

French gold from Pampanga?

by JOAQUIN HENSON
Philstar.com

THE sport of petanque has a very long history in Europe, and is only now being recognized for its medal-winning potential in the Philippines. If you've never heard of petanque, it's one of the many kinds of bowling games played casually by millions throughout Europe, and a small, dedicated group of practitioners are hoping it booms in the Philippines.

Here the history of the game hit a fork in the road, as the English decided to modify it into what is now known as lawn bowling, which is also played heavily in Pampanga. But the traditional running delivery was difficult for some players. In 1907 Jules Lenoir—who had rheumatism—decided to eliminate the running start before the pitch, opting instead to stand still. This further caused the playing field to be shortened. The object of the game is to get the balls (called boules) as close to the target (called the jack) as possible. It

is usually played on rough, hard surfaces, unlike lawn bowling, which is played on well-groomed grass. The Philippine women's team medaled during the 12th Asian Petanque Championships in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, last November. They also brought home a silver from the 2005 SEA Games held in the Philippines. But despite the success we've started to enjoy, the economics of buying the basic equipment are an obstacle.

Petanque has a rich medal-producing potential, since it can be played singles, doubles or triples for men and women. The SEA Games and other Asian events have shown that we are actually among the leaders in both winning the sport and propagating it in the region." Petanque is also new to all non-French colonized countries and since the game is not expensive, it is now being promoted throughout Southeast Asia," says Narciso, whose national teams are based in Angeles. "It is the best time to start promoting this

game here and even make it a P.E. class so as to get a bigger pool for the national team." Given the nature of the sport, an athlete's longevity can be unequalled.

Based on what I have seen and gathered from the Kaohsiung experience, the game is perfect for the Filipinos. You don't need the physical attributes of a big athlete, and we can be a team that can dominate the sports in Asia," Narciso asserts. "If our players are given the right training (in Thailand) and the proper equipment needed to compete on equal footings with the rest." That sounds like a common request from national sports associations. But consider how long boules last, and how many medals the sport can win.

If the Philippine Sports Commission were to support petanque, it would be economically sound. And who would have thought that a game played casually by at least 10,000,000 French every summer would be the object of the passion of our *cabalens*? ■

Med Centric STAFFING

123 W. Torrance Blvd. Ste. 201
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Tel.: (310) 322-6018 • Fax: (310) 388-1764
www.medcentric.net



NOW HIRING RNs / LVNs (All Specialty)

WE'RE COMING TO MANILA!!!

We will sponsor a FREE HEALTHCARE EVENT for Nurses and Physical/ Occupational Therapists who are planning to apply for US jobs. The full-day event will feature updates on the US economy, immigration laws, NCLEX news and US employment processing. Come and see us

**Development Academy of the Phils.
6th floor, DAP Building
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City
March 17, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.**

**Villa Caceres Hotel
La Bella Hall
Magsaysay Avenue, Naga City
March 19, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.**

Limited seats available, so hurry!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

RNs/PTs who have passed the US licensure exam (NCLEX-RN or NPTE) and the TOEFL or IELTS

Email your resume to

international@medcentric.net

to be considered.

LORETO & MEDINA, LLP

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS



Ellaine Loreto, Esq.

If your loved one was *deported* and you're hoping to bring him or her back to the U.S., let us show you how to do it!

If you have any *crimes*, committed any *fraud*, *overstayed* in the U.S. or committed any other immigration violation and you now wish to apply for a green card or citizenship, we might be able to help you overcome these obstacles to your application!

If your case was *denied* by the *USCIS*, *AAO*, *BIA* or *Ninth Circuit* and you don't know what to do next, allow us to explain your options!

We offer unique solutions to your complex immigration problems. We do:

**H-1B • TN • O • P • J-1 waivers • PERM • Nurses • Employment-based
Family-based • Naturalization • Derivative citizenship
I-601 waivers of inadmissibility • Motions to re-open • Appeals**

Free Initial Consultation

1430 E. Chapman Avenue, 2nd Floor, Orange, CA 92866

Telephone: 714-288-0574 • Fax: 714-288-0577 • Email: Inquiry@loretomedinalaw.com

Nakaka-sira ng ulo.



Having your car damaged can leave you devastated. Having your home destroyed is even worse. With our award winning 24/7 HelpPoint® claims service, you can rest assured that one of our highly trained professionals will be there to help you take care of your claim every step of the way. And with our special V.I.P. – Value Insurance Package, one of our agents can show you coverage options, so you can identify the proper coverage you need and show you how much you can save when you have your auto, home and life insurance with Farmers®.

24/7 HelpPoint Features:

Auto

- We help you through the claims process every step of the way.
- We help you arrange towing (if needed).
- We help you secure a rental vehicle (if needed).
- We help you schedule a repair date that is convenient for you.

Home

- We help you through the claims process every step of the way.
- We help you with alternative living arrangements (if needed).
- We assist you in getting emergency residential repairs.
- We review your next steps and questions.



FARMERS

farmers.com

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS

Speak to a Farmers agent today. Call 1-800-327-6377.