WSA A brief timeline in textiles and sports

1995

Hermès launches a silk scarf embedded with micro-capsules that release the fragrance of the company’s Caleche perfume, the first cosmeto-textile following experimentation by weaver Verel de Belval with Euracil, based in Lyon.

Corey Pavin wins US Golf Open.


South Africa’s Springboks beat New Zealand’s All Blacks to win Rugby World Cup.

Steffi Graf wins Wimbledon Women’s Tennis Open.

OJ Simpson stands trial for murder.

WSA magazine launched as World Sports Activewear, created to focus on performance materials and textiles related to sport and protective wear.

1996

Two new microfibres launched: Rhône-Poulenc develops its Filifine polyester microfibre; Rhodia markets a microfibre version of the polyamide Meryl.

Super Bowl XXX: Dallas Cowboys beat Pittsburgh Steelers.

Nick Faldo wins 60th Golf Masters Championship.

Teijin markets a polyester fibre recycled from post-consumer polyethylene bottles.

DuPont improves the performance of the Energywear concept by combining Lycra Power with Coolmax to offer enhanced moisture management.

NY Yankee Darryl Strawberry hits his 300th Home Run.

84 people killed, more than 180 injured, as 47,000 football fans attempt to get into 36,000-seat Estadio Mateo Flores, Guatemala City.

1997

Noble Fiber Technologies introduces X-Static, a silver fibre with anti-bacterial, antistatic and conductive properties and is claimed to have a soothing effect by activating blood flow.

Boerge Ousland achieves first solo, unaided crossing of Antarctica.

101st Boston Marathon won by Lameck Aguta; 26th Boston Women’s Marathon won by Fatuma Roba.

PTT, a new type of polyester fibre is reintroduced, using the development of a new polymerisation process developed by Shell; based on a 1950s discovery, Corterra, it has the advantage of being slightly stretchy (30% vs. 600% for an elastane).

Wallace Berg, 42, becomes 4th American to scale Mt Everest for 3rd time.

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XXVI Olympic games in Atlanta Georgia

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Greg Rusedski serves at 141mph at US Open tennis.

Sofinal introduces Eco-Breath, an ecological waterproof and breathable coating using a water-based solution as opposed to solvent-based.

Mike Tyson banned for biting Evander Holyfield’s ear.

1998

W.L. Gore develops a new version of Gore-Tex, Gore-Tex Paclite, with a polyurethane back coating making it possible to make lining-free waterproof and breathable garments.

18th Winter Olympic games in Nagano, Japan.

1st female ice hockey game in Olympic history: Finland beats Sweden 6-0.

The first hollow section micro polyamide fibre, Nexten, is launched.

France beats Brazil 3-0 for football’s 16th World Cup.

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Alaska won by Jeff King of the US for the third time.

Italy’s Marco Pantani wins the Giro d’Italia and Tour de France.

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Italian research laboratory Resine Espanse Sintetiche (RES) develops Antismog, a textile designed to counter air pollution, made from a polyester and micronised carbon alloy which filters air pollution by absorbing and converting certain gases.

Basketball player Michael Jordan announces his retirement only to return in 2001.

6 International Olympic Committee members are expelled in corruption scandal.

Nano-Tex, a company specialising in nanotechnologies applied to textiles, is founded in the United States. The first water-resistant nanotech finish is available in the early 2000s.

Payne Stewart wins his 3rd major, the 99th US Golf Open; died in a plane crash 4 months later.

Michael Johnson breaks 400 metres world record in 43.18 seconds.
in textiles and sports

2000
Dow Chemical introduces XLA, a stretch polyolefin fibre, and NatureWorks, the first biosynthetic derived from corn developed with Cargill.

2001
The first “soft shell” jackets are developed at Millet, using Gore WindStopper and Polartec Windbloc ACT, seen as an important stage in the evolution of protective apparel with breathability considered more important than waterproofness.

2002
Teijin makes new progress in recycling, developing a process in which the synthetic fibre is depolymerised and then remoulded to obtain a new or “virgin” polyester fibre. The process, named Ecocircle, results from support from Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, who encouraged the company to develop the chemical recycling process as opposed to the mechanical recycling of post-consumer PET bottles.

2003
Introduction of Lenpur, a high end viscose extracted from pine- wood, by Italian company Texinpro (for Textile in Progress) in conjunction with spinnier Macoldio.

2004
P2i develops Ion-Mask, a nano-tech finish developed for the British armed forces, and marketed in 2007, consisting of a very fine hydrophobic layer on a three dimensional product (shoes).

The NGO Max Havelaar Foundation launches an ethical cotton certification process, the international Fair Trade label’s first non-food application.

2005
The first bamboo fibre reaches the market, coming from Japan, China and Korea. With Lenpur and lyocell, their combined popularity contributes to the renaissance of a whole family of “new age” cellulose fibres.

Barry Bonds wins his 700th career home run in baseball.

The Boston Red Sox win the World Series for the first time in 86 years.

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