



7th ASPC International Forum

Opening address of Mr. Thierry MAUDET, INSEP CEO

Monday, 29th of August 2011

Dear President of the Association of Sport Performance Centers (ASPC), Dear Jukka LAHTINEN, Dear Board Members, Dear Friends, Dear Friends, Representatives from high performance training centers, Dear delegates,

I am truly happy to open this « 7th Forum on Elite Sport » –a very important event– which will bring together more than 110 participants during three days, representing more than 55 international centers, Olympic committees and sports federations. The five continents are represented here, with more than 23 attending countries.

I am also delighted to welcome in a few minutes Mr. Eric SRECKI, who is the first speaker of this forum. A double Olympic champion, several times World champion in Epée, Eric SRECKI is the current National Technical Director (DTN) of the Fencing Federation, a sport that has historically been France's biggest Olympic medals provider.

Along the years INSEP, “Land of Champions”, has welcomed numerous champions and Olympic medalists.

Since 1945, athletes from the former INS (Institut National des Sports) and from the current INSEP (Institut National du Sport, de l'Expertise et de la Performance) provided France with 168 Olympic medals in various sports disciplines (fencing, judo, athletics, gymnastics, wrestling, canoeing-kayaking, cycling, taekwondo, rowing, archery, boxing, shooting, weightlifting...).

Since the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games, 127 Olympic medals were won by INSEP athletes, i.e. more than 52% of the total amount of medals won by France.

INSEP welcomed the most prestigious French athletes. I will only mention some of them here:

In athletics:

It is inconceivable not mentioning the legendary Alain MIMOUN (medalist in London in 1948, double medalist in Helsinki in 1952 and above all Olympic champion in Melbourne in 1956, in marathon). You might have the surprise and the pleasure to meet him at INSEP since he comes almost every day in what he calls “his second house” to go for a jogging session (he is more than 90 years old!).

I also obviously think of Marie-José PEREC (triple Olympic champion in 400m and 200m), Guy DRUT (double Olympic medalist in 110m hurdles in 1972 and 1976, who then became Minister of Sports and member of the IOC), Jean GALFIONE (winner of the pole vault competition in 1996 in Atlanta), Teddy TAMGHO (holder of the indoor triple jump world record)...

In judo:

David DOUILLET (recently designated by the international judo federation as the greatest judoka in history, during the last World championships), Angelo PARISI (four-time Olympic medal-winner), Marie-Claire RESTOUX, Teddy RINER, Stéphane TRAINÉAU, Fabien CANU, Cécile NOWAK...

In fencing:

Jean-François LAMOUR (triple Olympic medalist who initiated INSEP's ambitious renovation program when he was a Sports Minister [2002-2007]), Laura FLESSEL, Christian d'ORIOLA, Philippe RIBOUD, Eric SRECKI...

In cycling:

Florian ROUSSEAU (triple Olympic champion in track-cycling, currently a National coach within the "Pôle France" of INSEP), Fécicia BALLANGER...

In archery:

Sébastien FLUTE (Olympic champion in 1992), who you will meet during a roundtable.

In canoeing-kayaking:

Tony ESTANGUET, who will try to win his third Olympic title in 2012...

There are so many athletes, I can't mention them all.

INSEP also welcomes several "Pôles France" gathering the best young athletes in various sports disciplines. A great number of these young athletes formerly in "Pôles France" became top-level professional athletes:

- In basketball: Tony PARKER (triple NBA champion), Ronny TURIAF, Boris DIAW...
- In tennis: Amélie MAURESMO, Guy FORGET, Henri LECONTE, Jo-Wilfried TSONGA, Gaël MONFILS, Gilles SIMON...

INSEP is probably one of the oldest training centers in the world. Therefore it has a "history", but also a performance project for the future.

Since 2007, INSEP has been implementing a highly ambitious renovation program. It involves everything the Institute offers, that is to say its buildings, organisation, operating methods and intervention procedures.

The Institute's stated objective is on the one hand to permanently adapt answers given to the evolutions and constraints of performance nationally and internationally, respecting athletes' health, and on the other hand to answer to the athletes' diverse needs and expectations in terms of training and scholar, university and professional education.

Indeed, the top-level athletes' "dual career" (or "double success") remains a burning need, obviously supported with quality, innovative, ambitious solutions.

These are key-issues that you will address during this Forum.

