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WAKO

KICKBOXING

MAGAZINE

EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS

WORLD CUPS

WAKO PRO NEWS





WAKO KICKBOXING



Acting WAKO President
Roy Baker



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6. India
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8. Iraq
9. Jordan
10. Kazakhstan
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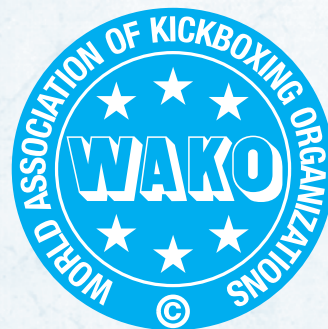


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1. Algeria
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WAKO EUROPE

President

Borislav Pelevic

1. Armenia
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7. Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Bulgaria
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10. Cyprus
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WAKO PANAMERICA

President

Paulo Zorello

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8. Colombia
9. Ecuador
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11. Guatemala
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16. Trinidad and Tobago
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18. U.S.A.
19. Venezuela

WAKO OCEANIA

Acting President

Peter Thompson

1. Australia
2. New Zealand

EDITOR'S LETTER



IMPRESSUM

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– WAKO EUROPE



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All members of the Editorial Team are volunteers without payment. All lines and photographs are free of charge.

Dear WAKO friends,

The third edition of the WAKO MAGAZINE is here, and a lot of events are behind us.

All the World Cups are over: the Irish Cup, the Austrian Classic, the Best-Fighter Rimini, the Szeged Hungary Cup and the Diamond Cup, as well as all the European Cups.

The European Cadet and Junior Championships held in San Sebastian, Spain, are also over, with a record number of competitors.

We are ahead of the World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia- the first part – in K-1 rules, Low-Kick and Kick-Light.

The second part is in Dublin, Ireland, in Full-Contact, Point-Fighting, Light-Contact and Musical Forms.

In Dublin will be held, complying with the decision of the Board of Directors, the General Assembly with the elections for the WAKO IF President, the Vice-Presidents and a new Board of Directors.

These are the first elections in the WAKO since our president Dr.Ennio Falsoni got ill two years and eight months ago. From then onwards the WAKO has been experiencing a lot of problems and stagnation in its development. Quarrels and fights for personal interests in the Board of Directors have started.

The time has come to seize all this and to focus ourselves on the development and progress of the WAKO kickboxing.

We have to stay united and work together to achieve the IOC recognition of the WAKO, to participate on the World Games in 2017, as well as the European Games in 2019, which would enable kickboxing to become an Olympic sport.

We are greater and more numerous than our competition for the IOC recognition: muay-thai, wu-shu, sambo etc. We must not allow them to become Olympic sports before we do.

Let us forget our personal interests and let us fight together for the WAKO kickboxing progress. Let us not forget that this is what our competitors, both men and women, deserve and our job is to work in their interest because they are worth it.

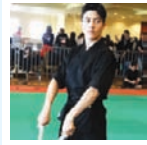
Only as a great WAKO team can we move forwards and become the best martial sport in the world.

The WAKO can and will do that. Yet, in order to achieve this we have to be united and harmonious.

Editor-in-Chief
Prof. Borislav Pelević, Ph.D.
WAKO Vice-President
WAKO EUROPE President

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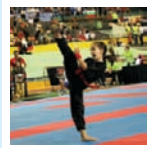
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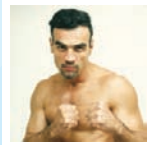
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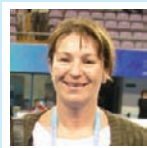
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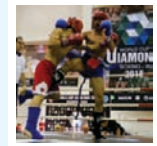
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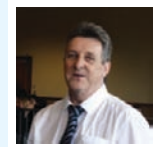
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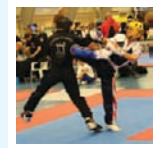
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IRISH OPEN INTERNATIONAL 2015.

Interview with Mr. Roy Baker, WAKO Acting President and the main organizer:

Event that **breaks** every rule



..... „ This is the 22nd year of the Irish open International. All these years, from day one, I was the organizer of this event and I'm not tired of it yet. Last year we had amazing number of 3200 registrations which was the biggest tournament in WAKO's history.



I thought that it was the maximum of one event. But, this year is extraordinary which overcome all my expectations: we are very close to brake 4000 registrations which are unbelievable; it is twice the size of any other event in WAKO!

What is the most important, please remember it, this morning in the sport hall we presented the check on 29.500 eu to the children's charity. The charity which we choose it is called the Child Line, for the children who have difficulties in their lives to make a phone call to somebody who is trained to support them in these difficult situations. I am very happy we had registrations from 39 countries, people from Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Argentina, and all of Europe we have today in Dublin. I am very happy for the success of this year's fantastic event".

You are managing and covering all about this event, you are everywhere, on every area, with competitors, with referees, with guests of this event. How do you manage this?

- I have the best stuff in the world. I don't believe there is anybody in the world that can handle 4000 competitors on one event like my stuff do. All of my stuff is with me since their five years of age. We are together over 20 years making this event year by year better. It's not only me: I coordinate, I manage, and I lead. But all of this people work and I'm watching them. My stuff is fantastic.

What is the receipt for somebody who wants to organize big competition like this?

- Receipt is: put inside lots of energy, commitment, passion, knowledge and start slowly. Too many people want the big tournament immediately. Like I've said, this is the year 22. When we started, we had one country, two countries, and three. And in last few years we tripled this size. I think the main success of Irish Open is amazing arena and hotel. If you talk to people with lot of experience like Peter Kruckenhouer, he will admit that this is the best arena in the world. This facilities you don't have anywhere in the world. Maybe only in Las Vegas. Also, we are unique by the night time show that is a spectacle, last night of tournament we had 4000 people looking at the stage.

Our people, our athletes, do not have an opportunity to do this type of level all the time, but this is exposure. So, for me, that is the key of success.



Somebody can tell that quantity destroys quality. What can you tell?

- Yes, one of the biggest challenges is quantity and quality, but not when you get the level like this tournament has. I am not aware of any main fighter that isn't at the Irish Open. Today on tournaments people have to select what tournament they wish to go to. I think what is over the last few years happened with the Irish Open is: if the fighter decides to go on two or three tournaments, one of them will be Irish Open. Some others could be sacrificed. It is one of the main focuses of the year. I think that is what changes decisions. But, we in Irish Open could not rest on this. Every year you can see there is an evolution in quality. This year, we had multiple displays, new barrier system on the area to keep tatamis safe of crowd, so every year we think of something to increase the level, to improve the tournament. Every year, bit by bit, we get better. We had also live streaming going on both in the ring and tatamis with seven cameras from every angle, so last night we had about 65 000 visitors on the live streaming. You can go on Irish Open on the You tube or on Brandmandan.



Live streaming opens new opportunity in marketing and advertising? Certainly you had some taught about that?

- I don't think now. Not yet. We need to make incredible sport and force mass media to be interested in our sport. It is wrong to start make money from advertising this sport. For me, it is not everything about money. Here we give everything for the children's charity. For Roy's Baker team this is not about making more money but making this beautiful. For me, live streaming is the way to get more people involved in watching and practicing our wonderful sport. When I talk about sponsoring, mass media's has to have an interest in our sport if we want big sponsors.





It is not so common to see beginners on age of five or six to be on tatami. Here you have a lot of children that age having their fights. Please make some comments on that.

- For us in Ireland, is the key. We had the best juniors and cadets on the Championship in Rimini. They were number one; they bated all that huge nations with much more practicums like Italy, Hungary and others. How do we do that? Because we start divisions from the age of six. Those children are very good controlled, disciplined, precise and by the time when our children are ten, to get in to WAKO divisions, they are well formed competitors. You can see that many other countries do that now, particularly for point fighting. There is very little risk of injury because this stop-start system. And later on, they can change the discipline. So for me, it is just wonderful to see those kids in the sport hall today. You need to teach children to be comfortable in competition on the early stage.

As for the Irish national team plans for the future, we are preparing for all important tournaments to participate, we have very good and dedicated trainers and amazing people practicing. And concerning that World Championship we are preparing in Dublin 2015 will be fantastic, this year I can tell, it will be very special.

M.P.



IRISH OPEN



Interview with **Roy Baker,** the WAKO Acting President



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

1. What are the main goals in your mind for WAKO in this and the future years?

-The biggest step for our sport is to get Olympic recognition.

Another important thing for WAKO is to participate on World Games in Wroclaw 2017. That is our real plan knowing that we are the member of IWGA (International World Games Association).

Important step for WAKO is our participation on European Games in 2019, which is organized by EOC (European Olympic Council).

We also need to consolidate our position in the world and to

support our continental federations to develop. That has to be the main focus in the future: strengthen everywhere and to help our people to grow on equal levels. Sport has to have strategic vision and plan to mobilize every continent. To support each other towards a common goal

Because, we are a truly amazing sport. There is huge number of people who are the workers in national federations and they are the backbone of the federation. They are the heart of everything we do.

2. The main events for WAKO in this year?

- Two the main events on the highest level in WAKO this year are World Championships in Belgrade from 24th October- 1st November (in K1, low kick and kick light) and World Championships in Dublin from 22th November- 29th November

(point fighting, full contact, light contact and musical forms).

3. In Dublin there will be WAKO Ordinary General Assembly where new President, Vice Presidents and Board members will be elected. What do you expect there?

- These are the most important elections in history of the WAKO.

