

MICHAEL FEKETE
1924 OLYMPIC GAMES
TRACK & FIELD



AN OLYMPIAN'S ORAL HISTORY
METHODOLOGY

Interview subjects include Southern California Olympians who competed prior to World War II. Interviews were conducted between March 1987, and August 1988, and consisted of one to five sessions each. The interviewer conducted the sessions in a conversational style and recorded them on audio cassette, addressing the following major areas:

Family History

Date/place of birth; occupation of father/mother; siblings; family residence;

Education

Primary and secondary schools attended; college and post-collegiate education;

Sport-Specific Biographical Data

Subject's introduction to sport—age, event and setting of first formal competition; coaches/trainers/others who influenced athletic development; chronology of sports achievements; Olympic competition; post-Olympic involvement in sports;

General Biographical Data

Employment history; marital history; children; communities of residence; retirement;

General Observations

Reactions and reflections on Olympic experience; modernization of sport; attitudes on and involvement with the Olympic Movement; advice to youth and aspiring athletes.

Interview transcripts were edited and may include additional material based on subsequent conversations and/or subject's own editing.

AN OLYMPIAN'S ORAL HISTORY
INTRODUCTION

Southern California has a long tradition of excellence in sports and leadership in the Olympic Movement. The Amateur Athletic Foundation is itself the legacy of the 1984 Olympic Games. The Foundation is dedicated to expanding the understanding of sport in our communities. As a part of our effort, we have joined with the Southern California Olympians, an organization of over 1,000 women and men who have participated on Olympic teams, to develop an oral history of these distinguished athletes.

Many Olympians who competed in the Games prior to World War II agreed to share their Olympic experiences in their own words. In the pages that follow, you will learn about these athletes, and their experiences in the Games and in life as a result of being a part of the Olympic Family.

The Amateur Athletic Foundation, its Board of Directors, and staff welcome you to use this document to enhance your understanding of sport in our community.

ANITA L. DE FRANTZ
President
Amateur Athletic Foundation
of Los Angeles
Member
Southern California Olympians

MICHAEL FEKETE

1924 OLYMPIC GAMES - PARIS
10,000-METER WALK

INTERVIEWED:

April, 1987
Los Angeles, California
by George A. Hodak

MICHAEL FEKETE

Interviewer: George A. Hodak

Hodak: Today I'm visiting with Michael Fekete. Mr. Fekete represented Hungary in the 1924 Paris Olympics and competed in the 10,000-meter walk. Mr. Fekete, I'd like you to talk a bit about your childhood in Budapest, your parents, and then how you became interested eventually in race-walking.

Fekete: I was born November 11, 1894, in Budapest, Hungary. I really didn't know my father, just my mother.

Hodak: So your mother raised your family, How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Fekete: I'm an only child. But my mother's sister had nine kids, so she made up for my mother. [laughter] Anyway, back in Hungary I used to go out to the track and watch the soccer games. Then I met someone who introduced me to race-walking. So I started walking early enough, and before you knew it I was fairly good at it.

Then I decided to go with my friend Edi to see the world. The times were very good, you didn't need anything, you just went to the railroad tracks, bought tickets, and off you went. Edi had two brothers; one of them in London and one in Montreal. So we decided to visit both of them.

Hodak: So you were seeing the world at a very young age.

Fekete: Yes. Anyway, we stayed in Vienna for two days, bought a ticket for Berlin, stayed there for two days, and then we

bought a ticket to London. Then we went with his older brother, who was a cook for the royal family. He lived somewhere around Charing Cross. After we got tired of that we wanted to go to Canada, but they told us we had to wait six months before we could buy a ticket. So we got the ticket to Halifax and then went on to Canada. We got a job that was offered at Ottawa, near the Canadian Parliament, so we worked there for awhile.

Then we left Ottawa and went to Winter Park, a winter resort. We then went back to Montreal. I got a job working on the rapids between Montreal and the Thousand Islands. But after awhile, we found out that all of the enemy aliens were in detention camps in Canada. By that time the war had broken out.

Hodak: So, as a Hungarian, you were considered suspicious by the Canadian government?

