

# LIECHTENSTEINERS LIKE SPORT



*Liechtenstein's youngsters at the starting line in May last year for the Olympic Day Run.*

The run of the city of Vaduz, which has become the Olympic Day Run, took place for the fifth time last year. It has an enormous success marked by the enthusiasm of the population, which is always ready to take part in fun events for all. The figures prove it : no fewer than 400 runners lined up at the starting line of the principality's castle before attempting routes of different lengths according to their age groups. For, of course, all categories are represented. The Liechtensteiners love sport and it shows. The next course is already being organized.

Every year the state invests over one million francs in competition sport and sports activities. In Liechtenstein sport plays an important socio-political role. Both competition sport and general sports activities are well supported, on the one hand by the authorities (state and communes) and on the other by various firms. The subsidies given by the State, aimed at producing a qualitative improvement in sports activities, amount to one million Swiss francs a year. Sport in Liechtenstein is very well structured, but without the slightest interference from the state. A consultative committee advises the government on sports issues and does not limit itself to discussing merely the financial aspects.

Close collaboration between the consultative committee, the NOC, the national sports federation and the 34 sports associations, including numerous clubs, ensures a solid and favourable base on which sport can develop in Liechtenstein.

## J+S UNDER THE AEGIS OF SWITZERLAND

This year, the sports organization «Youth and Sport» (J+S) will be celebrating its tenth anniversary. It was only after long negotiations with the Federal military department in 1976/77 that Switzerland finally accepted the responsibility for the fate of this organization. Even then an agreement had to be concluded defining the details of this «takeover» and the administration of this large sports organization, which is encouraged and subsidized by the state. Now, ten years after the agreement was signed, one can truthfully say that the organization is doing very well. Its regulations were adapted to fit the situation in Liechtenstein and the characteristics of the sports practised in the country. Today, there are 700 qualified J+S instructors involved in 22 different sports.

## COMPETITION SPORT : SKIING...

At present, other countries still think of Liechtenstein sport in terms of the triumphant victories of the ski champions From-

melt, Wenzel, Konzett and others. After these sportsmen and women retired from competition (with the exception of Paul Frommelt, bronze medallist at the Olympic Games in Calgary), the Liechtenstein ski team found itself much depleted.

## LIECHTENSTEINERS WIN 14 MEDALS

Every two years, eight small European countries, namely Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Luxemburg, Malta, Monaco, San Marino and Liechtenstein, take it in turns to organize what they call the Games of the Small States of Europe. These were held in May 1989 in Cyprus and the Liechtenstein team won 14 medals. Almost 700 male and female athletes took part in the Games, including 55 from Liechtenstein.

*Ten thousand people are members of a club, a solid basis for sports development.*