Till now, Ennio Falsoni was our President. We all know that Ennio has unfortunately had health problems, and for the first time in decades we have to elect a new President and there is always a difficult time after a long period of a strong and competent leader as Ennio is. He has really been a courageous and focused leader for WAKO and somebody we continue to miss every day in this sport.

For sure elections will be democratic and delegates of WAKO members will decide who



will be the new President, the new Vice Presidents and the new Board members.

Board of directors had formed the Election committee and they are in charge for elections (according to the Statutes). That Committee is consisted by Vice Presidents (with exception of Borislav Pelevic, who is the candidate) and two our lawyers.

4. You keep quoting consistence, why?

For me, WAKO need to get better at its events making all continental championships and world the same we need to create brand consistency at our events and the new Organizing

Committee must focus on this, so our athletes, who are the most important members of WAKO, knows what to expect and get what they expect. This also relates to our referees who

we must support more in the future. However we are funds entails an armature sport with an armature ethos which must continue. We have to get better at this and this will be a personal focus for me if I am approved as Technical director for WAKO in the future.

5. You dedicated your life to sport?

- Everybody knows that I spent my whole life in this sport so I am pretty sure that we can manage our main goals in WAKO.

I started with WAKO in 1982. I had my last fight in 2002. Won a number of World and European titles, with it is twenty years fighting in WAKO.

That alongside my experience as a promoter and my job as a director of a FTSE, that makes me confident in my thoughts. That my inner energy is now dedicated in my other kind of work in WAKO as Acting President.

When I was a little kid, everybody who knew me can tell you how quiet and shy child I was. This sport formed my character and abilities which I had never before. Now, I want to spread that to the people in WAKO and make life and the world a better place through what sport can install and teach you as an individual and ultimately as a member of a wide and diverse community where integrity, culture and ethics are the foundation unyielding principles, where nobody is bigger than the sport and a we are all traveling on the one road with a united purpose to positively developed the sport for the future



WAKO European Championships
for cadets and juniors

BEAUTIFULL, BEAUTIFULL WAKO YOUTH



Location: **San Sebastian (ESP)**
Date: **22.-29. August 2015**





Disciplines:

low kick, K1, kick light, light contact, full contact, point fighting, musical forms.

Countries: 39 (in alphabetical order)

AUT, AZE, BLR, BIH, BUL, CRO, CZE, DEN, EST, FRA, GEO, GER, GBR, GRE, HUN, IRL, ISR, ITA, LAT, LIE, LTU, MAC, MOL, MNE, NOR, POL, POR, RUS, SRB, SVK, SLO, ESP, SUI, TUR, UKR

Entries total:

1342

Biggest Countries by entry:

RUS (184), ITA(144), POL (130).



August 25th in San Sebastian (Spain) started WAKO European Championships for cadets and juniors in all kickboxing styles (points fighting, light contact, kick light, musical forms, full contact, low kick and K1).

After opening ceremony, fights starts on 8 tatamis and 2 rings. First day on program was all 1/16 and 1/8 finals.

Second day was reserved for the musical forms. It was unbelievable pleasure watching those young competitors presenting their fighting performance. They were dedicated, well trained, passion oriented so that part of the competition was memorable.

The third competition day was reserved for all semifinals. Lot of crowd, noise, happiness and tears. It is amazing that all these young practitioners saved their clear hearts so every success was followed by happiness and joy, and every failure was full of sadness and tears. But that is sport.

WAKO European Championships for cadets and juniors



The last competition day brought us excellent fights in finals. Judging was on the high level, fighters so well trained and audience was left only to enjoy. We had live streaming all fighting days, and there we marked imposing number of watching. If somebody wants to criticize something, he can only point his finger to the

organizer concerning problems with accommodation, but as far as we know that WAKO is getting bigger and bigger on every further championship, future organizers has to be aware of that and be very careful in choosing the host town and capacities for accommodation.





Mr. Peter Kruckenhauser
about
AUSTRIAN
CLASSICS 2015
WAKO WORLD CUP

GREAT

WAKO WORLD CUP



... We started organizing this Championship 19 year ago, and from about 200 competitors then, we are proud of the today's number of 2218 competitors from 31 countries. We are growing and improving every year. We changed two towns in finding the best place to have this tournament, so we ended up in this beautiful city Innsbruck at the Olympics sports hall which is great for us. When we came to Innsbruck it was the big step for us because so many international competitors came over. The last three-four years, each year we had the new record in number of participants which is the best proof that we are doing the great job.





WAKO Europe President, Mr. Borislav Pelevic opened the Championship



Celebration on the tatami:
Austrian fighter Roman Brundl, Best of the best, won Great champion title.

... Austrian Classics in the second biggest WAKO tournament. We are proud of that, especially me, because my brother Michael and his team are working very hard on this. They are together in organizing this tournament more than seven years; they know every secret about how to make a big and good competition.

... Participating countries are all around the world. We have here today Canada, USA, many European countries with their national teams, but I must say that I am very sorry that some countries from Asia did not get the visas. For example, we had a problem with Tajikistan: they were here last year, but this year they didn't get visa.

... We have on tournament almost all WAKO disciplines because we are sure that if you are doing the WAKO World Cup, you should have all disciplines. Personally, I don't have anything against musical forms but only this WAKO discipline we don't have on World Cup. We started with K1 and kick light three years ago and every year we have more and more competitors in this disciplines. We have here eleven tatamis and two rings. To handle that is not so easy. You need lot of referees, good referees and it is not easy to find them



Peter Kruckenhouser



Michael Kruckenhouser, one of the main organizers of World Cup Austrian Classics





and bring them to the tournament. People have their personal agendas and it is not so easy to find free time at this part of year to spend three days out of work. Sometimes you should involve B class referees, according to their need for experience.

... In general, people like our tournament because, as you know, kickboxing is the big family and we like to meet each other on big tournaments.

... This year was special for Austrian team because after 19 years this is the first time we have the Great champion Roman Brundl, excellent fighter and we are really proud of him. He won all the best world fighters this year and this makes him the owner of the Great Champion trophy.

M.P.

GREAT WAKO WORLD CUP





GREAT WAKO CHAMPIONS

WAKO VETERAN

Paulo Zorello



Championship and I got the silver medal in Full Contact at +91Kg. In this same event, I had the pleasure to meet Ennio personally and to talk to him about my will to develop WAKO in Brazil and in the American continent. I stood more time in Europe and, because of my Italian grandparents, I represented Italy in the European Championship that was held in Madrid in November of the same year and I was able to conquer the gold medal. In March of 1991, Ennio offered me the opportunity to fight for what would be my first professional World Title, in Italy, against Phellipe Coutellas (France). This fight was settled once it would be a fight between the currently World Champion and the currently European Champion. I won by points (I would defeat him again by KO in 1993) and I became the first WAKO PRO World Champion. After that, I came back to Brazil to start my working plan to develop the kickboxing sport in the continent.

Along with my new career as a sports manager, I manage my professional career conquering the South American, the Iberoamerican, the Intercontinental and three more World Titles in three different weight categories in Full Contact and Low Kicks.

Always counting with the support of Ennio, I have been organizing the Campeonato Brasileiro (Brazilian National Championship) and the Copa Brasil (Brazilian Cup) for the last 25 years, since 1991. In the continent, I've been organizing the Panamerican Championship since 1994. Until now, there were 08 editions of this event in different countries (Cancun in Mexico will host the 9th edition in 2016) and 09 editions of the South American Championship

→ 1. Who is Paulo Zorello in WAKO?

- Currently, I am the president of Confederação Brasileira de Kickboxing (Brazilian Kickboxing Confederation) and Confederação Panamericana de Kickboxing (WAKO PANAM), member of the Board of Directors of WAKO IF, sports manager and businessman in different segments, such as sports events and construction industry. But the question I would like to answer is: what is WAKO for Paulo Zorello. Be sure that I would not hesitate to say that WAKO was and still is the most important thing that happened in

my life as an amateur and professional athlete and now as a sports manager.

→ 2. Tell us how did you started the new sport in first days and what were the main challenges in these early days of WAKO?

This question is directly related to the previous question and gives me the opportunity to clarify how much WAKO and Ennio Falsoni shaped my career.

I participated in the World Championship in Munich as an assistant coach to the Brazilian delegation in 1987, but it was in January of 1990 that my life was changed forever. I competed for the first time in a WAKO World

(Santiago in Chile will host the 9th edition this December).

