

## OLYMPIC MEDALS AND BIG CHAMPIONS AT THE FIRST WINTER MILITARY WORLD GAMES AOSTA VALLEY 2010

*Press Conference of Presentation on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, at 11.30 a.m. in Aosta, where on Saturday there will be the Opening Ceremony of the Games and the Forum “Sport and Peace”.*

**(Aosta, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010)** – **Giuliano Razzoli**, the Italian gold medal in Vancouver, **Arianna Fontana** (bronze medal), **Piller Cotttrer** (silver medal), the Norwegian multi-winner **Peter Northug**, the world-beaters, the Swiss **Dario Cologna** and the French **Vincent Jay**, Olympic gold medal in Cross-Country Skiing and Biathlon, are only some of the names competing during the Winter Military World Games 2010, which will begin on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March in Aosta Valley: 42 participating nations, with military teams composed by about **800 people including athletes and staff**.

**The official presentation Press Conference will take place in Aosta on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, at 11.30 hrs., at the Regional Palace in Deffeyes Square n. 1.**

The press conference will be attended by the President of the Autonomous Region Aosta Valley **Augusto Rollandin**, by the Councillor of the Regional Tourism, Sport and Trade Board **Aurelio Marguerettaz**, by the CISM (International Military Sports Council) President **Gen. Gianni Gola**, by the Chief of the Italian CISM Delegation and Head of the Sport General Office of Defence **Gen. Rinaldo Sestili**, and by the President of the Organizing Committee **Luigi Roth**.

They will present the **Forum “Sport and Peace”**, scheduled in Aosta on Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, at 09.00 hrs, the **Opening Ceremony**, taking place the same day on the Chanoux Square, at 17.00 hrs., and **the programme of the competitions** taking place in **Brusson, Cogne, Flassin (Saint-Oyen), Gressoney-Saint-Jean, Pila, Aosta** and at the Sports Palace in **Courmayeur**. The programme includes the classical sports, such as **biathlon, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and short track**, and other sports, like **indoor sport climbing, ski mountaineering and ski orienteering**.

On the slalom track of Pila, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, we will be able to admire **Razzoli** of the Army Sports Centre, competing with **Alexander Ploner** of the Carabinieri, and **Max Blardone and Manfred Moelgg** of the Fiamme Gialle. The Italian alpine skiing athletes will come down on the snow of Gressoney: **Federica Brignone** of the Carabinieri, **Denise Karbon** and **Manuela Moelgg** of the Fiamme Gialle, and **Nicole Gius** of the Army Sports Centre.

For Cross-Country Skiing, on the Sant’Orso Meadows in Cogne, there will be **Northug**, who has collected medals in Vancouver (gold medal in the Team Sprint and in the 50 km classical technique, silver medal in the mixed relay 4 X 10 km, and bronze medal in the Sprint classical technique), the German **Tobias Angerer**, silver medal in the pursuit, and the four Swiss athletes, **Dario Cologna, Perl Curdin, Remo Fischer and Toni Livers**. There will also be the Italian athletes **Giorgio Di Centa and Pietro Piller Cotttrer** of the Carabinieri, **Fabio Pasini** of the Army Sports Centre, and **Thomas Moriggl** of the Fiamme Gialle. Among the women there will be **Marianna Longa** and **Silvia Rupil** of the Fiamme Gialle, and **Magda Genuin** of the Army Sports Centre. Very well-trained will be the French team with the world-beater **Vincent Vittoz**, fifth in the 15 km free technique and fourth in the mixed relay 4 X 10 km; **Alexandre Rousselet**, winner of the XXX Marcia Granparadiso last 7 February (45 km classical technique), and of the Slavic Cup in Cassies Valley (42 km Mass start skating). Even **Karine Laurent Philippot**, the athlete living in Gressoney and married with the local trainer **Massimo Laurent**, will attend the Games: she was seventh in the mixed relay in Vancouver (4 X 5 km) and tenth in the Team Sprint. On the Trois Villages track in

Brusson there will be **Jay**, gold medal in Vancouver in the 10 km Sprint, and the relay team-mate **Vincent Defrasne**. The French team will have big athletes even in the alpine skiing, with **Tessa Worley**, 16<sup>th</sup> in the Olympic Giant Slalom and winner of the World Cup Giant Slalom in Aare (Sweden) last December. **Ingrid Jacquemod**, of Aosta Valley origin and with relatives in La Thuile, 13<sup>th</sup> in the Giant Slalom in Vancouver. On the Gorrax track in Pila, **Steve Missilier** will also compete, 13<sup>th</sup> in Giant Slalom and third in Downhill World Cup, at Haus in Ennstal (Austria), last January. Among the Russian athletes there will be **Natalia Korosteleva**, bronze medal in the Team Sprint, and **Irina Khazova**.

The competition sites are ready to host the Games: big ferment in **Cogne**, again protagonist after having organized Cross-Country Skiing World Cups, and, at the beginning of February the XXX edition of the Marciagranparadiso. In **Pila**, on the beautiful track Gorrax, with very good snow conditions, there will be the Giant Slalom and Slalom men. In **Gressoney**, on the “Leonardo David” track, it has just been organized with full marks the Europa Cup ladies of Alpine Skiing. **Brusson**, after different Cross-Country Skiing World Cups and Italian Biathlon competitions, has just organized the Biathlon Italian Championships for the youth categories. Very good snow conditions also in the **Great Saint-Bernard Valley**, where the best world athletes will attend the ski mountaineering competition: apart from the athletes of the Army Sports Centre, there will be the French **Toby Sbalbi**. The high-trained Chinese delegation will be very competitive in short track, in the **Forum Sport Centre of Courmayeur**.