Romulo leads 2015 Olympics opening rites

By SCUAA 'Updates' Team

Known for its pancit batil patong and its Cagayan River, the longest and the largest river in the archipelago, Tuguegarao City has once more been put in the national map as it hosts the National State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) 2015 Olympic Games, which formally opened yesterday at the newly refurbished Cagayan Sports Complex with Cagayan State University as host.

At 6:30 a.m., a parade around the city closely secured by the members of the Philippine National Police started the week-long Olympic Games, which is co-hosted by the Provincial Government of Cagayan and the local government of Tuguegarao City, with participants from 112 SUCs sporting their colorful uniforms and banners and ushered by 9 drum and lyre bands coming from the Department of Education schools.

Although the weather was a bit on the cold side, and it was drizzling at the early part of the morning, the sportfest was formally opened by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Dr. Ricardo E. Rotoras.

Rep. Roman Romulo, chair of the house committee on higher and technical education, opened by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Dr. Ricardo E. Rotoras.

Aside from Romulo, the other notable personalities present at the ceremony covered live by local and national media were Cagayan Governor Alvaro Antonio, Cagayan Third District Rep. Randolf Ting, Tuguegarao Mayor Engelbert Caronan, COO-NATTCO Rep. Anthony Bravo, Commission on Higher Education Commissioner Alex Brilliante and CSU President Dr. Romeo R. Quilang, who, on behalf of the other four SUCs in Region 2, welcomed the delegations in his opening remarks.

Romulo speaks at the opening program of the National SCUAA 2015 Olympics held at the Cagayan Sports Complex. (Photo courtesy of Ferdinand Soriano)

Local and national media picked up these historic moments that placed Tuguegarao City in the online and offline space.

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To highlight the ceremony and to welcome the delegates, guests and visitors to the city, about 9,000 basic physical education students of CSU coming from its Carig and Andrews campuses performed an enthralling 20-minute field demonstration, which is believed to be a ‘potential’ Guinness record. (See related story on column 3 of page 1)

Participants of the competitions, supervised by PASUC, will compete in 21 sporting events, namely, athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, chess, dancesports, football, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, softball, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, volleyball, beach volleyball, arnis, karatedo, pencak silat, futsal, boxing, and archery.

Hostilities kicked off 1 p.m. of the same day with the finals of all the events including the awards and closing ceremonies to be held on Feb. 14.

Western Mindanao, NCR, Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, ARMM, Northern Mindanao, SOCSARGEN, CARAGA and Davao are the participating regions.

What they said...

"The start of the National SCUAA 2015 Olympics will serve as an inspiration for our local and national leaders, and will serve as a reminder that we are all Filipinos, we are all united."

-Congressman Roman Romulo

"Hopefully this event will bring good memories, and after this event shall have been pushed through, maalaala ninyo ang Cagayan na isang magandang probinsya, where people are hospitable, where people are good, magalang. And hopefully, this will put Cagayan in the national scene."

-Governor Alvaro Antonio

"You are really at the forefront as far as promoting unity in everything. People might differ in politics, might differ in terms of discipline. But, it is sports that brings us together. Sports is the one that brings about convergence. And we must thank you for the hard work and training that you've done."

-Commissioner Alex Brillantes

"I take this remarkable opportunity to congratulate you all, specially our athletes, their trainers, coaches, advisers, teachers, supporters, particularly the Governor and the host university for the success of this event. While we may be only at the beginning of this event, I strongly believe you are all winners, because more than the medals you will earn, you will win friendship, respect, confidence, and memories that will last a lifetime."

-Mayor Engelbert Caronan

"The number of athletes gathered here today is only a small fraction of the total number of students enrolled in state colleges and universities in the Philippines. By the sheer number of SUCs and their total enrollment, there is no other organization in our country other than PASUC that has the same potential. In as much as we mold the majority of the youth who come to us for tertiary education, we virtually hold the fate of the nation in our hands. That is why, true to the theme of the SCUAA National Olympics 2015, we must share the same vision and tread the same roadmap towards a better country. This event shows how our association could bring the synergy of diverse organization and stakeholders."

-CSU President Romeo Quilang

Editor’s Note:
At yesterday’s National SCUAA 2015 Olympics opening ceremony, five prominent individuals spoke before the crowd, inspiring the athletes and coaches with their remarks. We included here some of the most striking parts of their speeches.
Meet the Candidates of the Search for Mr. and Ms. SCUAA 2015

Watch the Grand Coronation Night on February 9, 2015, 7 p.m. CSU Andrews Gymnasium

Why is the torch lit during sports competition?