In 2010, I organized the first edition of the World Cup with a different format, offering internal transportation, accommodation and feeding subsidy to all the athletes. Since its first edition, the event is growing and we achieve a bigger success each year. In 2013, I host the WAKO World Championship in Low Kicks and K1 Rules, and counted with the

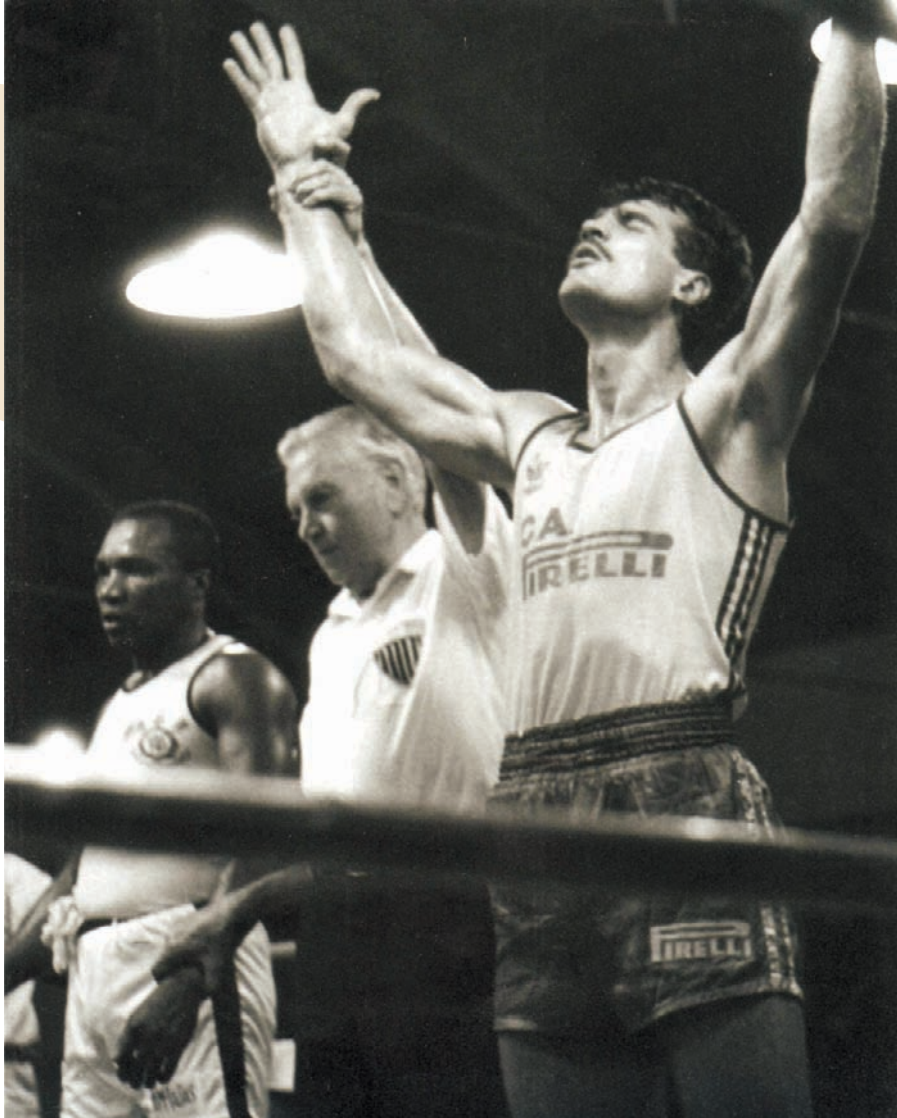


Two close friends: Paulo & Ennio

participation of 42 countries and a record number of athletes in only two modalities.

During these years, it was more than 500 events, including amateur and professional events. In August 2011, I created the WGP Kickboxing, that is in its 27th edition, and have already become the biggest event of the Continent, reaching more than 10 millions of viewers in its last edition held in September 5th. The event is broadcast live by 3 Brazilian TV channels and by Elite Boxing internationally.

About the challenges, my career as an athlete taught me



that the most important fight is always the next one. That is what I have done. I faced all the challenges and beat one by one. That is still how I do in my life, I set my goals and, one by one, I face and solve them.

→ **3. What are your best achievements as competitor?**

In addition to the titles I've conquered, Kickboxing gave me countless opportunities. Through this sport, I've travelled the world, I've met a lot of people, I've learned different languages and, most of all, I've lived the best and biggest kickboxing events, which served as a model to my events and to the methodologies implemented by me.

→ **4. How much and in what way kickboxing have been changed from the early days till now?**

By being a new and a very versatile sport modality,

Kickboxing is always evolving, whether in recreational training or in competitive practice. Nowadays, the gyms are crowded with women that are looking for a better physical conditioning and beauty and healthy body, with kids and teenagers that are thrilled to practice the different modalities of Kickboxing, and with athletes that are willing to compete in a strong and competitive circuit, amateur or professional.

→ **5. What are the main topics you can discuss about when we are talking about situation in Pan America?**

WAKO in the Pan American continent has evolved, but we have much more to grow. For many years, unfortunately South America worked alone, once countries such as Canada and USA were attending only the World Championships, ignoring

the continental events. This scenario changed only in 2012 when, once more, the partnership and support of Ennio were crucial. As requested by a WAKO PANAM project, he turned the continental events in official qualifying competitions for the World Combat Games.

This decision immediately changed the importance of these events, once the continental competitions gained an event greater space in the counties agenda, following the example of the European Championship. This is helping the Kickboxing sport to grow stronger worldwide. You can be sure that the only way to the dreamed Olympic recognition is to reach as much countries as possible and to show to the IOC not only how organized we are, but also how attractive we are in terms of athletes, consumers and media.

How we are going to do that? I think we are in the right path and surely, the effective participation of USA, Canada and Mexico will make it easier.

→ 6. How do you running the learning program among your trainers and referees in Pan America?

- This is a very important subject and it is gaining more space in WAKO PANAM's agenda. A long time ago, we made three decisions that would change the kickboxing training and teaching method in Brazil. Based on the results of these changes in Brazil, we exported the experience achieved to the other countries.

First, we created an independent Referee Department that is constantly upgrading its skills. That way, when a referee works in an event, they are representing WAKO PANAM, not his country. He judges the athlete by the color of its corner, not by the country that he is fighting for. For many years, these referees receive a payment for working in

the event, a feeding subsidy and accommodation in all continental events. In a near future, we should be able to pay for their transportation. With these measures, the percentage of mistakes in the fighting results is very low, which helps in the evolution of the sport.

The second measure taken by us is the technical seminars with renowned athletes and coaches of other countries, because I believe that with a continuous exchange we will be able to raise the level in teaching and in competition.

The last but no least measure was the foundation of the WAKO PANAM Training Center in the city of Piracicaba, in the state of Sao Paulo, through a public-private partnership with the city hall. The WAKO PANAM TC counts with two official rings, a 800m² tatami area, dressing rooms and all the infrastructure to host athletes

and to hold small events.

→ 7. What are the best ranged countries in kickboxing in Pan America?

- Brazil leads the Panamerican Ranking, followed by Argentina and Chile, but with the full participation of USA and Mexico, this scenario probably will change in a short time. Actually, the concurrence will raise the technical level of all athletes.

→ 8. What's about popularity of kickboxing today in Pan American countries? Which style people across the ocean the most prefer to train and which sport they like the most to watch on TV?

- Kickboxing is very popular in our continent, but we have much more to grow. Events such as WGP Kickboxing, a stronger Panamerican Championships and WAKO World Championships (Brazil could be the host of the 2017 edition) are already making





the difference. There are other things that I believe that will help our growth like the participation of USA, which internal situation is starting to stabilize, and Mexico, which is doing a great job. All this is stimulating and attracting new countries to WAKO PANAM and, by consequence, to WAKO IF. With this, the popularity of Kickboxing will grow strongly in all continents.

→ **9. Do you still going in to the gym?**

Yes, that is my life. I alternate kickboxing training with weightlifting, running and cycling. I can't stop, because I need to be in good conditioning to the technical seminars and national black-belt graduation exams.

→ **10. What is the future of kickboxing in the world and what do you think what is the best way for WAKO to develop in the future?**

- Unfortunately, we are going through the best and worst moment of our history. The worst because of the tragic situation of our leader Ennio. The best, because Kickboxing sport has never been so popular and strong. We are in the right path,

but we need to elect our new president by direct vote, with the support of the counties members worldwide. Only like that, he will have the legitimacy and the strength to put WAKO in the winner path, in its right position as the biggest e most important Kickboxing entity in the world. More than that, the new president with the support of the Board of Director, continental presidents and affiliated members will be able to stabilize the internal situation of the entity and to think only about the plans to develop our sport.

→ **11. What are the main problems in WAKO today?**

I need to be really honest in this question. The internal dispute for the presidency of WAKO IF is disturbing our development latterly. We were not able to choose a single

candidate, but I am sure that the affiliate member worldwide will be. In my opinion, we are really close to stabilize the internal differences and to work in the name just to WAKO, to members, not to personal reasons.

→ **12. What is your vision of success?**

- As a Kickboxing sports manager: to work hard. To think collectively. To put the interests of WAKO IF above the personal interests. Simple like that.

→ **13. Your message to all kickboxing practitioners?**

- Let the Kickboxing sport occupy more and more space in your lives. Support WAKO IF, join and participate actively of the decision of each national president, because they will decide the future of WAKO IF.

M.P.



20th BESTFIGHTER WAKO WORLD CUP

RIMINI, 05-07 JUNE 2015

Welcome to Rimini, Italy !



Rimini is delighted to be, for the first time, host City for the

20TH BESTFIGHTER WAKO WORLD CUP taking place from 05 to 07 June 2015.

Rimini, par excellence the city of the hospitality, known all over the world for its outstanding ability to make guests feel welcome, is a happy marriage between the traces of a great and glorious past and an extensive, efficient and ultra-modern tourist organization.

The sport tourism in Rimini, in the last 20 years, has been remarkably developed, thanks to the possibility to train themselves and race also in the hinterland, area particularly revalued from sport, cultural, historical and food and wine viewpoint.



WELCOME TO RIMINI ON BEST FIGHTER

20TH Best fighter WAKO world cup was held 5, 6, 7th June 2015 in Rimini, Italy.

These three days Rimini was center of quality kick boxing where in the high competition fighters had to prove who is the Best fighter.

We congratulate to Granchampion's Winners: **Zsolt Moradi** and **Luisa Gullotti** and to the Winner and Finalist of Team Event: **Kiraly Team & Bestfighter Team**.



