

THE ELEVENTH SPORTS FILM FESTIVAL

The International Sports Film Festival, held in Rennes (FRA) for the third time from 21st to 25th October last, presented for its eleventh edition a particularly intense programme illustrating no less than fifty sports disciplines ranging from martial arts to hang-gliding. A total of one hundred and fifty films of all types : classics, documentaries, reporting and science fiction, was presented by forty different countries all over the world, a selection so abundant that the spectator was sometimes obliged to make difficult choices. This festival is an event which projects the sporting feat in action onto the big screen. Jean Guignard, in charge of the Audio-Visual Department of the Olympic Museum, was among the visitors.

This event was launched in 1965 by the International Committee for the Diffusion of Literature and the Arts through the Cinema (Comité international pour la diffusion des Arts et des Lettres par le cinéma, CIDALC), which organised it for some time before handing over the reins to the French Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports, the Chairman of the Organising Committee being Mr. Jean Durry, Director of the French Sports Museum. This year, the festival was a great

popular success, attracting sixteen thousand spectators over five days. Throughout the event, no less than one hundred and fifty films were projected in three rooms from 9 h 30 to 23 h 30. Thirty or so productions were in competition, judged by the expert eye of a jury made up of seven personalities from the world of sport and the arts, including Stéphane Caristan, European 110 m hurdles champion, Freddy Buache, Director of the Cinémathèque suisse, and chaired by French dancer and singer Zizi Jeanmaire.



Pole-vaulter Pierre Quinon was among the festival's guests.

The first prize of the festival, awarded by the President of the French Republic, went to the film «Annapurna» by Canadian Louis Craig. The IOC prize, presented by Mr. Jean-François Pahud, Director of the Olympic Museum, was won by the Turkish film "The Wrestler", by Zeki Okten. In a small town in Anatolia, Bilal is unemployed and vegetating, surrounded by his aged father, his wife and his two children. To live, he must earn money either by going to work in Libya or by becoming a wrestler in accordance with ancient

tradition. He takes the latter course. The townspeople respect his choice, but will he succeed? This is a film full of truth, unsentimental, dignified and striking the perfect note with great delicacy.

Alongside the film showings, sports exhibitions with high-level athletes enchanted the public, particularly demonstrations of the high jump, pole vault, gymnastics, volleyball (the team of the Joinville battalion, FRA) and cycling. The presence of many champions, including Pierre Quinon, Just Fontaine, Bernard Hinault and Roger Lapebie, as well as a number of screen actors, gave this festival its particular atmosphere of good humour and cordiality.

Three exhibitions were also running in Rennes on the occasion of the festival: "La légende des cycles", a history of cycling designed and produced by the Sports Museum; "The Martini Sports Photography Grand Prix" and "40 Years of Sport in the Headlines", as seen by the well known French sports daily L'Equipe.

Rennes provided an excellent opportunity for encounter, too, in the form of the sessions organised by the International Federation of Sports Cinema and Television, full of information which will help enrich the IOC's audio-visual department.

Jean Guignard

THE RESULTS

In addition to the first prize given by the President of the Republic and the second prize donated by the IOC, the third prize, awarded by the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sport went to the short German film "Topspin" by Joachim Kreck, for "effective use of cinematographic writing". The City of Rennes prize was won by the film "The Wanderings of an Orienteer", for the emotion and humour created by the talent of Czech film-maker Julius Matula. "Boxing", a short Soviet cartoon, received the jury's special prize as well as the TF1 trophy. "Diable d'hommes" by Guy Le Saout (FRA) won the Sports Academy's prize and the International Fair Play Committee's award went to another French production, "Sur la route des Jeux".