Fekete: Yes. You weren't a citizen of Canada and you weren't a citizen of the United States. So we decided to come over to the United States. We tried it three times; the third time was a charm. In the middle of winter, snow up to the kneecaps, we crossed the border. The trouble was that we left a lot of footprints in the snow, so when they came out in the morning they found our footprints. In the meantime, we had gotten a room at one of the hotels there, and when we looked out of the window, we saw them coming. We beat it out of the hotel. We got out to the railroad tracks and hooked onto one of the coal trains. We jumped it and went to Massena. They wanted us to work in the mines, but we didn't want to work in the mines, we wanted to go to New York City. So we went up to the railroad tracks again and waited for a train to go to Albany. When we got to Albany we stayed there about a day and a half. We looked around to see what we could do. Then we found out that there was a milk train that was leaving at night and stopped at every

little village to pick up the milk and take it to New York. We jumped on right away. But it was a bad thing. We were on two cabooses and were out in the open in freezing weather. Every time the train stopped to pick up the milk at the little villages, we jumped off and went to the engine to get warm, then we would run back again. It was morning when we got into New York. The conductor said, "We're getting to New York. When I give you two hoots jump off, otherwise the guards will get you at the railroad station." So we jumped off at 121th Street. No guards chased us because we were too far off.

We had to go to 77th Street, because this fellow we picked up on the way had relatives over there. The family had a butcher shop. I didn't like the work in the butcher shop. Then one day I was walking on the street, and there was someone yelling: "Join the Army, join the Army." So I went and joined the Army.

Hodak: They didn't require American citizenship papers?

Fekete: No, nothing. The guy even showed me where to go, how to get signed up. Then we went to Fort Slocum. Fort Slocum was a training place outside of New York. Every morning you had to go out at six a.m. It gave you some idea of what it's like to be in the Army. They always waited for some length of time to find out which regiment needed some replacements. So finally we got orders to go to Texas. We went to Eagle Pass. That was the time that Pancho Villa was raising hell down there.

Hodak: Did you have any confrontations with Pancho Villa?

Fekete: Yes, but not too much. I remember one time we went over and shot up one house, that's all. That was our exhibition.

Hodak: Were you at this time continuing your practice as a race-walker? Did you do any type of training?

Fekete: Not yet. What I did in the Army was play soccer. Every morning you had to play something. Our company, Company C, had to play soccer each morning. And they tried to make boxers out of us. Every company had a boxing unit.

Hodak: So you were a good boxer?

Fekete: Well, not real good, but I passed. I got knocked around a little bit. (laughter) So then came the end of the three-year enlistment. They discharged those that weren't American citizens.

Hodak: Where were you discharged?

Fekete: At Eagle Pass. Before we got discharged, they sent us up to a big ranch because they had word that the Yaqui Indians were coming over to raid the ranch. So they picked up 12 men and we had to go down to the Rio Grande and stand in water all night long to wait for the Yaqui's. But they never showed up. (laughter)

Well, I made marksman one year, and the next year I made sharpshooter. I was fairly good. For that you got an extra five dollars a month. But the paycheck was very small. When my son was in the Army, he got \$700 a month. He was a staff sergeant.

Hodak: Where did you go from there?

Fekete: Well, we didn't like the idea that they gave us the blue discharge; it was not a dishonorable discharge, you didn't do anything wrong, but the Army didn't want you. We tried to go back, because I knew the colonel—I was his orderly—and I

didn't think he should do me that way. Then we decided to go to Galveston, and from there we took a boat to New York.

Hodak: You had to go to Florida?

Fekete: Yes, they go by Florida through the Gulf of Mexico. Then, all of a sudden a submarine came up to inspect the boat.

Hodak: Where was this?

Fekete: Not far from Key West. They took us off the boat into the submarine. The submarine docked in Key West, and then they sent us to the sheriff, who then put us in jail. It took about three or four days for the district attorney over there to verify with Eagle Pass that we were alright.

After they turned us loose, some of the boys that had money went by train. I stayed there because I had lost my money. So I went to work in a restaurant a little while, and I didn't like it. Then the racehorses were coming over from Cuba. The season was over so they would bring the horses up. Some of the people there wanted me to be a jockey or a trainer, but I didn't like that. Then I looked for a job and got a lineman job, repairing telephone wire. That lasted for a couple of days. But in the meantime, I was going to the Navy yard to buy groceries and meat for the lady of the house where I was staying. And I always signed the name of the commander. You see, the husband of the lady that lived in the house was the commander of the submarine that picked us up. Well, one day, all of a sudden, the whole house was surrounded by secret servicemen. I had to get up on the chair and they searched me. They found out that I worked as a lineman, the line that went from the Navy yard to Washington. They thought maybe I was some sort of spy. So that's where the spy thing came up.