OFFICIAL REPORT

WAKO World CUP BESTFIGHTER 2015

Location: Rimini (Italy)
Date: 4-7 June 2015

Categories: 256

Countries: 33 (in alphabetical order)

ARG,AUT, AZE, BRA, BUL, CAM, CRO,
CZE, DEN, FIN, FRA, GER, GBR, GRE,
HUN, IRL, ITA, JOR, LIE, MAC, MEX,
NED, NOR, POL, POR, RUS, SVK, SLO,
ESP, SUI, UKR, USA

Entries: 2092 (only official WAKO
members)

Female Entries: 723

Male Entries: 1369

Biggest Category:

Grandchamp male (38 Entries)

Entries PF: 1195

Entries LC: 406

Entries KL: 189

Entries FC: 97

Entries LK: 45

Entries Forms & Tricks: 160

Biggest international Teams:

01 Team (ITA), 128 Entries

02 Slovenia (SLO), 110 Entries

03 Ukraina (UKR), 87 Entries



Russian Musical Form team

20th BESTFIGHTER WAKO WORLD CUP RIMINI, 05-07 JUNE 2015



Gianfranco Rizzi (in the middle)

Dear friends,

it is with great pleasure that I am going to tell you a WORD that sometimes we forget to say and other times it is misused, a word that expresses a feeling, that expresses our state of mind, a word that when it is that with sincerity, springs from our heart. I want to say a word to many people who have contributed to the excellent success of Best fighter 2015, a word that is dedicated to All those who worked tirelessly before, during and after the event. A word that I dedicate to All participating Athletes and their Masters, to all the Referees, to All Staff Members, to our Doctors and Rescuers, to Company Partners and also to All Those who with a smile or an appreciation for the huge amount of work to offer a stage worthy of a great tournament, helped us to overcome the tiredness and obstacles. A single, simple word: GRAZIE, Thank You very much for your participation and your support.

Gianfranco Rizzi





INTERVIEW

FEMALE KICKBOXING VETERAN

Kate Kociszewska



Ennio Falsoni & Kate

→ 1. Introduce Kate Kociszewska to our readers? Who is Kate and who is Kate in WAKO?

I'm interested in and involved in kickboxing sport from early eighties of the last century. It started when I met my husband- a longtimekickboxing national coach in Poland (actually President of Polish Kickboxing Federation). I was working in a position of the Secretary General of Polish Kickboxing Federation for 11 years up to 2004. In the meantime in 1994 I was nominated by Polish federation as WAKO Board member which was accepted by our President Mr. Ennio Falsoni. I am WAKO board member since then until today. It's a long time.I'm in WAKO, because it attracts me a magnetic force of people who are passionate about the sport. Passion is something extraordinary, is dedication and love. In Poland we have organized WAKO World Championships in 1997 in Gdansk where I was responsible for international contacts in Organizing Committee. And recently I was a main promoter of 2013 WAKO Europeans for Cadets and Juniors in KrynicaZdroj. We are also organizing Polish Open for many years now. In 2017 IWGA World Games is to be held in Wrocław as host city.

→ 2. Your's engagement in WAKO.

I am very grateful that I was able to participate in the development of our organization for many years. WAKO is currently the only kickboxing international organization recognized by

SportAccord, OCA, WADA, IWGA. We owe it to the PresidentEnnio Falsoni and his ability to cooperate with many people who also put a lot of work to achieve these goals. I thank them all for this great contribution.

As a woman I always try to mitigate conflicts and strive for harmony and cooperation. Sometimes it's a tough job, but for the 20 years as the only woman in the WAKOboard, that's what I tried to follow.I am convinced that only cooperation builds good relations and helps in achieving the objectives.

I participated in the application process of including kickboxing in the program of the 2017 World Games in Wrocław and I am still working on this issue.

→ 3. You are the chairman of women committee in WAKO. What are the main problems in that issue you are dealing with?

We deal with many issues but fortunately WAKO is very responsible and transparent organization fully respecting the rights of all its members. Of course there are things to do, but

they are not fortunately serious problems. We aim to increase the number of women in the governing bodies and WAKO committees. Very satisfactory for us is the number of women in the WAKO EUROPE Board, where we have 1 vice president and 3 women as board members. Actually women committee is to propose to our members to join the United Nations Secretary General's campaign called UNiTE to End Violence against Women. In this campaign the 25th of each month is proclaimed as 'Orange Day', a day to raise awareness and take action against violence against women and girls. 'ORANGE THE WORLD: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS' is a 16 days action against gender-based violence from 25th November, the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, to Human Rights Day on 10th December. We want to emphasize the importance of activism to end violence worldwide. We want to use orange, as optimistic color to engage our members and to pay attention to this problem.

→ 4. What are the main challenges for women in martial sports?

Kickboxing, as most of the fighting sports is a sport primarily dominated by men. However women have found that kickboxing provides them with excellent benefits. Women understand this as a great idea for healthy life surrounded by the people with the same passion. Not to say about self-defense abilities that may be useful. Conscious participation of women in WAKO indicates a high level of the organization and its high standards. Focusing on equality, we must see the differences between male and female. We need to raise awareness of women's participation in WAKO through activities that focus on education and promotion of women. We need to engage WAKO Committees to develop joint educational materials that reflect the differences between the sexes.

→ 5. WAKO today and WAKO in the future: the main topics, the main problems, plans, agendas?

WAKO today is hurt by unexpected disease of its President Ennio Falsoni. We have previously mentioned achievements, but we do not move forward as we could. We look forward to electing a new WAKO President who will restore our previous momentum.

In my opinion we must promote our sport better. We must be aware of global trends and fashion to sports data. Promotion in the media will enable the commercialization and the wider interest in our discipline. It is a fundamental condition for the growth of our income, which means development and greater opportunities. This is also main IOC recognition criteria. We have to respect the global development of communication between people and follow a path of continuous development. Nowadays everything is changing much faster than it was 10 - 20 years ago. We have to be on time with everything. It is a time of intense challenges and extensive work. Not everything depends on our efforts - political situation in the world and many local conflicts is of great global importance. Our work and development also depends on peace in the world.



Kate & Srdjan Bugarčić members of the Organizing Committee of World Games



The Organizing Committee of World Games

We have to respect the variety of our members, who come from different continents, different cultures. We need this diversity for further development of our organization. No less important is education. We should create unified educational programs in various aspects of our activities to ensure equal development in these areas among our members. Let's us use the best practices we were able to work out and improve, improve and improve. Most important is we are positive in our activities.

on technical details concerning our general requirements, official sports program, standardized procedures of ceremonies etc. We had several meetings on the technical aspects of the project. WAKO is to qualify its best fighters to take part in The World Games as we are to provide top athletes and top level presentation. In Poland we promote K-1 Rules kickboxing by organizing galas, tournaments, shows. Next year we are planning to organize Polish K-1 Rules Kickboxing Championships in Wroclaw on the same sports hall, where the competition will be held during the World Games.

➔ **6. World Games will be held 2017. in Poland, your country. How is WAKO preparing for that event?**

The 10th edition of the multi-sport event - 2017 World Games promoted by International World Games Association under the patronage of IOC will take place in Wroclaw, Poland. There will be over 30 sport disciplines including kickboxing K-1 Rules. This is the first time our discipline is a part of this huge games. Within 10 days approximately 4,500 athletes and officials from more than 100 countries take part in The World Games with TV broadcasting to over 120 countries. This will be a great opportunity to promote kickboxing, a big chance for next achievements. Regarding the preparation process we launched efforts to join the program in March 2011. Of course the main condition was Wroclaw's bid succeeds. This happened in 2012 and we have applied officially. Actually WAKO working group cooperates with Wroclaw Organizing Committee

➔ **7. What are the main goals for WAKO in the future?**

The main goal is to get IOC recognition. It is very important for WAKO and its members. It would bring WAKO and national federations to higher level and will increase possibilities. This is a very difficult task. We need new standards of work and improvement in different areas. And we are continuously working on it. We have to consider this is also a political process and not only fulfilling the criteria. The fulfillment of the criteria does not mean, unfortunately, automatic recognition. It is actually our biggest challenge. I believe it is time possible. I believe in the professionalism of our activists who are working very hard and doing their best to achieve the goal. I believe in luck that is also needed here. I hope that a great dream of Ennio Falsoni, Richard Leyrer and many of us finally comes true.

M.P.



XXI WORLD CUP Szeged,
Hungary, 21-24 May 2015

SZEGED - EPICENTER OF KICKBOXING







This was amazing competition. Organizer tried their best to make participants from 20 countries feel welcomed in this beautiful city. New President of the Organizing Committee of World Cup, Mr. Istvan Kiraly, was very busy these days but at the end, he could say that he was satisfied. I can only guess that he was satisfied as we were these days in Szeged, because it was also good opportunity to visit the Wine fair in the center of town. Very wise marketing move.

Anyway, there were 800 competition entries with famous names signed. Fights were in beautiful Sport hall of Szeged on two rings and four tatamis, in low kick, K-1, kick light, point fighting and light contact.







The first time in Cup's history this year we had online, live stream, and this was revolution in organizing this A class competitions where fans from all around the world could watch fights.

Results and live stream reports you can find on: www.worldcupszeged.hu/en

M.P.



SZEGED - EPICENTER OF KICKBOXING



The Best Coaches

Mr. Istvan Kiraly

DEDICATION, EDUCATION AND GOOD WILL- RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

1. Main things from your impressive biography:

I have been in this sport teaching since 1985, so this year I celebrate thirty years dedicated to kick boxing. Also I finished my practice in University, on Faculty of physical education and sport sciences in Budapest so I think that the main thing from my life which explains everything about my success is education.

