

Veteran official passes the baton

FEDERATION PRESIDENT PRAISES CHINA'S CONTRIBUTION TO GAMES

By LEI LEI
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — At the age of 87, George Killian is still inspired by young people.

He is in the right line of work.

After 12 years as president of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), Killian will step down after the Universiade.

"When I started out in my young life, I came from the Universiade. I wanted to be a basketball coach, I wanted to be an athletics director, and I succeeded in doing that," Killian said on Thursday.

"We are proud of (FISU). I enjoy working with young people.

"Young people are the world. They are the leaders of the world, because they're the educated people. They have a passion for things."

After earning several degrees in education, Killian began coaching.

He coached basketball at Wharton High School from 1949 to 1951, and at Erie Community College in Buffalo, New York, from 1954 to 1969.

He was president of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) from 1990 to 1998 and in 1996, he became a member of the International Olympic Committee in his capacity as president of FIBA.

Killian also served as treasurer of the Pan American Basketball Confederation and director of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

After presiding over the US delegation at the Universiade three times, Killian began working for the FISU. He was a member of the International Control Commission from 1975 to 1987, then was elected vice-president of FISU. In 1995, he was promoted to first vice-president.

On Nov 26, 1999, he was confirmed as FISU president by the executive committee, succeeding Primo Nebiolo. In 2007, Killian was re-elected for a second term.

The FISU elected a new executive committee in Shenzhen on Aug 9. The board will be chaired by Claude-Louis Gallien of France, the former



EDMOND TANG / CHINA DAILY

George Killian, who ends his term as International University Sports Federation president after the Universiade in Shenzhen, poses for a picture with China Daily reporter Lei Lei after receiving a gift.

first vice-president of the federation and former French university hammer-throwing champion.

The American, who will be honorary president of FISU after the games, is satisfied with his legacy.

"Up to today, yes, I'm satisfied, but this is just the beginning," Killian said.

"We have developed plans to keep going and going. There will always be somebody there to take your place and keep going. We are not at the end.

"There are plans to further develop university sports through-

out the world. The biggest things come from people who live in various countries. They are the ones who have the plans. What they need is help nurturing their plans."

Killian praised the city of Shenzhen.

"What impressed me is the total newness of the buildings — you took a flat piece of ground and you made this wonderful," Killian said.

"Building one after another, you made a beautiful village and you made a beautiful dining hall. Students love it."

He also appreciates what China

has done to develop student sports.

"The Chinese are the leaders," he said. "They help and invite people to share knowledge, and they also give money to projects."

As for the new president, Killian said he is "not going to give him any advice since that's not fair".

"He (Gallien) has been my first vice-president for 12 years. He understands and he has some of his own ideas," Killian said.

"He has to have the right to put his programs into place. He has the board and the board will say yes or no."

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GEORGE KILLIAN
PRESIDENT OF FISU

FACT BOX

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- President of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) – 1990-1998
- Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) – 1996-1998
- President of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – 1977-1978
- Board of Trustees of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – 1969-2004
- Award winner – Men's Naismith Outstanding Contribution to Basketball – 2004
- Inductee to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame – 2000

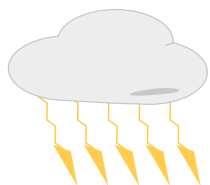
AWARDS:

- Ohio Northern University Athletic Hall of Fame – 1979
- W.P. Fehring Award of Merit from the US Baseball Federation – 1982
- NJCAA Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame – 1987
- NJCAA Basketball Hall of Fame – 1988
- John W. Bunn Award from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame – 1989
- Gold Medal Award from the Basketball Federation of Poland – 1998

Former Volunteer Positions:

- Secretary/Treasurer – US Track and Field Federation
- Board of Directors – US Gymnastics Federation, Basketball Federation of the USA, Amateur Basketball Association of the USA, US Wrestling Federation, US Olympic Administrative Committee

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