Hodak: What they thought you were intercepting were government communications?

Fekete: Yes. So back to jail I went, and back to bread and water for two days.

Hodak: How were you dealt with by the secret servicemen?

Fekete: Well, every morning two Navy men came with fixed bayonets and rifles and took me over to the interrogation room. They tried to say that I got money from the Hungarian Consul in New York and so on and so forth. And I said, "No, I know nothing." Maybe that's what convinced them, because I acted so dumb. But I was really dumbfounded. They found nothing and had to throw me out.

Hodak: Did they try to deport you back to Hungary?

Fekete: Oh, no. There was no reason, you see. So I waited for the boat that I had a ticket for. The district attorney said, "The boat is coming, and we're going to send you away." On the way to New York, I won money gambling. Everybody thought I was something special because the boat had to wait two hours to pick me up. Everybody was trying to be good to me. Everything I played, I won. (laughter) Then, when I got to New York, I visited my friend, a bugler. He had an auto repair shop, and he was trying to get me to work in there for him. That didn't appeal to me. So I walked down Third Avenue and I happened to meet someone; it seems like he knew me from where I used to live. He said I should go see the president of the Pastime Athletic Club in New York. So I started to train there from then on. I had about 15 or 20 races. Our big rival was the New York Athletic Club.

Hodak: So were you developing into a race-walker. Talk a bit about the technique of racewalking.

Fekete: My system was to go home, stand stationary in front of the mirror, and do arm movements. Because my arms weren't strong enough. Every time I was in a handicap race, I was always finished on the third lap. You see, all the power is in your hands and arms. I used to exercise for 20 to 25 minutes until I started to sweat. Another thing, most of the walkers want to show off, throwing the hips out. Exaggerating the hips is no good, it doesn't give you speed.

Hodak: At this time, how were you doing in your competition?

Fekete: Well, I did pretty well. I finished first in a race from City Hall to Coney Island. That was ten miles. I also won the New York City Metropolitan championship in 1922. I remember one race where I accidentally stepped on another walker's heel. He turned around and slugged me, and I slugged him back. Well, I finished the race—he didn't. (laughter)

I used to go every day and train inside the club. I'd do exercises, you know, the same things they do now. Then in the afternoon, I'd get off at 86th Street, go to Central Park and walk around the reservoir three or four times before I would go home.

Hodak: That would help build up your endurance?

Fekete: Yes, every day, the same thing. [Vilho] Willie Ritola was there, and I used to run with him. He used to lead me when I trained there at the park near Yankee Stadium. Then we had the idea to walk a quarter-mile, then a quarter-mile a little faster, then the third time around go all the way out. Then the next day we'd walk a quarter-mile, then the next one we'd go 200 meters fast and 200 meters slow. He and Willie Plant were real nice guys, they talked to all the younger fellows. I think Paavo Nurmi did some training for some indoor meets at our club, too.

Hodak: You found that fluctuating the pace helped you out? This was your own training procedure?

Fekete: Yes, that was my own. That came in good when I went to the Olympic Games. They had the Hungarian walkers over there when I broke all the records. I'd get up on the guy, I didn't pass him; then I'd come again, and I don't pass him again. So he doesn't know what to think of it. The third time, when I got up to him, it killed him right away—he couldn't even come near my pace.

Hodak: I'm interested in how you came back to Hungary and competed on the Hungarian team in 1924.

Fekete: I had to race in New York against a Canadian. That was my tryout for the Olympic Games. It was a very good time, but I didn't win it; I lost it by a nose. But it gave me an idea that I could have won. I stayed too far back; I think I stayed about 100 yards back. The last two laps, I tried to make up 100 yards, you know, but (laughter) I had the strength, because that's the way I trained. So I got up to him, but I couldn't pass him because he was really going, too. So I wrote the Hungarians because I couldn't make the American team. They said, "Alright, come over." I had to pay my own fare back to Hungary to try out for their team.

Hodak: How did the trip go?

Fekete: Very good. I trained with them every day. I belonged to a club in Hungary, the Egyetertes. I had an old Hungarian trainer. He came over and helped me. In the daytime I sold stamps for the Olympic committee. But when it came to the competition, they really didn't help me; they should have put in a complaint when the Italian judge, [Emilio] Lunghi, stopped me.