Education is the key of every success. Without education there is no progress. That is my deep believes.

There is no good teacher in sports if he doesn't know anything from physical science, how our body works in hard training period, how our muscles work, etc. If the trainer doesn't have background in education, he doesn't teach, he improvises.

When you are preparing the fighter for the highest goals in sport, you have to force him to achieve what

you made in the plan for his success. And, if you don't know the way how to gain the goals from the plan for success, you are cheating that young person.

When I make a plan of exercising for all of my fighters, I exactly know what I want to achieve and what the individual possibilities are.

When you systematically work, you will not have champion for only one season. You will have strong, healthy and perspective sportsmen who last many seasons; you can count on their success on championships for many years.

Trainers have to be educated with very quality, deep knowledge. That is responsible behavior, because you don't want after ten years to have ruined bodies of your fighters.

From my point of view, at this moment in WAKO we don't have enough number of well educated trainers and this can be a topic for the future: how to educate our

trainers to be more responsible to their fighters.

And so, this is the main topic of interest on my new position in Hungarian kickboxing federation (I am elected as Vice-president). Also, I am included in the work of Hungarian IOC as a Chairman of the IOC education and trainers committee where I also insist on problem of education of trainers. This is a very big challenge for me but it gives me excitement and hope that we are changing sports in better direction.

I hope that in WAKO too, will be opened for new education program for trainers.

Now I am working with Sportaccord in program supported by Mr. Marius Vizer and Mr. Tibor Kozla (he is the first director of University of educational and sport sciences in Budapest and also chairman of educational committee in Sportaccord) how to educate trainers.

2. Does it mean that we need professionalisms in WAKO?

Exactly. If you are not professional in your work, how can you expect success? It is possible that when you improvise, your star shines once, but if you professionally do your job you will have many stars long period of time. Education gives us quality in all parts of life.

3. We should start from national federations?

Yes, that is the base of WAKO, from that place everything comes on. So, in every national federation we should have well educated trainers,



at least we should have efforts from their leaders to organize seminars, to force trainers to learn, to improve.

We already have that in Hungary. That learning program Richie created and he was convinced that is the only way WAKO can develop. WAKO today reached certain level so these things can not be left to cases.

4. WAKO's committees are in charge for developing organization?

During these passed two tragic years WAKO had many problems about losing two leaders, two important persons in organization. Ennio got ill and Richie passed away. New situation erased for us when we lost one straight leader like Ennio was. So, Vice-presidents, people from Board, people involved in committees had to take over the responsibility and move on. It was not an easy job. Now, duties are clearly separated and I hope that committees will have good results.

5. WAKO in the future?

First of all, we need to be together. All of us on the same idea. We have enough opponents from outside, from the other similar organizations, so we have to focus on staying united. Other organizations are also finding their place under the sun, and trying to do their job as well as they can. That is the threat for us.

We have to stay united, strong enough to survive as the cover sport organization for kickboxing in the world. The best survives. That is the main lesson for us. Concerning the first topic we discussed, education is the key of success. When you gain certain level in your Activity, there is no matter what is the name of the leader, committee, and person. The quality of work, high quality of system, high quality of organization brings success.

Everybody has to give to themselves the answer to one question: What do I really want to do in WAKO and what are my qualifications for such job? It won't be enough just to be there, we need people who want to



work there. Big energy, good education and non selfish attitude are the main characteristics of people we need in WAKO. We already have in WAKO many people ready for work and we have to use their knowledge and energy. That is our common challenge.

6. What the main challenges in tatami sports now?

I think that we need to do our jobs as professional as we can. We need to create educational system for judges and also for trainers. It is very easy, we already have e-learning program in Hungary. Lot of coaches and judges from all around the world, no matter from where can be incorporated in this e-learning program. We don't need to meet each other on competitions where we already have enough stress and have no time, it is enough only to have internet at our home and enough time and interest to learn. Everybody gets the same materials, the same

information and the same conditions. You choose level of knowledge you are passing by. I made my program for trainers in e-learning system; I am using it at my University where I am professor. It is very effective and I am very satisfied with results. We also have it on our web site also. For example, program for parents: parents must be introduced in everything they should expect for their children on competition. Program for fighters: how can you develop your speed, your condition, your power, etc.? So, it gave good results and good things we should use. From the other side, we should have controlling body in Board to evaluate how national organizations work. This is important if we want to raise the level of work in all incorporated countries. We need the leadership who can take care of members, to help them to raise the level of their work, to understand their



problems, to give them logistic help of any kind, to be transparent in work. This needs money, extra time, good personal relations and good organizational skills.

Me as a person always put high goals to reach. I do my job the best I can. Maybe it is wrong, but I expect the same from others. In my home I have minimum 20 terabytes of kickboxing matches. I record everything my fighters do, and analyze that again with them, when the competition is over. I know everything about their opponents, I watch them too. That needs time and commitment. And a passion, of course.

We need people who are ready to work, free of charge, to share their knowledge and energy to make things better.

Our dear Richie was dedicated on that way: he had good relations with important people in sports, just to mention that he was one of the best friends of Marius Viezer, and he tried very hard to use those good relations to clean the way for WAKO to be recognized.

He was very fond of that e-learning system and in one moment we had about 700 trainers from martial arts collecting knowledge from the same source.

Why can't we use the same system in WAKO?

So we come back to the beginning of the interview, where I was talking about education.

There is one more thing: we need to make real rang lists, which will be updated in short periods of time, not in two years. It is important to include results from all A and B class tournaments held that year. It is easy and it is very important for drawing on competitions. In tennis, for example, you will not see Novak Djokovic and Rodger Federer at the beginning of tournament. It is not good that fighter who won all A class tournaments that year in one category, is in drawing lists as the beginner in other category. I don't want to see two best fighters having fight at the beginning of the championship.

7. How are you commenting quality of judging today?

We have many very good referees and judges. We improved in that sector very much. Good referring means good competition. Complains are on minimum, I don't think that is there any. As a trainer, I live on

tatami. I recognize every time when they make mistake. But it is not so often and we need to educate all the time more and more judges and referees. But I have to stress one thing: every promoter of the tournament have to pay more for the judges and referees and to ensure for them better conditions of work-food, drinks and rest during the competition and also their money refund per day must be higher in order to motivate these people to work harder. They are, as all humans, after 12 hours working in the sport hall per day tired and that's why sometimes we make mistakes.

8. What are the main goals for WAKO on this moment?

The main goal at this moment is that we need good leadership. This is concrete.

When we reach this goal, WAKO can do that IOC recognition program and other things. This is life goal for WAKO.

The sport is my passion, and I also do business in Hungary. There I know one thing: when you want to reach something, you need to go step by step. It is important that you are able to see what that next step is. You can have a dream, but to realize it, is quite different thing.

So, in WAKO we need people who want to work, who have time and energy, who are not so much interested for the name of their position. I am not against ambition, of course, but it has to be healthy ambition to work for the benefit of whole organization. After the elections, which we will have till the end of the year, we will face the new president of WAKO. His first duty will be to define the future jobs and than to find people to realize those jobs. Not on the opposite way. Jobs need proper people to be realized. That will be to way for us to be better in the future.

M.P.



Nasser Nassiri, WAKO IF Vice-President, visiting Ashabat, Turkmenistan

34th Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) General Assembly

Mr. Nasser Nassiri, a Vice-President of the WAKO (IF) and the President of the WAKO ASIAN Kickboxing Federation (WAKO ASIA) was invited by the President of OCA HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah to participate in the 34th OCA General Assembly, which was held on 15th and 16th September 2015 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah was re-elected the President of the Olympic Council of Asia for the 2015-2019 at the 34th OCA General Assembly.

The OCA President, HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, on that occasion, opened two new palatial hotels in the

Turkmenistan's Olympic Complex on a sunny morning in Ashgabat where Mr. Nassiri also took part as a special guest.

Turkmenistan is the host country of the 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games AIMAG which will be held Ashgabat in September 2017.

The Games should be a historical event. In fact, only the 45 NOCs from Asia are allowed to take part in the Asian Games promoted by OCA. However, the OCA has once again confirmed its authority in the world sport and

by signing an agreement with the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) gave an opportunity to the 17 Oceania National Olympic Committees to take part in the 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games which will be held in September 2017.

In that occasion, Dr. Robin Mitchell, the President of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) together with his delegation members of the Oceania National Olympic Committees were present and took part in the 67th OCA Executive Board and the 34th OCA General Assembly. The delegation had also a meeting with the Asian Federations leaders and exchanged an idea of getting into the process of the participation of their delegation in the 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games.

Dr. Mitchell said he had been joined in Ashgabat by 14 out of 17 full member NOCs and three associate members of ONOC, and that the delegation was



*HE Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah,
Nasser Nassiri and delegates*



Dr. Robin Mitchell and Nasser Nassiri

excited to see the developments that had taken place since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with OCA in November.

He thanked the OCA for this initiative and described Asia as “an innovative and energetic continent” in the Olympic Movement.

Mr. Nassiri had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Robin Mitchell and his delegation and discussed the possibility of the participation of the WAKO members in Oceania. On the same occasion, there were various exchanges between the WAKO ASIA leader and the Presidents, the Secretary General of the delegation of the ONOC. Mr. Nassiri is planning to visit Australia in early 2016 to meet with the ONOC members.

