Gold Medals, Matryoshka Dolls And Memories To Last A Lifetime

July 17-27— A day before the Utah athletes arrived, Mayor Luzhkov met with Governor Leavitt and members of his delegation at Moscow City Hall. It was an opportunity for him to express his hopes that the Moscow-Utah Youth Games would go well and to reinforce Moscow's position as a candidate for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Once the 250+ athletes, coaches and trainers arrived, there was never a dull moment at the Vega Hotel (“Athlete Village”). Governor Leavitt and Andrei Kirilenko from the Utah Jazz surprised the Utah athletes with a visit at the hotel.

Before the competition began, the Team Utah delegation was treated to a Moscow City tour, with stops at Red Square and the look-out point at Moscow State University.

Both Opening and Closing Ceremonies were full of song, dance and acrobatics. It was a wonderful way to expose the Utah youth to the Russian culture.

Both Moscow and Utah teams competed at the highest level. Although the Moscow teams took home more first place cups, those who came from Utah took home several gold medals, matryoshka dolls, and memories to last a lifetime.

Moscow’s Mayor Luzhkov is presented with an official Team Utah shirt by Utah Sport Commissioner, Jeff Robbins.

Utah Jazz player and Russian native Andrei Kirilenko and Utah Governor Leavitt with Amber Harker, Utah State champion in the 5000 meter.

Utah Athletes enjoy a sightseeing/souvenir shopping stop near Moscow State University.
1. Athletes march into the Luzhniki stadium for Opening Ceremonies.
2. Utah athlete at Opening Ceremonies.
3. Utah girls volleyball teams compete.
5. Russian fans “hang out” with Team Utah athletes.
6. Coaches, trainers and members of the organizing committee after the Mayor’s VIP reception.
7. Boy’s water polo.
8. A young girl cleans wax off from a candelabra at the church in Sergeyev Posad during a visit by the baseball team.
9. Utah boy’s baseball win gold.
10. Wrestling awards ceremony.
11. Utah’s Jessica Duke (far left) in a three-way tie for the gold in the floor exercise.
Athletes Aid Wheelchair Foundation

July 18—One of the top Veteran’s Hospitals in Moscow welcomed a generous donation of 100 wheelchairs made by Kenneth Berhing and his Wheelchair Foundation. Governor and Mrs. Leavitt hosted the delegation of prominent Utahans as they presented wheelchairs to Russia World War II veterans.

Several members of the Team Utah girls volleyball and boys wrestling teams were able to attend the presentation. Afterwards they had the opportunity to meet and talk with several of the veterans in the hospital courtyard.

It was a great opportunity for the Utah athletes to see a different side of Russia and to brighten the day of some of the patients at the hospital.

Athletes from Utah’s volleyball and wrestling teams make a trip to the Moscow Veteran’s Hospital and spent time with it’s honored patients.

Anyone with a Russian connection is invited to the URI Annual Potluck Summer Picnic

August 16, 2003
10:30-12:30
Scera Park, Pavillion #4
600 S. State Street, Orem, UT

Individuals and couples please bring one main dish, families please bring one main and one side dish.

Utah-Russia Days
10th Anniversary

Russian entertainment, food and souvenirs!

September 2003

Check out our web site for updates and details: www.uvsc.edu/russia

UVSC And URI Host Delegates During The Russia Open World Conference

Russian Open World Conference delegates at the UVSC dinner.

June 30— During their stay in Utah, delegates from the Russian Open World Conference attended a UVSC/URI hosted dinner. UVSC President William Sederburg discussed ethics in American government and education. The topic of their conference was “Leadership Dialogue on Freedom of Religion and Belief”.

The Law School at Brigham Young University was the organizer of the event and arranged for their guests to stay with local families, tour government, religious, and tourist sights in Utah. They also set up a series of workshops which compared and contrasted Russian and American institutions and practices.
Moscow City Hosts Russian and Utah VIPs

July 22—The elegant “Praga” restaurant, just off Arbat Street in Moscow, was the site of the Gala Reception held for Moscow’s elite and their guests from Utah.

The reception hall was filled with government officials and former Olympic champions, one being the most decorated woman gymnast of all time, Larissa Latynina — 9 gold medals (18 total) from 3 different Olympics.

Team Utah coaches, Neways corporate officers and other delegation members were delighted by the wonderful food and entertainment presented that evening.

Ambassador Georgy Muradov, Head of Moscow City International Relations, Rusty Butler, Honorary Russian Consul-Utah, Sergey Korol, Head of Moscow Sport, and David Winder, Special Assistant to Governor Leavitt and Director of the Moscow-Utah Youth Games join together for a friendly photo during the reception.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August:
16 URI Annual Picnic
22 Flag Day (Russia)
23 “Share A Smile” Triathlon (Eileen 377-4106)
27 Cinema Day (Russia)

September:
1 Labor Day (USA)
15-20 Utah-Russia Days

October:
8-19 Project Russia 2003 — “Share A Smile”
13 Columbus Day (USA)
31 Halloween (USA)

Mission Statement:

The purpose of URI is to promote mutually beneficial humanitarian, cultural, educational, commercial and technological projects in order to foster greater understanding, friendship, free enterprise, civil society and a strong democracy among and between the citizens of the Russian Federation and the state of Utah in particular and the United States in general.