Hodak: We're jumping ahead a bit. Besides your race, what do you recall about the Paris Olympics?

Fekete: Well, we went around and talked to other athletes. On the first day, the march into the stadium was the biggest thing, naturally. We went in, and next to us stood Italy. As soon as Italy marched in, [Ugo] Frigerio ran over and asked, "Where is Fekete? Where is Fekete?" You see, right after I set the five-mile record in Hungary, they knew about it in Italy. They knew all about me.

Hodak: What did Frigerio say to you?

Fekete: Oh, not much. He just came over and kissed me—it was like a kiss of Judas. (laughter)

Hodak: So, going into the 10,000-meter race, what were your expectations?

Fekete: Well, I thought I was going to win. I didn't start off fast, I stayed with the pack. After about 5,000 meters I started to move up. There was nobody else close to us, all the others were behind.

Hodak: You were behind the Italian, Frigerio?

Fekete: Yes. Then towards the end of the race the Italian judge, Lunghi, came over and said I was going too fast. So he gave me a caution. I kept walking, and then he came running after me. And no judge should do that! He should give you a caution, and that's it. If they're going to throw you out, they'll throw you out, but one judge cannot throw you off.

Hodak: So this judge was a problem for you?

Fekete: Yeah, a very big problem. Even if I slowed down completely.

like street walking, he still came over and wanted me to get off the track. Now, why did he want me off the track? Frigerio and [George] Goodwin had eight cautions apiece, but they were still in there, and they won first and second.

Hodak: So the judge disqualified you?

Fekete: Yeah, he told me to get off the track. So I walked off, but I should have kept walking. You don't stop to think about those things in the middle of a big race. When somebody does something like that, you're shaken. Well, I walked off and laid down on the grass. I was disappointed . . . I was shocked. I had never had a caution in America, and I raced all over.

Hodak: You think you had a good chance to win the race?

Fekete: Yes, a very good chance. Frigerio is the one that should have been thrown out—not me. You see, this was the first run, it wasn't the final. And in the final, Frigerio and Goodwin got eight cautions each. See, the Italian judge would give the English a caution, and the English judge would give the Italian a caution. That's the way it went—back and forth, back and forth. If you sat in the stands, you could see it.

Hodak: So you weren't able to walk in the final race?

Fekete: Yes, that's right. But if the Hungarians would have put in a protest, and I could have walked in the final race. The Austrians did that with their walker who had been disqualified. But I can see their point of view. I wasn't living in Hungary.

Hodak: Beyond the disappointment you had in your race, what else do you recall of the '24 Games?

Fekete: Well, I talked to the American judge and he said, "Mike, your form was perfect."

Hodak: So, he agreed that you had been unfairly disqualified?

Fekete: Right. So, naturally, you get mad, you get excited, and you throw everything away.

Hodak: Could you tell me what it is that a judge is looking for in the walk? What distinguishes a walk from a run?

Fekete: The smoothness. You can't judge from the front; you must judge way across the track or right behind them. If you watch them straight across, the smoothness comes in. You watch to see if he pulls his heel off the ground. And it's a natural thing to pull your heels off the ground. As I said before, judging the walk is very difficult.

Hodak: You mentioned before that you had a friend in the marathon.

Fekete: Yes. Well, when the marathon started, I thought I'd run with him, to push him. So I ran in the street alongside him in street clothes. And I finished before him. I was strong as a bull then. I probably should have gone into the marathon. (laughter)

Hodak: Were you able to see much else of the Games? Did you have much free time?

Fekete: Well, not too much. And it was hard to get around. The bus would take those who had to compete, and it was quite a ways out from Paris.

Hodak: How were the French crowds towards the athletes?

Fekete: Pretty good, except for when the fights broke out in the boxing matches. It all has to do with the judges; and I tell you, there's nothing harder than judging a racewalk.

Hodak: What did you do after the Games? What could you tell me of your family?

Fekete: Well, after the Olympics I went back to Hungary, just for a little while. And then we came back to New York. I had been married in 1920, and we had one son. My son later became a geologist.

Hodak: Then you returned to the United States?

Fekete: Well, I got back to New York, and I came like any other immigrant. I had to go through all the tests, the inspections and so forth. I played soccer in New York for the Hungarian-American Athletic Club. I was the goalkeeper. We traveled to Cleveland and some other cities playing soccer.