Mr. Nassiri informed the delegation that the WAKO ASIA had got long experience in multi-sport organization events and had already demonstrated its power of organizing great kickboxing events with great success during the previous Asian Indoor & Martial Arts

Games such as Macau 2007, Thailand 2009, Vietnam 2009 and the last during the 2013 Incheon Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games.

During his Visit Mr. Nassiri had an opportunity to meet with the president of the Olympic Committee of Various Asian National Olympic Committees especially with the General Yuthasak SASIPRAPHA, the President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand and Brig Gen Mowaffak JOUMAA , the President of the Syrian Olympic Committee who have known each other for many years.

Mr. Nassiri also met the China delegation from Hangzhou. Hangzhou, a city in South East China, will host the 19th Asian Games in 2022 after their bid was approved by the 34th OCA General Assembly. A delegation led by Liu Peng, the President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and the China Sports Minister, waved flags and cheered after the house supported the bid with a round of applause.

On the same occasion Mr. Nassiri met the Mayor Mr. Zhang Hongming and discussed the process of kickboxing competition on the 2020 Asian Games. Mr. Nassiri also met Mr. JianHang JIN, the Vice-President of the Alibaba Group who was present to support the bid of the Hangzhou city.

Mr. Nassiri comments: I am glad to be part of the big OCA family and a witness of Asian power.

The WAKO ASIA will now give the opportunity to the WAKO members in Oceania to take part in one of the most prestigious events recognized by the IOC. This is what we call the “ASIAN POWER” Nasser Nassiri added:

Asia is considered to be the power of kickboxing in the world for the following simple reasons:

- Asia is the only continent in the world where kickboxing is recognized by the IOC Continental Division (OCA).
- The WAKO ASIA has also obtained the recognition from the Olympic Council of Asia as the body in charge of kickboxing in Asia.



Diamond Cup, Anapa, Russia

22th September- 27th September

DIAMOND SHINES IN THE RING

In Anapa, Russia, was held the World cup Diamond-2015/kickboxing WAKO.

The best team was WAKO Russian team, who won the first place in all fighting disciplines. The second place was reserved for the team of Belarus and on the third place was Uzbekistan.

This year there was about 1200 representatives from 26 countries participating.

In the gala finals in the K-1 discipline -52 kg, celebrated a victory the prize-winner of the championship of Russia-2014, the champion of Russia among students 2014, Victoria Istekhovskaya (Russia). She won the champion of Russia, the owner of the World Cup 2013, Gulnara Asylguzhina (Russia).

In the gala finals in the full-contact - 60 kg, the best was Azotemia Borsov (Russia), World champion 2013, who won the champion of Tunisia Omar Elkamel (Tunisia).

In the category -75 kg the best was Hadia Hamdi (Tunisia), 5 times champion of Tunisia, the champion of the African





countries, the prize-winner of the World Cup-2013, who stopped the three-time winner of the Southern Federal District, Mikhail Karpov (Russia).

In gala finals in low-kick, category - 63, 5 kg, best luck smiled to the prize-winner of the World Cup 2013 Artem Artemyev (Russia) who won the prize-winner of the championship of Asia 2014 Redzhepkuli Atayev (Turkmenistan).

In category - 86 kg, first place won the winner of the World Cup, the champion of the Republic of Belarus Timur Mamedov (Belarus), who was better than champion of Azerbaijan Tabdik Yusibov (Azerbaijan).

In the finals - 67 kg, the World champion in K-1, the champion of the Republic of Belarus Dmitry Varets (Belarus), didn't leave any chance to his opponent, the prize-winner of the Championship of Russia in K-1, Vladislav Ukrainets (Russia).

In categories -75 and +91 kg the victory was celebrated by Russians: the prize-winner of the World Cup Danil Vannik and the prize-winner of Championship of Russia, the champion of the Ulyanovsk region on K-1, Vitaly Filippov. Their opponents were the prize-winner of the Republic of Belarus in K-1 Klim Heorkhi (Belarus) and the champion of Azerbaijan Orchan Malikov (Azerbaijan).





THE BEST REFEREES

INTERVIEW WITH MR. BRIAN BECK

EXPERT FOR PERFECT MOVE



Anybody who ever watched musical forms performing on World and European WAKO Championships was amazed with achievement competitors realized in that discipline no matter if they were seniors, cadets or juniors. In simply words, that is perfect performance of body movement, rhythm, weapon handling and dance. We can only imagine how hard is for judges to make a slice differences between competitors when they are evaluating their performance on the stage.

Proven expert for that matter is, for sure, Mr. Brian Beck from England, pioneer of this sport, man who is mostly creditable for the reputation of musical forms in sports sense but also in other fields of entertaining.

Read what he wanted to share with us...

■ “I started martial arts very long time ago, when I was 16 years old. I joined army as the boy soldier in the British Armed Forces and there we had martial arts for soldiers: aikido and ju jitsu. For two years I trained as the non combat instructor and I became physical training instructor. I did eight years in the Army after when I came out I continued with kickboxing for 17 years, switched across to free style karate, point fighting, and light contact.

■ Then it came the first time when I started thinking about musical forms. When I was seven, that has to be 1963-1964, I was training gymnastics and I was the part of British gymnastics

team from 15 years old as the junior till my 25 years, when I was too old for gymnastics. Than I had very good instructor, I had private lessons, personal trainings, I trained from 6 o'clock till eight o'clock in the mornings and then went to school. In dinner times I trained, no Saturdays nor Sundays. I was training every day for five or more hours with that tempo, four or five years. I think this is why I love musical forms so much and that's why I am still here. Gymnastics is involved with this for sure. My background gives me the best answers for all who have something to comment in the musical forms techniques.

■ I started in WAKO as the fighter, but my passion was gymnastics and I was still competing for Great Britain. My great achievement was that I was competing for Great Britain on the Olympics on 1976. in Montreal. I switched in gymnastics to trampoline and I was ranged in top 5 performers in the World but still at that time I was doing martial arts.

■ Than I 've saw the guy called Jean Frenette doing musical forms, and started to train my students in this, even I took my son to train in Canada at Jean Frenette in Montreal. That was great, because I have actually gone back to the stadion where I competed 1976. We stayed together with Frenette one month training and it was really, really good. My son became World Champion for musical forms in weapons and he held this position for eight years.

■ Our hard work has payed off. When he get enough he retired from this and went to Hollywood in the entertain industry and he is making really good living with this. He is a big name in stunt's world now.

■ But my life for the musical forms in WAKO went in this direction where I am now: I am the World chef referee for the musical forms in tatami sports in WAKO. I traveled all over the world for doing referee seminars, helping each country to produce good referees so that we do not have problems on the big tournaments. On that way we keep the level of the good performance of competitors and always moving forward in performing achievements. Good example is Irish Open.

■ I am training the referees, we do practical, and I love this job. I like to travel. In the last three years, I have travelled in sixty countries. It looks like unbelievable but it is true. I also take every opportunity to do musical forms seminars; it is also very useful for trainers.

■ In my opinion, WAKO is the best Organization in the World. I travelled all around, saw everything and I have to say WAKO is the best. We have the best fighters, the most prestigious tournaments, best judges. Musical forms in America have a lot of differences to WAKO. We have totally separate rules, in America they allowed everything they want. But, once Ennio Falsoni came to me and said that we have to create a proper set of rules for musical forms. He gave me the position of chef referee for musical forms and about ten years ago, I gathered all the best competitors and referees and we came over the big set of rules. We have been changing them in some slight way, but we have the book of rules.

■ There are a lot of people in the World doing musical forms and doing tricking: doing light gymnastics and techniques with some kicks within there. I always say to them: look, you have to find the foundation of proper martial arts style! If your basics aren't good, then the rest of your routine would not be good. You have to build the foundation of good, basic, strong, sharp techniques. Once you get this, then you only have to improve and improve strength, sharp techniques, foot position, kicks, and as you get older you become stronger and faster and your kicks are a lot more quicker and with adrenalin. Foundation of martial art in musical forms is basic.

■ I am perfectionist. I was a gymnast. I like to see everything doing correct. I see every mistake and it drives me crazy when instructors and coaches teach the kids and forget about the basic

techniques! It is like the building- if you don't have the basis, everything comes after will not be good. You gonna fall.

■ You can not join musical forms without basic knowledge of martial arts. You must come from some background. This is not dancing! When you watch performing musical forms, you can see proper, crisp martial art techniques, with few gymnastics techniques and the few tricks. You have to have traditional martial arts hands, punches and strikes, stances, with free style kicks, boxing kicks, taekwondo kicks joined with good music and choreography.

■ In choosing good choreography lot of people goes to dance studios to learn dance techniques. I think this is wrong. This is not the dance.

■ In what way we are going talking about future of musical forms? We have already hard and soft styles in WAKO and we have to push this on the same way. If we loose the sharp path, the wind will blow us. We need to keep the things as we did it till now. We have to stay within the martial arts. Especially within the weapon forms.

■ Where do people go after doing the competitions? Some of them stay in sports and became trainers, coaches, they stay devoted to this and some of the people go to the entertaining industry, doing movies, shows, etc.

■ During my career there were a lot of funny but also dangerous situations. The interesting one was on Trinidad and Tobago. I was there with my colleague Kristina from Croatia few years ago. We were in the Hotel and were doing the seminars, tournaments... One evening I went to the reception when four gunmen's brooked in to Hotel, they killed two people in front of us, one gunman turn his weapon at me and as trained in self-defense, I took his gun with two or three techniques. It was like OK Coral shooting, I grabbed Kristina and pooled her down on stairs, hided in the room, in the shower, now we are joking about that. They kicked the doors, they were looking for us. The police came, needed two or three minutes to come upstairs, jumped in to room, killed two people and rest of them run away. After some time, when they watched on video that I fought with them, they said to me that I am probably crazy. They immediately took us to the airport but we couldn't leave the country.

