

SHORT HISTORICAL NOTES XIV

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Ph.D. Anton Gajdoš born on 1.6.1940 in Dubriniči (today Ukraine) lives most of his life in Bratislava (ex TCH, nowadays SVK). He comes from gymnastics family (his brother Pavel have world championship medals) and he devoted his life to gymnastics. His last achievement is establishment of Narodna encyklopedia športu Slovenska (www.sportency.sk). Among his passion is collecting photos and signatures of gymnasts. As we tend to forget old champions and important gymnasts, judges and coaches, we decided to publish part of his archive under title Short historical notes. All information on these pages is from Anton's archives and collected through years.



100 YEARS OF CZECH AND SLOVAKIA GYMNASTICS FEDERATION

Miroslav Tyeš (1832-1884) founder of Sokol movement did not live long enough to be present when Czech Sokol clubs made association in 1887. Ten years later in 1897 Czech Sokol federation joint FIG and started to compete at international level. Already in 1900 at OG in Paris gymnast František Erban from Bohemia (as Czech state did not exist yet, they were under Austro Hungarian imperia) attended competitions. At OG 1908 and under Bohemia name again men attended competition, while since 1907 they attended World Chamionships. After the WWI new Czechoslovakia Sokol Federation started to work, and in 1919 Masaryk župa (association) in Slovakia have been established. Since than Czech and Slovak gymnasts started to compete at all major international competitions. Before the WWII they were top gymnasts and wining gold medal at OG starting with Bedrich Šupčík in Paris 1924. At 1936 OG in Berlin Alois Hudec won gold on rings. However even more impressive are Hudec's athletes abilities, as he was able to climb 7m rope in 10 seconds, run 100m in 12 seconds, 3m in pole vault, shot put with left or right arm 10 m, high jump of 1.6m and long jump of 5.2m, and considering technical conditions are those results to admire. At World Championships Vlasta Dekanova made double crown as won in 1934 and 1938.

After WWII in 1948 communists replaced Sokol movement by name and content and organized Czechoslovakia gymnastics federation. Both men and women were again very succesfull at major competitions. At OG 1948 in London women team won gold, despite, few days before competition Eliška Misakova died of poliemilitis. The greatest name after WWII was Vera Časlavská, who was serial winner at OG and WC.

After OG 1968 up to World Championship in 1979 in Strasbourg (France) last gold medal have been won as Vera Černa was the best on beam. At World Championship in 1983 Hana Rična took silver on beam.

In 1993 Czechoslovakia gymnastics federation split due to political circumstances, and since than Czech and Slovak gymnastics federations compete at FIG or UEG events as separate federations. Gymnasts from both federations have a great gymnastics knowledge, what is caused by excellent coaches, judges and organizers. Despite their results are not similar to pre WWII results, their results are rising, wining World Cup competition, and competing at OG.



On 6th October 2018 both federations prepared in Bratislava excellent show, celebrating gymnastics, with honorable guests Yuri Titov (honorable president of FIG) and George Gulzec (honorable president of UEG). Young gymnasts, rhythmic gymnasts and acrobats showed in gala why gymnastics is basic movement and base for all other sports.



Yuri Titov during his speech



From left: Ivan Čuk, Karol Spacek, George Gulzec, Jozef, Mikula, Pavel Dus



From left: Viliam Kocian, Jiří Urbanek, Gabriel Varga, Jiří Tabák, Gejza Pomšár



Vera Černa



From left: Anton Gajdoš, Hana Marejková-Krausová, Ján Novák, Zděnek Ružička the oldest living olympic gymnast 93 years old



From left: Miriam Hullová-Kurilová, Jozef Konečný, Martina Kurilová



It is worth to note, in 2018, dipl. ing. Jozef Mikula (on photo with longtime friend Yuri Titov), one of the most significant Slovak artistic gymnastics judges, celebrated his 80th birthday and 60 years as an active judge and 42 years as an international FIG judge (11x Brevet FIG – 1970 – 2012). He judged more than 200 international championships, among others – Olympic Games in Moscow, 12 World Championships (USA, Australia, Europe), 15 European Championships, Mediterranean Games in Spain, FIG World Cup final in Toronto, European World Cups (more than 15x), etc. In 2003 he became FIG Honorary judge and honorable member of Slovak Gymnastics Federation. And he still judges at national level.



Young talents performing their routines