And I stayed with the walking. I raced against Frigerio and Willie Plant at the 67th Armory in New York. I remember we had races where we would carry a big pack and a rifle, a military-type race. Boy, that pack got heavy after a couple of miles. I think we walked five miles for that race. I fell out of training a little bit, before I moved to California. Then I got back in shape and competed with the L.A. Athletic Club after I came out here.

Hodak: What prompted you to come to Los Angeles?

Fekete: My sister-in-law had a job in the movies here, an extra. So she kept writing to me, saying we should come out to California. So I left New York with my wife and son. I played soccer in Los Angeles, but not for too long.

Hodak: What sort of work did you find?

Fekete: I did mostly laborer's jobs at first. Then I went to the office of the AAU, and an officer there got me a job at the Biltmore.

I worked in the main dining room and worked Saturday night in the nightclub. The Biltmore was full of movie stars, producers, movie people, this and that. It was all very high class. Then, on my day off, I went to work in Santa Monica, because there were some Hungarians over there. My boss at the Biltmore found out that I went over there—and he fired me. (laughter)

Hodak: Did you continue to compete as a walker?

Fekete: Well, not too much at first. I was in a couple of races here and there for the L.A. Athletic Club. But I became an official of the AAU. I judged the javelin, discus, hammer throw, and the walk. I'd work with the tape and do the measurements and so on. In 1964 I worked at the Russian meet. After 1970, I couldn't officiate anymore because of an operation I had. But I was a judge for about 11 years.

Hodak: Where did you work after the Biltmore?

Fekete: I worked at the Vendome for lunch and dinner, then later at night I worked at the Trocadero on the Sunset Strip. That's where all the young stars got their start.

Hodak: Did you try out for the '32 Games?

Fekete: Yeah. I trained very hard. About a year before the 1932 Games, I got a letter saying my penalty was over and that I could compete. Then the AAU sent me a letter and said some of the other countries may be complaining and that I'd better take another year off.

Hodak: And this involves a cross-country race which you entered a few years earlier.

Fekete: Yes. I didn't want to run but all the guys in New York knew

me and got me to run. It was the C.C. Pyle Race.

Hodak: And you were to walk from Los Angeles to New York?

Fekete Yes. The race started on a very bad day. I only had one walking shoe with me, and that was a very big problem. Then my shoe tightened up in the run, and I had to drop out of the race at Victorville. I went to the office to get my check, my 200 dollar deposit, and they gave me a bum check. (laughter) I had hocked my wife's ring to enter the race.

Hodak: When did the AAU let you know there were problems of eligibility?

Fekete Oh, I knew immediately. I didn't win anything, but just being in the race was enough to be suspended for. And at the last minute, as I said, they told me to wait another year, so I couldn't go out for the '32 Games. I was in my best shape then. I was back in training. In that period, I had met Bill Chisholm. I trained at USC at Bovard Field. A.L. Monteverde would keep a stopwatch on us while we practiced. What we tried to do was to make every lap the same way. For instance, nine minutes a mile—every mile had to be nine minutes. Then, if we slowed down, Monteverde would give us a sign to pick up speed. If you were going too fast he would slow you down. It was hard work because once you get into the same gait, it's very hard to alter your stride. Bill Chisholm was working with me, and I was working with Bill Chisholm.

Hodak: When did you first meet Bill Chisholm?

Fekete We had some races around the Rose Bowl. I met Bill there, I think. When they had the races at the Rose Bowl there were three refreshment stations set up. And the thing I don't understand is that I would never take refreshments. (laughter) I had built up my body so that I didn't need the

water. If it was a hot day, I might put a wet towel on my head. Anyway, I trained with Bill Chisholm at USC. He and I became very good friends. Bill later sponsored me for my citizenship.

Hodak: Were you able to see any of the '32 Games?

Fekete: Yes, I saw a couple of races. I was out there for the walk, too. I tried to pull Bill Chisholm along, but I couldn't do it.

Hodak: Alongside your work and judging, what other things have you an interest in?

Fekete: Well, I became a pretty good bowler. I improved quite a bit. I was in a league and we bowled all over. I once made a triplicate; that was 194, three times in a row.