INSEP also strives to strengthen the level of expertise of top management in French sports. It now incorporates the Paralympic dimension, in close cooperation with the federations concerned. As both the "Head of Network" and "Resources Centre" of French high-level sports, it offers a wide range of training paths, particularly in management of National teams and technical directors.

INSEP has more than 600 top-level athletes (380 boarders all year long, among which 140 U-18) and 150 associated training partners, spread into 27 "Pôles France" and preparing for major international sports competitions, under the supervision of 150 permanent coaches and staff, helped on specific occasions by more than 300 managers (physiotherapists, doctors, strength and conditioning coaches, technical staff...), all of this in an exceptional environment.

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are getting closer and closer. INSEP apprehends it with humility but also with confidence.

The stated objectives fixed by the Minister of Sports Mrs. Chantal JOUANNO are clear: 14 gold medals and at least as much medals as those won in 2008 in Beijing (40), the half of it having to be won by athletes from INSEP...

The Institute (305 agents) also has research teams contributing to performance and support to athletes in the field of sciences. Its Medical Service, which is probably unique in the world, has as main objective to contribute to preserving athletes' health.

Among things less known (but you will discover it during your stay), INSEP also takes part in the publication and diffusion of knowledge in the field of high-level sports, thanks to the various services composing the MAPI (Media Library, Audiovisual, Image Library –Archives– and Publications Service). The promotion of its documentary resources is one of the strong axes of the Institute's strategy.

To manage its policy, INSEP benefits from:

- Renovated and high-quality sports facilities: you will see it during the short movie following my speech. The delivery of the last facilities, among which the Olympic swimming pool, is planned for 2014;
- An organisation that creates every day the conditions leading to the success and victory of French high-level sports, and helps actors in performance to face the major international challenges: i.e. winning Olympic, Paralympic and World titles, adapting to fierce competition, managing organisations in more and more complex environments, training and supporting technical staff, innovating and sharing the richest experiences.

Since my arrival at INSEP in March 2007, I have emphasized the place and role of the Direction of Communication, International Relations and Development (DirCRID) and encouraged my colleagues to get involved in top-importance international associations.

Welcoming major events such as the 11th ENSSEE Forum and 8th ICCE Global Coach Conference a few days ago, and obviously this 7th Elite Sport Forum, clearly illustrate this orientation.

The implementation of international relations and cooperation actions, as well as collaboration with French and foreign institutions, are strategic development axes for the Institute.

The close relations INSEP maintains and encourages with several foreign institutions are always a great source of experiences and discovery for those of my colleagues exchanging and visiting these institutions.

The IAHPSTC –Now ASPC– and INSEP have a long common history. When you have a look at the association's history, which is admirably presented by our friend Josep ESCODA on the ASPC website ("memory of the association"), you will note that INSEP was already there for the 1st Forum held in Sydney in 1999, and has since greatly contributed to the construction (co-founder in 2005) and development of the association, welcoming association meetings on four occasions (the last one being the 1st European Forum of the International Association of High Performance Sports Training Centers, in March 2009).

Two years ago, when I participated in the 6th Forum on Elite Sport in Colorado Springs, with my colleagues (Jean-Claude VOLLMER, Agathe BARBIEUX and Nicolas BRETIN), I had the great pleasure to meet with representatives of "INSEPs from all around the world", to have particularly rich and enlightening discussions on "good (best) practices" in our respective institutions.

I hope this Forum will be the very expression of this thirst for exchanges and cooperation.

The ASPC, a young association born in 2005, has remarkably grown, moving from 15 centers in 2006 to more than 50 today. In addition, many centers are on their way to become members; this number should thus rapidly increase.

I am convinced this Forum will favor a new impulse for the development of the association and that wonderful training centers from Eastern Europe will soon come and join us.

I would like to congratulate the host of the 8th International Forum that will take place in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

I also would like to thank INSEP's Organisation Committee for its full mobilisation to make this event a success. I hope your stay in Paris will remain a wonderful souvenir.

Despite a substantial program, I hope you will have the occasion to visit the magnificent "Château de Vincennes", a symbol of France's History, located a few hundred meters from INSEP. The historical heritage is exceptional in France. As all the castles, palaces, monuments, museums, etc., INSEP is part of this heritage.

I will have the pleasure to meet you again on various occasions, and more specifically on Tuesday, 30th of August in the afternoon during the Forum C on the topic "development" of centres. I was invited –thank you Jean-Claude– to introduce the discussion. We will also meet during the different convivial moments proposed in the program.

Thank you for your attention.

Thierry MAUDET
INSEP General Director