By Kristinne Joyce De Leon

From its inception at the 1982 Olympic Games, the lighting of the torch appears to have symbolized a moment of truth from spectators and athletes, where they can join in unity and recognize and understand the ideals that the games can offer. The torch and the flame are significant international symbols and are important in linking the general public with the festival. Others associate the flame with the church, illustrating the growing significance of the flame and the torch as symbols associated with honesty and purity. Apart from its religious significance, research shows that the torch and the flame have significance for the community, in terms of social and cultural benefits such as instigating pride and building unity; promoting celebrations and memories for the community; influencing national pride; and promoting sports in the community; as instigating pride and building unity; promoting celebrations and memories for the community; influencing national pride; and promoting sports in the community.

The flame is not merely flame that burns in the field or the stadium, nor is the torch simply the vessel that carries the flame. It has been suggested by historians that the flame was born in a temple erected by the ancient Greeks to honor Hera, the powerful queen of the mythological gods. To kindle the flame, the ancient Greeks used a skaphia (a type of crucible) to concentrate the Sun's rays and set fire to dry grass. Research also indicates that the ancient Greeks used a skaphia (a type of crucible) to concentrate the Sun's rays and set fire to dry grass. Research also indicates that the origin of the use of fire and torches in the ancient Greek games stems from both religious ritual and a team race, although it was first and foremost a religious ceremony. The race which was called Lamпадедромия, derived from the Greek work “lampas” meaning torch, and “dromos” meaning course or running, was staged. Originally, this race was run by individuals as a part of local Greek games held in honor of a god or patron of the city. The race was considered to be more ritualistic than competitive and its purpose was to carry the torch safely from one point in the city to another without its being extinguished. This “sacred” meaning of the race remained even long after it had become a relay-race. In either type of race, the torch had to be transported swiftly “to preserve its purity and power.” The relay ended at the altar of the god or patron in whose honor the festival was being held, where the winner used his torch to light the sacrificial fire.

The torch journey is a “rich sampler of Cagayan’s history, culture and geography.” This, and with the commencement of the SCUAA National Olympics 2015, it has woven itself into the fabric of the province’s and in particular, CSU’s history.
Region 6 edges Region 9 in Sepak takraw, 2-1

Region 6 shook off the court after nailing out region 9 in the Sepak takraw game held during the first day of the National SCUAA 2015 Olympics, 2-1.

In the first regu, both teams exchanged kicks, until Davao Region locked the game with their powerful wallops and sharp blocks, finishing the first and second set of the game with the score 21-13, 21-15.

On the other hand, the Western Visayas Region recovered on the second regu after Thomas Miguel Estandarte and Kenny Penaso executed headshots and spikes leaving their opponents with dust of 21-09, 21-05.

At the end of the game, Region 6 regined after Karl Tyrence Bryan Castillo ended the sets with the scores of 21-14, 21-16 by continuous spikes. By Sarah Jane Redoble

Region 12 nips Region 10

Region 12 SOCSARGEN defeated Region 10 –Northern Mindanao during the volleyball men’s division game 2-1. Region 12 players scored 3 sets over 1 after the four sets of the game.

They gained 25 points over 21 of the opponent during the first set of the game, despite their loss in the second, 21-25.

On the third and fourth set, they were able to seize the throne with the scores, 25-23 and 25-18, respectively.

The team led by Elieverjay Soverano won through defensive blocks, spikes, and stops against their opponent.

“I told them to relax and enjoy the game, for I saw that they were very eager to get the ball,” said Nogodin S. Salgen, Region 12’s coach.

By Rochelle Nera

Bicol region blanks CAR, 3-0

Bicol region ruled the court during the volleyball men’s division game four against Cordillera Administrative Region held at Cagayan State University – Carig Campus on Feb. 8, 3-0.

Bicol owned all three sets of the match blanking its opponent.

The team gained 25 over 20 points during the first set of the game, 25 over 17 on the second, and 26 over 24 on the third set.

In an interview, team captain Felix del Ayre said their foundation for winning is the effort that everyone exerted.

“Sa blocking at pag-spike ng bola, sa pagsalo kung kailangan, dive for it…team effort lang talaga,” he added.

Gerard Marcellana, the coach of the team said that in every game, there must only be one champion.

