



INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS FOUNDATION

Marc Ventouillac

WINNER OF THE 2014 IAAF WORLD JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Born in 1960 in Courbevoie, Marc Ventouillac discovered athletics while watching the 1972 Olympic Games. That year, he joined a local club, the SO Revel athletics club. He likes to joke that he became junior hammer champion in the Pyrenes region, but he was the only competitor.

In 1978, he became treasurer of the club and obtained the first level of coaching. In 1985, he covered his first World Indoor Games in Bercy. That was followed in 1987 by the IAAF World Championships in Rome and then the Olympic Games in Seoul one year later.

In 1989, he was responsible for athletics within the association of French sports journalists (USJSF). He then joined the renowned French sports newspaper *l'Equipe* in 1990 and quickly rose to head the athletics division. Since 2003 he has been a member of the IAAF Press Commission.

Ventouillac's passion for athletics extends beyond writing. During the 2001 French Championships in St Etienne, after a bet with a friend who doubted his capacity to jump higher than two metres in the pole vault, he cleared 2.01m and the friend had to 'sacrifice' his moustache.

Among his most memorable accomplishments, in 2006 he successfully reunited and interviewed the three marathon medallists from the 1956 Olympics, 50 years after their last encounter on the podium: Alain Mimoun, Franjo Mihalic and Veikko Karvonen.

Ventouillac is a recipient of the "Prix Robert-Parenté", awarded by a group of international French athletics journalists. In 2012, he was elected president of the alumni association of l'Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme de Lille – the higher school of journalism in Lille.

In 2014 he became a distinguished member of the AIPS Executive Committee, Europe and president of the AIPS Athletics Commission.

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