

HUNGARIAN NOC CELEBRATES ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

The impressive Vígsház theatre was the setting for the official centennial celebrations of the Hungarian NOC. The ceremony was attended by the head of state, Arpád Göncz, the IOC President, numerous leading figures from the worlds of politics and sport and over 400 Olympic medallists and sports administrators. Ambassador Pál Schmitt, NOC president and IOC vice-president, said in his speech that *“the first hundred years of the Hungarian Olympic Committee coincided with the last hundred years of Hungarian history. This century was characterized by struggles, falls and rises and alien occupation. However, at the Olympic Games, the Hungarian sportsmen and sportswomen (...) have achieved outstanding results with which they supported the country proving that there is always a way out of impossible situations.”* The President of the Republic, Dr Arpád Göncz, whose father took



part in the tennis tournament at the 1924 Olympic Games, pointed out that: *“The Olympic Games melts and unites the people of the country in every fourth year (...). Success and victories always transmit strength even in the most difficult times. Our athletes well deserve the nation’s thanks and appreciation...”* He then decorated the IOC President with the Middle Cross with the Diamond Order. The IOC President observed that: *“Hungary was one of the founding countries of the Olympic Movement, for which it has earned international recognition (...). Today, we celebrate the centennial of the institution which has been the architect of many*

victories and which has raised Hungarian sport to international fame.”

During the ceremony, the IOC President awarded the Olympic Order to three prominent figures in Hungarian sport: Tamas Aján, secretary general of the NOC and of the IWF; György Szepesi, journalist; and Ferenc Török, president of the Hungarian pentathlon federation and vice-president of the UIPMB.

From left to right, Ferenc Török, György Szepesi and Tamas Aján, recipients of the Olympic order.

The Hungarian NOC also rewarded the achievements of several national athletes, including players in the legendary football team of the 1950s, Jenő Buzánsky, Zoltán Czibor, Gyula Grosics, Nándor Hidegkuti and Ferenc Puskás.

Caption: From left to right: Ferenc Török, György Szepesi and Tamas Aján, who all received the Olympic Order.