“Malakas sila, though lahat ng team malalakas, there should only be one winner, and God said there should be only one champion,” he said. By Rochelle Nera

Region 9 spikes off Region 7

Region 9 shamed Region 7 during the first game of the volleyball men’s division held at the Carig Volleyball Court on Feb. 8, with the score of 3-0.

The latter dominated the first set in a close fight through their spikes which gave them the score 25-23.

The former tried to get close with leading team during the second set by their blocks, but the score ended with 14-14.

However, Region 9 was able to recover using consecutive attacks that made them snatch the set 25-23.

Region 9 triumphed over the rival during the third set with proper set plays and attacks of Jason Baldero and Jerome Barcalle-tandem, ending the game with 25-20.

Team captain Alvin Yosoris said that teamwork was their edge over their opponents.

“Nagtulong-tulong kaming lahat kaya lumamang kami sa kalaban,” he said. By Denmark Ortiz and Rochelle Nera

Region 3 pawns region 1 in Sepak takraw; 2-0

With their unstoppable spikes, Region 3 (R3) crashed Region 1 (R1) during the first day of National SCUAA 2015 Olympics in sepak takraw bracket C game, 2-0, Feb. 8.

In the first set played by the first regu, both teams showed up a great defense and offense and came up with powerful summersault and spikes that brought tension to the audience.

However, the R3 broke the defense of R1 when Salmer Libanan, the region’s spiker, released his powerful summersault that made them finish the set to 20-22.

In the second set, the intense offense of R3 even stepped up nailing R1 with a 9-point margin, 14-3.

To completely secure their victory, Earl Ryan Bornes, spiker of R3, posted unstoppable spikes that led them to their win, 21-11.

Meanwhile, in the second regu, R3 players continued showing up their spectacular plays to escape past R1, 17-11.

The tandem of Aljhon Dionisio and Edwin Eugenio of R3, contributed 2 spikes and 2 headshots that led them win the first set, 21-17.

In the second set, R1 suddenly rose from their grave after Michael Oxampo, R1 spiker, released his spectacular summersault and leave R3 with the score of 5-0.

By Manases Lacambra

PASUC OFFICERS MEET SUC PRESIDENTS. On February 7 at Ivory Hotel, Presidents of State Universities and Colleges nationwide met with the officers of the Philippines Association of State Universities and Colleges led by President Ricardo E. Rotoras (inset - 2nd from left) and the host President Dr. Romeo R. Quilang (inset - 1st from left). They discussed matters having to do with the preparations for the National SCUAA 2015 Olympics and other important PASUC concerns. Not in photo is CHED Commissioner Alex Brillantes, who came to speak before them on the same occasion. (Photos courtesy of Ferdinand Soriano)

CSU, CAGAYAN PROVINCE WELCOME SCUAA GUESTS, PARTICIPANTS. SUC Presidents from 15 regions and other delegation heads who traveled all the way from their respective places to the Ilagan City to participate in the National SCUAA 2015 Olympics were welcomed with sumptuous food, songs, dances and fireworks. CHED Commissioner Alex Brillantes graced the event staged by Cagayan Governor Alvaro Antonio Bacani.
CAR Five regroups in 3rd, rolls past CARAGA

By Michael Lavadia and Efren Reyes

The Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) recovered from an 11-point deficit after two quarters against CARAGA to secure its first win in Sunday afternoon’s treat of the Men’s Basketball Game (Bracket D) of the State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association National Olympics 2015.

CAR trailed for the entire first half, 37-26, allowing CARAGA to score 24 points in the 2nd quarter alone while shooting below 30% from the field and giving up too many fouls including two unsportsmanlike fouls that sent CARAGA players in the charity line.

CARAGA’s defense, however, faltered in the 3rd quarter allowing CAR to put up a 13-4 run in the in the mid-way point with Tito Astrandre, Prodie Tadeo and Romnick Buraga leading the team’s charge with a combined 19-point third quarter that gave CAR its first taste of the lead, 51-49.

CAR’s lead even ballooned to 8, 73-65, with 2:43 left in the Regulation, as Astrandre took advantage of Tadeo’s 3 dimes to add 10 more points in his total.

CAR held its opponent off to only 12 points in the last quarter to seize the game, 81-67.

Meanwhile Placido Ronquillo posted a game-high 23 points for CARAGA, while Reynum de la Puerta added 17.

In an interview with Tadeo, CAR’S captain, he said that defense had gotten them back to the game.

On the other hand, Aldrin Ranjee Novo, CARAGA’s coach, admitted that their team defense had collapsed.

“We were complacent. Our defense collapsed and we lacked physicality,” he confessed.