

Education

by Oszkár Schlegel*

The School of Budapest

One of the aims of the Olympic Movement is to contribute “to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play”. (Olympic Charter)

The International and Hungarian Olympic Movement has three important dates as follows: 1894, 1895, and 1896. The School of Budapest was established in 1897. Naturally, the date of the establishment of our school cannot be compared to previously mentioned dates. However, it might be interesting for those who do not believe in coincidence to realize that a close relationship seems to exist between the Olympic ideal and the Budapest Primary School of Ornagy Street.

This 102-year old school, even in its first 50 years of existence, had produced outstanding sportsmen such as László Orcán, World Champion cyclist, who was placed fifth at the Games of the XI Olympiad in 1936 in Berlin. The golden age of the school began after WWII. Sports had become increasingly popular at that time and the suburb area, the proximity of the Postás and MTK sports Clubs, the construction of the Népstadion and Budapest Indoor Hall, along with enthusiastic physical



The "Árpád Csanádi" school.

education teachers all contributed to the creation of beneficial conditions to turn many students into top athletes.

Just to name a few: Kálmán Ihász, Olympic Champion soccer player; László Szabó, who was on the Golden Team with Puskás and Kocsis in 1952 in Helsinki; Gyula Rákosi, 41-time national team member and Ferencváros player and Olympic bronze medalist in 1960 in Rome. Moreover,

besides soccer, many sports benefited from conditions at school such as: Attila Csázári, modern pentathlon; Sándor Major, silver medalist at the world championships in wrestling; Tamara Téglássy, figure skating, were all among the students.

The current history of the School of Budapest started in 1987 with the cooperation agreement reached with the Central Sports School (KSI). One of the fundamental goals was to provide education to the outstanding athletes of the Central Sports School at primary and secondary level as well as to initiate a primary coach training program. In order to achieve these educational goals it has been created such an atmosphere where talented young athletes not only felt good about themselves but the surrounding environment motivated them to perform in an outstanding manner both academically and athletically. Examples of athletes were presented to the students who were able to determine the path leading to Olympic medals with their talent, expertise, moral and love for their country.

Activities were also organised. Classes on ancient sport history, modern age Olympic history as well as sport and environment were introduced. Olympic extracurricular activities are also held. Current and former Hungarian sports celebrities are invited to these ceremonies and classes and even the exterior of the school demonstrates its commitment to sport. At the main entrance a memorial for the 100th anniversary of the IOC, created by György Várhelyi, welcomes the visitors where they see a marble table from the centenarian celebration of the school which represents the unity of psyche and physique. In front of the reception, the portrait of former IOC member Árpád Csanádi can be seen, also made by György Várhelyi. In the corridors, exhibitions of Hungarian Olympic champions are also on display. At the



Meeting with the Olympic water polo champion, Zoltán Dömötör

entrance to the classrooms, the name and bronze portrait of the eponymous are displayed. Nineteen former Olympic champions received recognition in this way. In the classrooms, the sports career and life of the eponymous are exhibited in a mini-museum including photos, documents and relics having a positive influence even on the most indifferent students.

Memorial halls were named after the former IOC member Árpád Csanádi, Olympic Order Recipient Károly Kárpáti and Ferenc Deák, "eternal best soccer player", displaying their awards. In the Hall of Coaches, eight outstanding officials have memorials. The school was awarded with the Olympic Order of the Hungarian

Olympic Committee acknowledging its work in the field of preserving and extending the Olympic ideal. With the agreement and moral support of IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the Csanádi Award was established in order to praise all of those who have helped the school in the field of the Olympic ideal and the best students and athletes. The first Csanádi Award recipients were presented with a 10-day Olympia visit by the IOC President at the International Olympic Academy.

Two teachers have completed the Extramural Studies of the Hungarian Olympic Academy. Three received HOA awards and four are members of the Árpád Csanádi Olympic Friends'

Circle. Among the contemporary and former students are a great number of Hungarian national team members, Olympic participants, European Champions and even a Senior World Champion, namely the boxer Zsolt Erdei.

This brief report does not reveal the problems but has primarily concentrated on the accomplishments. The purpose was to present the activities of the School of Budapest with regard to meeting the requirements of the Olympic Charter with the enormous assistance of the Hungarian Olympic Committee and Hungarian Olympic Academy.

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