So, they find some guy who did martial arts to stay in his house till our flight. It was on Barbados, so two of us spend two days lying on the beach. Then we went home. Now, we are laughing on this but for sure I had many dangerous and also nice situations to talk about.

■ What is the difference between generations in “my time” and nowadays? There is massive, massive difference. The biggest is technology. I didn't have what kids now have so I trained, trained, learned. Nowadays, kids don't want to play out. Parents bring kids in my Academy in Sheffield where I have full time Academy work with kids. But, they go on so many sports, they are not attached to one activity, they prefer to go to football and that drives me crazy. I hate football. You know, parents will pay the last penny for their kids in football, but when I ask them to buy for their kids full set of sparring and fighting equipment, they always complain.

■ Now you can find not so much kids dedicated to sport. They have so much to do in their small lives. They are spending so much time using that technology and the World is getting unhealthy. I had to go to play out as the boy, going riding the bike, swimming in the lake, but now kids are not growing up in any sense but they are using the same things in their every day routine as elder people. It is crazy.

■ I have a lot to work as the Chef referee for tatami sports. Instead of musical forms, I do seminars for light contact, kick light and point fighting.

■ When I have in one country a hundred interested people (like it was in Turkey) for my seminars, I can not do it myself and I go with my colleagues from WAKO. Mine mission is to teach judges and referees on the first place, so that we can have competitors and referees on the same level of knowledge. To stop arguing if there was a punch or not.

■ Now, in WAKO it is great that we have a plenty of tournaments. In England, for example, there are 26 kickboxing organizations which organize some tournaments. It is not strange situation that sometimes in the same city in the same day we have kickboxing tournaments. It is crazy for the spectators. In WAKO we have a plenty of tournaments and everybody can choose the level of tournament where they want to participate. It is easy. Obviously, people have to spend a lot of money to travel. But make a good selection of tournaments you want to participate and that are it.

■ What will be the top of my career? I like to do a little bit more in WAKO what I am doing now. I love the job that I have now. I think that all the referees I cooperate with love me as well. I am always around, available, I come on tournaments. I am reliable so people trust in my capacity as the Chef Referee. Of course, I would like to go a little bit forward in my life, but for the moment, I stay where I am now. If we stay and support WAKO, stay in trucks, we will see WAKO in the Olympics.

M.P.





WAKO EUROPEAN CUP SERBIA OPEN 2015

K1 Rules & Kick light contact

Belgrade, 14.- 15. 03.2015.

FIGHTING IN SERBIA





The Serbian Kickboxing Federation promoted 6th edition of the WAKO European cup "**Serbia Open**". This time we had 150 fighters from 7 countries in K1 rules and Kick light contact. A lot of hard and good fighters showed their best in spectacular fights during tournament. The best of them received gold medals, cups and money prize of 300 EUR.

We hope that in the future we will have more and more fighters from all around the Europe.

In the finals, we had a pleasure to watch spectacular matches, such as finals where Saša Stošić (Serbia) won gold medal in +67kg category and finals in +91kg where Saša Polugić (Serbia) won by knockout. In the ladies competition in the final was seen another triumph by the interruption: Milena Svonja was better than Ljiljana Ševo.



BALKAN OPEN 2015

GOOD KICKBOXING IN BOSNIA

Nice town Tešanj hosted 13th June competitors from 15 countries prepared to give their best in this popular competition.

Balkan Open participated competitors from Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatian, Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Best team in the ring disciplines was Serbian national team and on tatami disciplines the best team was from Bulgaria.

Organization of the competition was very well thanks to B&H President Mr. Alija Orgić, so everything was under prepared schedule. Tournament was ended in two days, the day before for arriving and weight in and next whole day for the competition.

Place: City sport hall "Tešanj", Patriotskelige, 74260 Tešanj, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Schedule: 13.06.2015

Organizer: Centar Borilačkih Sportova Tešanj

Disciplines: K1 STYLE, LOW KICK, KICK LIGHT, POINT FIGHTING, LIGHT CONTACT

Total number of entries: 479
Total number of competitors: 374
Total number of clubs: 84
Total number of countries: 15



Mr. Alija Orgić on the Opening ceremony





German Open 2015

report



German Open 2015 is over.

The event took place from 20th to 21st of March 2015 in Ebern.

542 fighters from Norway, Kazakhstan, Swiss, France, Austria, Belgium, Turkmenistan, Hungary and of course from Germany fought for the trophies.

The election fights started in Ring sports on Friday. Also the musical forms and the team fights. On Saturday the fighters fought on five areas in the tatami disciplines and on the ring in the Ring sport disciplines. A lot of good fighters were present at this tournament.

The best Team in Point fighting was Contact Karate Beveren (Belgium) led by his coach Marc de Block. His team got 8 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze Medals.

HARA Team from Cologne (Germany) was the best in Light Contact. They got 6 Gold, 5 bronze and 4 silver medals.

A team from Turkmenistan was also present at the Championships. They had very strong fighters and made a lot of knock outs. This Team won 4 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal and was the best in ring sports.

The tournament ended at 8.00 pm and all teams were happy about the well organized tournament.





2015-05-15



Yokoso Dutch Open 2015



Medals - Nations

Rank	Nation	1. Place	2. Place	3. Place
1	NETHERLANDS, NED	35	33	60
2	GERMANY, GER	27	24	49
3	UNITED KINGDOM, GBR	18	16	10
4	BELGIUM, BEL	11	17	20
5	HUNGARY, HUN	8	6	1
6	IRELAND, IRL	3	4	2
7	AUSTRIA, AUT	2	2	1
8	CROATIA, CRO	2	1	5
9	GREECE, GRE	1	2	2
10	ITALY, ITA	0	0	4
11	FRANCE, FRA	0	0	2

The WAKO PRO prestige fight (5x2) in Full Contact kg-60

ASTANA
(KAZAKHSTAN):
15/05/2015

ABDEAL DUYUSUPA (KAZAKHSTAN) vs.
ALI OUDAY (JORDAN)

GOOD FIGHTS IN ASIA



The WAKO Asian Pro fight in Full Contact-60 kg was held in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 15th May 2015 between Mr. Abeal DUYUSUPA, from the WAKO Kazakhstan Kickboxing Federation, and Mr. A'Day Ali Abdulraheem Abdhasoah, from the Jordan Kickboxing Federation. The fight was a prestige fight in five rounds of 2 minutes counting for the qualification to the WAKO ASIA Pro Title, as the title was vacant. The final decision was a split decision 2 to 1 for Mr. Abeal DUYUSUPA, who

was able to obtain 10 points increasing his score in the WAKO PRO list ranking from 30 to 40 points and accordingly become the WAKO PRO Asian Champion in -60 Kg Full Contact.

Central Referee – MUHITOV TALAT (Kazakhstan)
Judge № 1 – LAKHTIKOV YURY (Estonia)
Judge № 2 – EUN-CHEON JEONG (Korea)
Judge № 3 – KACPERSKI KRZYSTOV (Poland)

The winner was by split decision (49:48; 49:48; 47:48) and WAKO PRO ASIA CHAMPION in FULL CONTACT -60 kg is DUYSYPOV ABZAL from Kazakhstan.

Following the verdict, Mr. Abeal DUYUSUPA declared to be ready to put his new WAKO PRO Asian title in challenge for a fight in 10 rounds of 2 minutes according to the WAKO PRO rules.

At the same event, there were also various other prestige fights including -51kg Low Kick, Abdulhaleq Alsaemary from Iraq against a Kazak fighter.

The event was organized thanks to the long lasting collaboration between Mr. Nasser Nassiri, the Vice-President of the WAKO (IF), the President of the WAKO Asia, and Mr. Tastanbek Yessentayev, the Kazakhstan Kickboxing Federation leader.



NIS (SERBIA)

19/06/2015



The WAKO PRO
European title Low Kick - 78.100 kg
**STEVAN ŽIVKOVIĆ (Serbia) vs.
ANGEL VALDIVIESO (Spain)**



The Serbian Kickboxing Federation in association with the Naissus fight team from Niš promoted the "Naissus Fight Night Nis 2015", a WAKO PRO title event.

The event took place in the sport hall "Čair" in Niš, Serbia, on Friday, June 19, 2015.

The main event was the WAKO PRO European title in Low Kick division, 78.100 kg between Angel Valdivieso from Spain and Stevan Živković from Serbia. In front of 3000 spectators and with live broadcasting on the national TV station B92, these two fighters showed the best of kickboxing in five memorable rounds. Before the main event two great fights were held with young Serbian fighters involved and also one international WAKO PRO prestige fight in which the WAKO World amateur Champion and WAKO PRO European Champion Aleksandar Konovalov knocked out Adrian Horvath from Slovakia with a spinning kick in just 40 seconds of the first round.

The WAKO PRO European title bout put together two brilliant fighters, Stevan Živković, a former WAKO World and European Vice-Champion and Angel Valdivieso, the current WAKO European Champion.

