



1971

TAHITI • SEPTEMBER 8 TO 19



Ouverture des jeux du Pacifique 1971 © La Dépêche de Tahiti.

FOURTH SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

The choice of Tahiti filled all the delegations with enthusiasm. However, was this honor not also a burden in disguise ? Because of the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, it had been decided to move the South Pacific Games forward to 1971. Tahiti had sports facilities, but it still lacked an Olympic-size swimming pool and a stadium capable of holding 12,000 spectators. An Organizing Committee led by Dr. Pierre Cassiau and Lysis Lavigne achieved the remarkable feat of being ready on time. On September 8, nearly fifteen thousand people made their way to Pater Stadium. Some spectators arrived very early and settled on the hills surrounding the stadium.

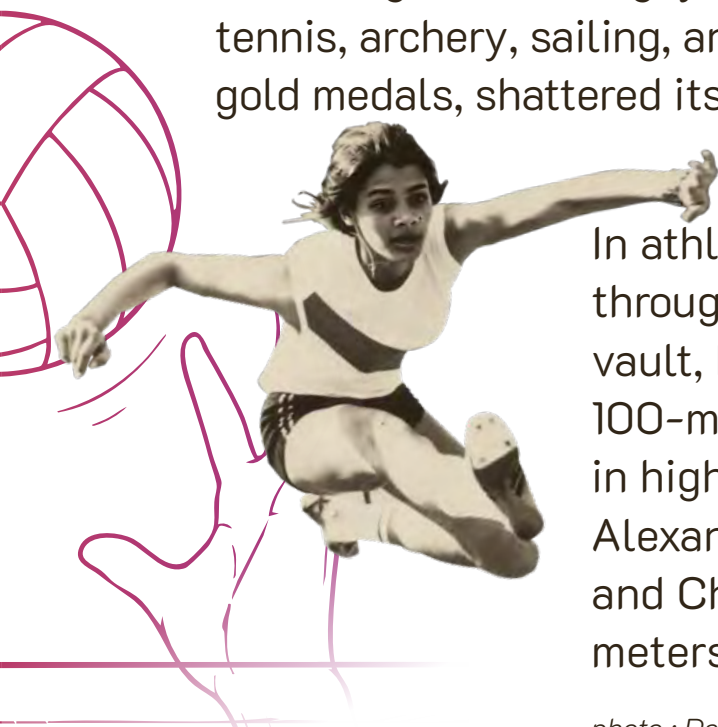


1971 - Lysis Lavigne et Napoléon Spitz © Patrick PONS

The opening ceremony was magnificent, the most beautiful since the creation of the Games. Participating delegations included the Cook Islands, the New Hebrides, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Guam, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, New Caledonia, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Nauru, American and Western Samoa, and finally Tahiti, the host country, at the end of the parade.

GOLD WAS THERE FOR THE TAKING

The program included athletics, basketball, boxing, cycling, spearfishing, football, golf, weightlifting, judo, swimming, netball, rugby union, softball, tennis, table tennis, archery, sailing, and volleyball. Tahiti, with 21 gold medals, shattered its total of 7 from Port Moresby.



In athletics, gold medals came through Stanley Drollet in pole vault, Danièle Guyonnet in the 100-meter hurdles, Pierre Leontieff in high jump, John Salmon, Alexandre Aunoa, Jean Bourne, and Charles Tetaria in the 4x100 meters and decathlon.

photo : Daniele Guyonnet © Patrick PONS

14

Nations
participantes

17

Disciplines
sportives

PODIUM DES MÉDAILLES D'OR

Nouvelle-Calédonie		33
Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée		28
Polynésie française		22

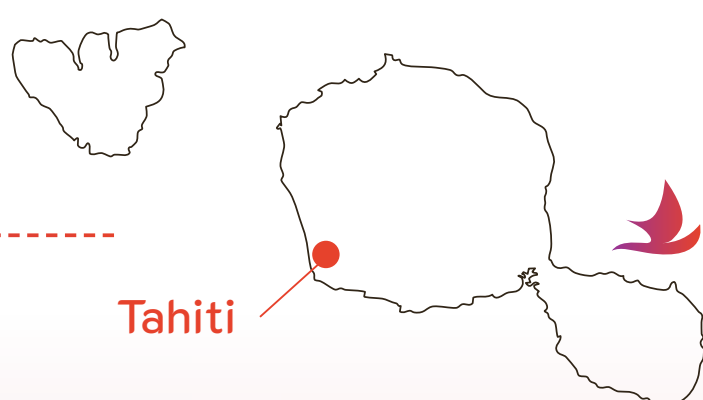
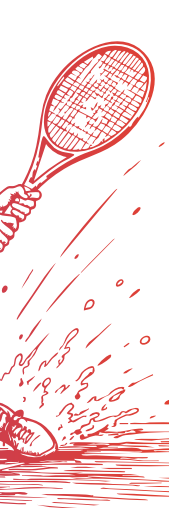
In boxing: Maurice Apeang, Joseph Toi, and Maco Nena.

photo : Maco Nena © Patrick PONS



In team spearfishing: Faruia Kaua, Mauri Ateo, and Temarii Maurirere. In the individual event: Mauri Ateo. In cycling: Max Bopp du Pont in sprint, and Anthony Van Bastolaer, Paul Bonno, Félix Tevaria, and Peter Cowan in Olympic pursuit. In judo: Bertrand Pinot, Pierre Domard, and Paul Ng Too. In table tennis: Hélène Mervin and Victor Lau in mixed doubles, and Hélène Mervin in women's singles. In sailing: Jean-Paul Krault and Jacques Frey, joined on an exceptional podium by Alain-Laurent Burgaud and Didier Arnould-André Cogge. The women's volleyball team and the men's basketball team retained their titles.

The fourth Games ended in a joyful and exuberant rush of celebration. New Caledonia once again came out on top with 33 gold medals, ahead of Papua and New Guinea with 28, and French Polynesia with 22. Lysis Lavigne was carried in triumph. Such perfect organization, achieved in record time, also deserved the precious metal !



RENDEZ-VOUS À GUAM
EN 1975 !



JEUX DU
PACIFIQUE
TAHITI 2027

