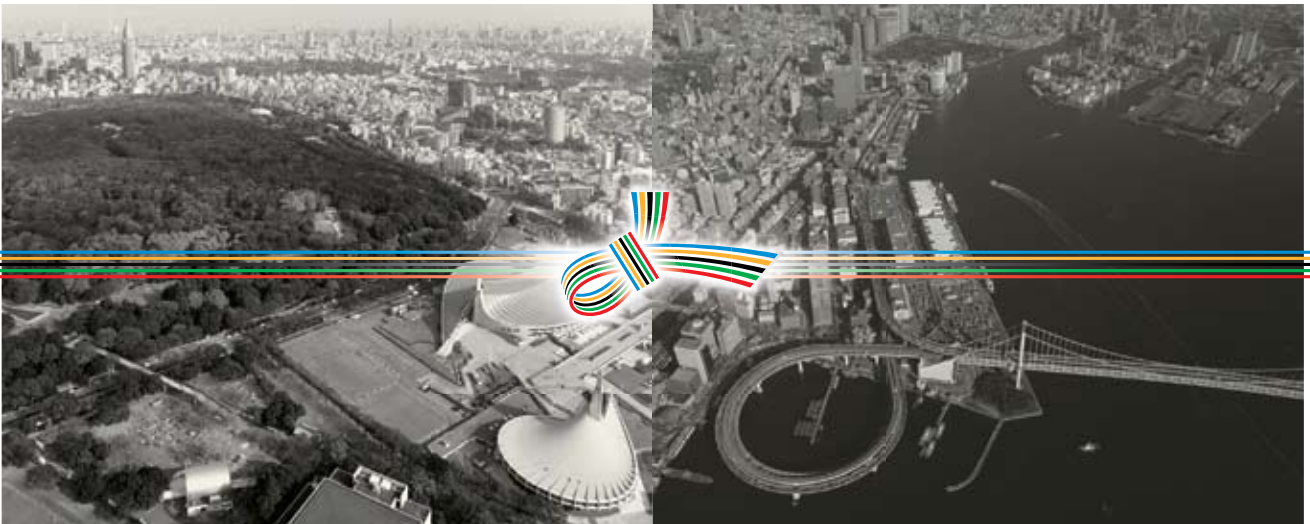
August 14, 2008

Events	Time	Venue
Archery	W: individual competition and medal rounds	10:30 – 13:30, 16:00 – 19:00 Olympic Green Field
Badminton	M: singles, mixed doubles quarterfinals	10:00 – 13:30, 18:30 – 22:00 BJUT Gymnasium
Baseball	Preliminaries	10:30 – 12:30, 18:00 – 20:00 Wukesong Baseball Field
Basketball	M: preliminaries	9:00 – 13:00, 14:30- 18:30, 20:00 – 00:00 Olympic Basketball Gymnasium
Beach Volleyball	M/W: preliminaries	9:00 – 23:00 Chaoyang Park BV Ground
Boxing	M: welter, light heavy, light welter rounds	13:30 – 17:30, 19:00 – 23:00 Workers' Gymnasium
Canoe/ Kayak - Slalom	M: C2 finals ; W: K1 finals	15:00 – 18:30 SY Rowing-Canoeing Park
Equestrian	Dressage team grand prix gold medal round ; individual grand prix	8:00 – 9:00, 19:00 – 20:30 HK
Fencing	W: team sabre competition and medal rounds	9:30 – 14:00, 18:00 – 20:00 Fencing Hall
Gymnastics - Artistic	M: individual all-around final	11:00 – 12:00 National Indoor Stadium
Handball	M: preliminaries	9:00 – 12:15, 14:00 – 17:15, 19:00 – 22:15 OSC Gymnasium
Hockey	W: pool matches	8:30 – 12:00, 18:00 – 22:30 Olympic Green Stadium
Judo	W: -78 kg and M: -100 kg competition and medal rounds	12:00 – 20:30 USTB Gymnasium

Events	Time	Venue
Rowing	M/W: single sculls, LWT double sculls, pairs. M: lightweight four, four, quad sculls	14:00 – 19:00 SY Rowing-Canoeing Park
Sailing	M/W: RS:X. Races: laser radial, finn, yngling, 49er	13:00 – 16:00 Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center
Shooting	W: skeet competition and final	9:00 – 10:00, 12:30 – 16:00 Beijing Shooting Range CTF
Softball	Preliminaries	9:30 – 14:00, 17:00 – 21:30 Fengtai Field
Swimming	Heats: M: 50m freestyle, 100m butterfly; W: 800m freestyle, 200m backstroke. Semis: M: 200m backstroke, 200m IM; W: 100m freestyle, 200m breaststroke. Finals: M: 200m backstroke, 100m freestyle; W: 200m butterfly, 4x200m freestyle	10:00 – 13:00, 18:30 – 22:00 Water Cube
Tennis	M/W: doubles and singles quarterfinals	16:00 – 22:00 Olympic Green Tennis Center
Table Tennis	M/W team matches	10:00 – 13:00, 14:30 – 17:30, 19:30 – 22:30 PKU Gymnasium
Volleyball	M: preliminaries	9:00 – 12:30, 12:30 – 16:00, 20:00 – 23:30 Morning: BIT Gym.; Afternoon: Capital Gym.
Water Polo	M: preliminaries	9:30 – 13:30, 14:00 – 18:00 Yingdong Natatorium
Wrestling	M: GR 84, 96, 120kg competition and medal rounds	9:30 – 13:30, 16:00 – 19:30 CAU Gymnasium

W = Women / M = Men

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