



Suva - 1979 - Tahiti médaille d'or © Patrick PONS

1979

SUVA • AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 8

SIXTH SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES IN FIJI

Originally entrusted to the New Hebrides, the organization of the Sixth South Pacific Games was ultimately relinquished due to the considerable financial demands associated with hosting the event. One year later, the territory would gain independence and become the Republic of Vanuatu. This decision was widely commended throughout the Pacific region, as it helped avoid a repeat of the organizational difficulties experienced during the Guam Games. Fiji subsequently stepped forward to host the Games for a second time, reaffirming its central role within Pacific sport and regional cooperation.



JEAN-CLAUDE DUHAZÉ'S SENSATIONAL TRIPLE VICTORY

Gold medals were won by J.C Duhazé in discus, shot put, and hammer throw; D.Guyonnet in the 100-meter hurdles and pentathlon; S.Drollet in pole vault; boxer Hubert Apeang; weightlifters A. Massin and A. Cheung; and judoka Didier Reiatua.

photo : Jean Claude Duhaze © Patrick PONS

The final standings were very close. New Caledonia finished first once again with 33 gold medals, followed by Tahiti with 31, and Fiji with 22.

The 1979 edition brought together nineteen countries and territories, including several first-time participants: Kiribati, the Northern Mariana Islands, Norfolk Island, Tokelau, and Tuvalu (formerly known as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands).

A total of eighteen sports were featured on the competition program : athletics, basketball, boxing, football, golf, weightlifting, judo, swimming, netball, rugby, squash, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, cricket, lawn bowls, and field hockey.

Swimming brought in seven gold medals, with Henri Noble winning five, along with the 4x100-meter freestyle relay and the 4x100-meter medley relay, featuring D. Berdichevski, M. Sanford, K. Ceran, R. Bonnet, and H.Noble.



1979 - La sélection de tennis © Patrick PONS

The tennis team, P. Rauzy, C. Mottet, V. Vanaa, and J. Vongy, swept every title except the men's doubles. The table tennis players, led by Victor Lau with four gold medals, alongside F. Lieou Kui, L. Trafton, P. Utia, and J. Lau, brought in their treasure. Nino and John Salmon triumphed over the wind and waves. The women's volleyball team reclaimed its title.

The Games flag was brought forward and handed over to the Western Samoan representative.

RENDEZ-VOUS À APIA EN
1983 !

