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world. Besides Czech, his mother tongue, he spoke German, English, Russian, Polish, French and Chinese. Thanks to his multi-lingual gifts, he became a speaker of authority. With a military career, serving as a colonel in the army, he had everything to lose when he participated actively in the Prague Spring of 1968. He did not hesitate, however, to become a freedom fighter, as he had been on the track: he demonstrated on the side of the rebels and signed the 2,000-word manifesto which demanded a return to democracy and freedom in Czechoslovakia. He was demoted and relegated to forced labour, which makes those who sought to dishonour him unworthy.

Once he was given back his freedom, Zatopek never stopped fighting for



The IOC President (foreground) at Zatopek's funeral service, along with IAAF president Lamine Diack and NOC president Milan Jirasek.

peace. He was as great in this task as he had been in sport. With this double title, he deserves to go down in the history of the century which has just come to an end. He was, to quote Antoine Blondin's great definition, the kind of person who managed to push back the walls of his prison.

Emil Zatopek was born on 19 September 1922. Four-times Olympic champion (10,000m in 1948; 5,000m, 10,000m and marathon in 1952; twice European champion in 1950), he had to his name 18 world records, from the 5,000m to the 30km. In particular, he was the first to run 10,000m in less than 29 minutes and cover over 20km within the hour. He died on 21 November 2000 in Prague.

JACQUES GODDET, A TRUE VISIONARY OF SPORT

Some men leave an everlasting impression on the people around them through their commitment, passion, creativity and foresight.

Jacques Goddet (1905-2000) leading press baron and lifetime journalist, was one such person. A man ahead of his time, linking the past and present to the future, he reminded me of the hero in René Clair's film, "*C'est arrivé demain*", insofar as he predicted or imagined what sport would become, above and beyond the task of simply reporting daily events in his newspaper.

by Robert Parienté*

Jacques Goddet spent the 20th century inventing a brand new form of press. He was fortunate, it is true, to be born into the right circles: in 1903, his father, Maurice Goddet, and Henri Desgrange, founded sports daily "*l'Auto*", whose success was based primarily on its coverage of the Tour de France for bicycles and automobiles. Learning from the most reliable sources, Jacques Goddet acquired a broad sports education at an English

school near Oxford, where he rowed, ran and played rugby, before his father called on him to work alongside him at "*L'Auto*". Hence, in the 1920s he became a journalist, learning his trade through stints in each department of the newspaper and making his mark as an inspirational reporter of the Tour de France.

In 1932, he was the only member of the French press sent to the Olympic Games held far away in Los Angeles. There, he covered many different sports, running to and fro between the main venues in order to wire back to

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Paris articles whose style and content were already beginning to reveal the visionary nature of his thinking. Even at that early stage, he saw writing for a newspaper as a way of describing and explaining, maybe even judging, and certainly of expressing ideas. It could become a kind of mission.

At 31, he became director of the Tour de France, although he remained chief editor of "L'Auto" and later took over the reins from Henri Desgrange.

Unfortunately, the newspaper, published throughout the German occupation, ultimately fell victim to the war. Prohibited when France was liberated, "L'Auto" was replaced on 28 February 1946 by "L'Equipe", which soon began to monopolize the daily sports press, taking over "Elans", and then wiping "Sport" from the map altogether. Jacques Goddet's masterstroke was then to surround himself with talented colleagues to whom he delegated some of his responsibilities. He appointed Gaston Meyer, a great advocate of Olympism, to the post of chief editor, and worked with him to establish "L'Equipe" as a provider of international sports coverage, often beating the major interna-

tional news agencies to breaking news stories. No result anywhere in the world escaped the attention of the experts from "L'Equipe", which became the standard source of sports news from across the globe.

At the same time, while remaining in charge of the Tour de France (together with Félix Lévitan), Jacques Goddet strengthened his company by creating a major new television programme, "les

Coulisses de l'Exploit", and establishing a number of new events. In so doing, he made the *Palais des Sports* (Vel d'Hiv) and the *Parc des Princes* (of which he was also director) the temples of boxing and track cycling respectively, before becoming the driving force behind the *Palais Omnisports* in Paris Bercy. He founded and secured official recognition for the football, athletics and basketball European Cups, and later the World Skiing Championships.



Jacques Goddet.

He also sponsored some important sailing events, such as the *Route du Rhum*, and a rally of unprecedented proportions, Paris-Dakar. He campaigned for the abolition of amateurism and for sports events to be open to the best competitors, thus supporting the reforms called for in the 1980s by the International Olympic Committee, under the leadership of Juan Antonio Samaranch.

In the grave moments of 1980, Jacques Goddet lent his support to the IOC, defending the decision to hold the Moscow Olympic Games, which were in danger of being cancelled following Soviet troops' invasion of Afghanistan and the boycott ordered by the US government.

In order to face up to the issues raised by the development of new technologies and increasing computerization, Jacques Goddet decided in 1965 that

"L'Equipe" should become part of the Amaury group. He nonetheless retained editorial control over his newspaper until 1984, when, at almost 80 years of age, he observed and reported on his twelfth and final Olympic Games in Los Angeles, 52 years after witnessing the Games held there in 1932. He then became Honorary President of "L'Equipe", although he remained in charge of the Tour de France until 1987. Shortly afterwards, President Samaranch awarded him the Olympic Cup for his services to journalism.

Recognized and respected by all, he had fought against nationalism, discrimination and violence, and had foreseen the harmful effects of doping.

For this reason, he continued to influence his younger colleagues until the day he passed away. In 1999, this living legend of sport and communication became a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

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