

News from Bulgaria

MASTERS EMERITUS IN SPORTS

The Supreme Committee of Physical Culture and Sports of the Bulgarian Populaire Republic, organised and held a meeting, on December 23rd. 1951, in order to elect and honour a certain number of personalities and athletes, while conferring on them the title of « Masters Emeritus in Sports », « Masters in Sports », and « Sportsmen Emeritus ».

It is the first time in the history of the Bulgarian Sport's Movement, that an honorary title bestowed on the best sportsmen, this tends to show the new attitude of the Bulgarian people towards Physical Culture and Sport.

Sports is no more considered as a pastime,

lifting the standard of the people's health and increasing the capacity of work of the Bulgarian people.

The Sports' organisations' network is increasing from year to year and we can safely say that, actually, there does not exist a single town without its Stadium, a village without its playing field, a school without its Gymnasium nor factories, works, establishments or enterprise without their sporting clubs.

A new impetus is felt throughout the field of sport activities. Although the sport tradition is still in its infancy, it is developing on a solid basis of sound organisation.

Sport, in Bulgaria, is accessible to all intellectuals as well as workers, but in the field of sport as in all the other branches of cultural, economical and social life, only those displaying physical efficiency and possessing outstanding mental and moral qualities, have been able to reach the peaks. These are the champions « Our Masters in Sports ».

The president of the Supreme Committee of Physical Culture and Sports, Master Emeritus in Sports, and member of the I. O. C., Lt. General Vladimir Stoytcheff, on the occasion of the solemn meeting held and organised to bestow the awards of the Masters in Sports, made the following statement:

« This honorary title constitutes simultaneously a distinction as well as a serious obligation. It enhances, in the recipient of this distinction the faith in its own resources. It stimulates and inspires, thus increasing his desire to realize new performances, thus ensuring the sweep forwards towards new victories and achieving better and more brilliant results. On the other hand, this title calls for self sacrifice and doing away with many pleasures which are allowed to other sportsmen.

» It is not easy to reach success in sports, one ascends very slowly and laboriously the steps leading to the peak form reached by the champions: the Masters in sports.

» On the other hand, the downfall is very often easy and unexpected, and one can see the hard won success disappear and vanish altogether. The Masters in sports must set an example to all the other sportsmen and lead thousand of enthusiastic adherents to the road of successful results in Physical Culture and sport, thus giving wholeheartedly the benefit of their past experience to those coming on. They must be highly principle, honest and healthy, physically as well as morally, showing self-control and discipline as well as possessing a spirit of fairplay.

» The person who has distinguished himself in sport is undoubtedly endowed with the necessary qualities which are desirable for an ideal citizen to possess in life generally and in his work in particular. We can assert that the one who can be first in sport, invariably prove themselves, at the same time, the best and most efficient workers in their special work or career. Thus for example, the master in sport, Pierre Dimitroff, champion cyclist, locksmith in the Diesel's Powerhouse is also a « shock-worker ».

The young gymnast and master in sports, Ivanka Doljnéva, is an excellent pupil in the top form of the XIVth. High-School in Sofia.

Our well-known athlete, master in sports, Anguel Koleff, employed as well as being student at the Training College of Physical Culture and Sports, is setting an example to his colleagues by his very high capacity for work.

Nicolas Déleff, master in sports, skier, ex-champion and competitor of long standing, works in the Central Dairy « Serdika », at Sofia in the capacity of supervisor of the depot and has been elected « shock-worker » Zvétana Berkowska, master in sports, athlete and very promising competitor, has come out fourth out of the High-School of the town of Dimitrovo and is actually a brilliant girl student at the University. Georges Kiki-manoff, master in sports, football player, and dental technician in one of the Sofia's hospitals, is especially brilliant in his profession.

Zvétana Alexandrova, master in sports, volley-ball player, is employed in a locomotives' factory « Guéorgui Dimitroff » at Sofia and is a most efficient worker.

These characteristics of distinction, both in sport and work are sure proof that sport is generally practised in Bulgaria, it consti-

tutes a strong and important part of the education of the masses of the workers; sport is used as a powerful factor to consolidate their health and promote their moral and physical well-being which is only possible when sport is kept strictly on the amateur basis.

The « Masters emeritus in sports », Masters in sports and Sportsmen Emeritus who are recipients of these awards are a striking proof of the realizations, success and impetus of the sport's movement in Bulgaria, they are an example to the thousand of youths to whom the path of scientific realizations and sportive production is widely opened.