

The phenomenal development of judo

Almost unknown in Europe and America twenty years ago, today Judo is practised by more than *five million* people in *forty nations*. Hence we do believe that the title attributed to the said article is most appropriate.

The technique of modern Judo emerges from the ancient practice of jiu-jitsu. All efforts have been made to shape it into a highly competitive and educative sport along physical and moral lines, complying with the spirit of the Olympic Games of which the late Professor Jigoro Kano, the founder of Judo, was an ardent crusader and moreover a member of the International Olympic Committee.

The International Federation of Judo which is recognized by the International Olympic Committee, is made up of three Continental Unions, namely, Europe, Asia

and Pan-America. It is comprised of thirty-seven national associations and is presided by Mr. Risei Kano, the son of Jigoro Kano, the latter a former member of the International Olympic Committee.

The importance and development of Judo as an international sport have been proved by the complete success of the last world championship in 1958, which had brought together amateur champions from thirty-five countries all over the world. The championship of 1961 or 1962 will take place in Paris.

Each year the different unions organize continental championships. The following requirements are necessary for an official title:

- championship by teams of five contestants
- individual combats in all categories
- combat by particular category.

In the championship of Europe this year, one hundred and fifty judokas from eighteen countries participated.

On the University level, championships have equally been organized by the Asiatic and European Unions. This last competition had reunited without distinction all the judokas of Europe.

Judo is a competitive sport of very strict code and discipline. The contestants must maintain correctitude and are unable in any event, under pain of disqualification, to manifest their opinion on the procedure of a combat in which the referee is the sole judge.

Eric Jonas.