My son and grandson both went to Blessed Sacrament Church on Sunset. They had a Boy Scout troop there. One day they asked if I would go with them on their summer trip. So I said sure. We went to the High Sierras, to Canada, Lake Louise, all over. And I was the cook. I made so many pancakes I thought they would come out of my dreams. I also went camping with my son several times. He was a geologist, and he would go around for different rock specimens. I'd walk around with a geiger counter, testing for uranium. Well, I probably should have been looking for gold. (laughter) So, I did a lot of camping too. I had a cabin near Wrightwood, but I sold it. Oh, was that a mistake.

Hodak: I won't ask you how much—or how little—you sold it for. And beyond the Trocadero and the Vendome, you worked at other places?

Fekete: I worked at Romanoff's for 19 years. I was captain and manager. I arranged and took care of all the big parties. I

would see Don Ameche, Marion Davies, the Warner brothers, oh, lots of stars. They had their own tables. No one could come in and get that table, in case they showed up. One night Zsa Zsa Gabor came to me and said, "Would you like to work for me as a butler?" Well, what can you say? I said maybe. I hesitated a little bit. Then she said, "I'll bring in Mr. Hilton next time I come in, and he'll talk to you." So one night the next week she came in with Hilton. He talked to me, but I had decided not to do it. I didn't want to work in that kind of private situation. She wanted me simply because I was Hungarian.

Hodak: When did you retire?

Fekete: I retired in 1960. Then, four years later, I got a call from the man who had been the manager at Romanoff's. He went to work at the Music Center when it opened up in 1961. And so I worked there as captain in the Blue Ribbon Room and the Eldorado Room. So I had 19 years at Romanoff's and 19 years at the Music Center. I was 89 years old when I quit, around 1980.

Hodak: I noticed you were involved in the Jesse Owens-Arco Games. What role did you play there?

Fekete: A few years ago I got a letter asking if I, as an Olympian, would go to the Jesse Owens-Arco Games. By that time I needed a cane to help me walk, but I agreed to go for the kids. And I've presented medals and all. I also worked as a judge at the Mt. SAC Relays for five years or so.

Hodak: What general thoughts do you have on the Olympics? Also, what sort of advice would you offer?

Fekete: Well, I think the athletes are better because they have good coaches, good trainers—which we didn't have in 1924. We did

our own training then. Now they even have moving pictures to show the right way to walk, and the wrong way. Many times I have advised walkers, how to walk, how to hold themselves up and work on the arms and legs. I even went out with them and measured each step they made to see if they could stretch and make it smoother. At the Rose Bowl there was a walk where we used to walk five or ten miles, right around the circle. That's where I used to judge. And before the race I would get the boys together and we'd talk about the Olympics, the racewalking. I would try to tell them what to do, what the most important part was, the arm movements, because that's the only thing that would carry them.

The big thing I would tell the kids is to train hard, and when they have reached the top, to train harder yet. A lot of school kids come to me and tell me they were in the 800-meter race or the mile, and I say, "Well, that's nothing, that doesn't get you into the Olympic Games. You need to get extra training. You've got to be tough." I was as tough in the stomach as anybody. You could hit me with a sledgehammer and I wouldn't feel it. I did the bending, the sit-ups and all. But it's the same thing with any sport. You've got to go over a lot of hurdles to get to the top. You've got to build up your stamina. You don't get that running around the block a couple of times. You have to suffer. And if you don't love what you're doing, you should leave it alone. So that's my advice.

Hodak: Before we conclude, I'm curious if you've been back to Hungary. Have you kept ties with relatives there?

Fekete: I hadn't gone back for 17 years. In 1970, just before my hip operation, I went to Hungary. I amazed everybody that I could pick out where I used to live. I visited the places I used to go to and play soccer. But I remembered everything. They still talk about it.

Hodak: Mr. Fekete, it's been a real pleasure to meet you. It's very nice of you to let me come over and, not only that, but to give me such a nice lunch. Do you have any final remarks you'd like to make?

Fekete: I would like for kids to train hard and put their whole lives into their sport. You shouldn't just go in one day and drop out the next. And whatever you do, don't take drugs, don't drink, and don't smoke. So my advice is to live clean and love your sport. You should do all you can, and then do a little more.

Hodak: Well, thank you, Mr. Fekete, for your time and for allowing me to visit with you today. It has been a pleasure. The Amateur Athletic Foundation also appreciates your help on this project.