The first round was with a slow and easy start for both fighters, trying to get their "game" in the field. The second round Stevan started like a hurricane with punches to the body and head and he put Angel under pressure which caused him big problems. But till the end of the round Angel managed to stay on his feet and give something back to Stevan. The third round was also all in Stevan's favor and with a huge support of the very loud audience in the venue, he tried to put down Angel and finish this bout. But, an amazing fighter as Angel is, did again more than anybody expected and came back at the end of the round. After this round Stevan had advantage. The fourth round showed "real steel" Angel Valdivieso and he was the only one in the ring that round. He put Stevan in all kind of troubles but could not finish him. The fifth and the last round was very equal, so in the end the judges had a very hard job to do.

They scored:

Goran Šimurina from Serbia: 48:48 (advantage Valdivieso)

Jan Frana from Czech Republic: 49:47 for Živković

Michaella Kovachova from Slovakia: 48:47 for Živković

The winner by split decision and a new WAKO PRO European Champion in low kick, 78.100 is Stevan Živković from Serbia.

The referee was Zoran Šimurina from Serbia
The supervisor of the event was Srđan Bugarčić, the WAKO PRO Technical Supervisor.

BRILLIANT FIGHTERS SHOWED PERFECT KICKBOXING



OSLO (NORWAY)

19/09/2015



THREE TIMES NORWAY VS RUSSIA



WAKO PRO World Title 68kg - 10x2min
Kseniia Miroshnichenko (RUS) vs Birgit Reitan
Øksnes (NOR)

WAKO PRO World Title 60kg - 10x2min
Nuriat Alibekova (RUS) vs Thea Therese Vingmark
Næss (NOR)

WAKO PRO World Title - 88,6kg -12x2min
Konstantin Turshin (RUS) vs Robert Paulsbyen
(NOR)

On 19th of September in Oslo took place three
WAKO PRO World title Fights in Full Contact:

1) Female, -68kg

**Ksenia Miroshnichenko (Russia) vs
Birgit R Oksnes (Norway)**

Referee panel:

Central Referee Thomas Olsen (Denmark)

Judge 1/Supervisor Yury Lakhtikov (Estonia)

Judge 2 Carlo Ryffel (Norway)

Judge 3 Sami Savo (Finland)

The winner and the new WAKO PRO Champion in
Full Contact, female -68kg, is **Birgit Oksnes
(Norway)**.

The score > Judge 1 (96:97); Judge 2 (94:97);
Judge 3 (96:95)

2) Female, -60 kg.

**Nuriat Alibekova (Russia) vs
Thea T Næss (Norway)**

Referee panel was the same.

The winner and still WAKO PRO Champion in Full
Contact, female -60kg, is **Thea T Næss (Norway)**.

The score > Judge 1 (90:100); Judge 2 (82:100);
Judge 3 (90:100).

3) Male, -88,6 kg.

**Konstantin Turshin (Russia) vs
Robert Paulsbyen (Norway)**.

Referee panel was the same.

The winner by KO in 5th round and the new WAKO
PRO champion in Full Contact is **Robert Paulsbyen
(Norway)**.



ROZAJE (MONTENEGRO)

08/08/2015



The WAKO PRO European title in Low Kick, kg-66.800 Remzija Dacic (Montenegro) vs. Dimitar Penchev (Bulgaria)

In Rozaje, Montenegro, in the sports hall "Bandzovobrd", a match for the vacant title of the European champion in Low Kick was held. Dimitar Penchev, Bulgaria, was a rival to Remzija Dacic in a fight for a champion's belt in the category up to 66.8 kg. The Montenegrin kickboxer Remzija Dacic paved the way with his brilliant fights for the chance to fight for the professional champion of Europe.

Dacic has, in his bout on the champion's belt, with a unanimous decision of the judges, won the Bulgarian Dimitar Penchev, in a fight that has lasted five three-minute rounds.

All of the three judges have been in favour of the Montenegrin fighter: the Italian, Marco Pacor (48:47), the Hungarian, Gabor Sabo (50:48) and the host judge MitarKojicic (50:48).

"This has been a tough match. Pelcev has shown himself to be a good fighter. From the third round on I started moving forward, imposed a strong pace which my opponent was not able to sustain. The opponent is a very specific fighter because he has a counter guard and is especially good at leg kicks. He is very aggressive and an explosive fighter who keeps pace throughout the whole fight and does not allow his opponent to consolidate himself. He is hard to work with, especially in the long fights. I have been practicing well in my own club, I have had a lot of matches with serious fighters since the beginning of the year. Summer is a difficult time for practicing. However, I have been well prepared for the fight. It wasn't easy to win, I have done my best to win the title", said Dacic after the match.



ROME (ITALY)

12/04/2015

RESPECT FOR THE LADIES IN THE RING

On 12 of April in Rome (Italy) took place the female fight for the title of the European champion in kickboxing WAKO PRO full contact -54,100 kg between Stefania Spano' (Italy) and Veronika Petrikova (Slovakia).

The WAKO-PRO Female European Title in Full Contact kg. 54 Veronika Petrikova (Slovakia) vs. Stefania Spano' (Italy)



MARMANDE (FRANCE)

30/05/2015



The WAKO PRO
European Title in Full Contact Kg -50
**AMANDINE MUDRY (FR) vs.
FLAVIA GASPERINI (ITA)**

The WAKO PRO
European Title in Light Contact kg -69
**DAVID JAY (Fr) vs.
ANDREA CHIANESE (ITA)**

WHEN LADIES GO FOR IT

During the same Saturday night of the super event in Munster (Germany), three WAKO PRO titles took place on May 30, we also had, in the other part of Europe, the prestigious ladies' fight in Marmande, France, where the French fighter AMANDINE MUDRY became a European champion in Full Contact kg -50 defeating FLAVIA GASPERINI, from Italy.

In the sport hall "La Gravette", Amandine was in the mood to add another belt to her collection, so at the end of the match, she exploded from joy and happiness taking her belt. She won by points in a very hard match, eight rounds of two minutes. She already has titles as a French national champion, but this from the European WAKO Pro Challenge, she loved the most. Her opponent was aggressive and very strong, but Amandine played this time on precise points.

On the contrary, in the men challenge, ANDREA CHIANESE (Italy) won over DAVID JAY (France) conquering the European crown in Light Contact kg -69.



The title was vacant.

Central Referee – Marco Pacor (Italy)

Neutral judge 1 – Goran Simurina (Serbia)

Neutral judge 2 – Piero Sicurella (Belgium)

Judge 3 – Sara Caponigro (Italy)

WAKO PRO Supervisor – Srdjan Bugarcic (Serbia)

The winner by unanimous decision and a new WAKO PRO European Champion in Full Contact-54,100 kg is VERONIKA PETRIKOVA from Slovakia.



WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE IN FULL CONTACT kg-94.100
WAKO PRO EUROPEAN TITLE IN FULL CONTACT kg-81.400
WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE IN FULL CONTACT kg-78.100

WAKO PRO SHOW IN GERMANY

MUNSTER (GERMANY): 30/05/2015

1) The WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE IN FULL CONTACT kg-94.100

ANTONIO SOUSA (Portugal) – the title holder – vs. EUGEN WAIGEL (Germany)

The winner: EUGEN WAIGEL by unanimous decision.

2) The WAKO PRO EUROPEAN TITLE IN FULL CONTACT kg-81.400

VIKTOR FROHLICH (Germany) vs. JULIO SANCHEZ (Spain) – the title holder

The winner: Viktor Frohlich by unanimous decision

3) The WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE IN FULL CONTACT kg-78.100 – The title is VACANT.

ARTUR REIS (Germany) vs. MEDHI LACOMBE (France)

The winner: ARTUR REIS by unanimous decision

On last May 30th, 2015, the small and very nice city of Munster in Germany became for one night the center of the WAKO PRO world kickboxing. They had the pleasure to host three international and high level title fights. The promoter of the event was Mr. Antonino Spatola, a long time WAKO PRO associate.

In front of 1000 spectators at the city sport hall the first title fight was the WAKO PRO European title bout in full contact -81400 kg between the challenger Viktor Frohlich from Germany and the champion Julio Sanchez from Spain. The bout started slowly with more activity by Frohlich in the opening rounds. In the fourth round after the kick made by Julio Sanchez a big cut appeared on Frohlich's forehead. The official doctor did a good job and made Frohlich ready to continue. Till the end of the fight he was the better one and won the title by unanimous decision:

Referee Johannes Wolf (Germany)

Judge Marco Shultz (Germany): 100:92

Judge Yury Lakhtikov (Estonia): 100:94

Judge Goran Simurina (Serbia): 100:91

All three were in favor of the new WAKO PRO European Champion Viktor Frohlich from Germany.

The second title fight was the WAKO PRO World title bout in full contact -78.100 kg.

This title was vacant and the challengers were Mehdi Lacombe from France and Artur Reis from Germany. The fight ended in round seven due to an injury of Mehdi Lacombe. Till then there was only one fighter in the ring. Artur Reis had a real domination from the first moment and he deserved this victory.



Referee Marco Shultz (Germany), Judge Johannes Wolf (Germany), Judge Yury Lakhtikov (Estonia), Judge Goran Simurina (Serbia) were in favor of Artur Reis, from Germany, as a new WAKO PRO World Champion in full contact -78.100 kg.

The last and main event of the night was the WAKO PRO World title bout in full contact-94.100 kg between the challenger Eugen Waigel from Germany and the champion Antonio De Sousa from Portugal.

That was a re-match since the year before Antonio De Sousa had defeated Waigel by K.O. in the second round. This time the fight lasted for 12 rounds and all of us present there had to admit that it was an epic fight.

Just 12 round of pure WAR, with no compromise from each side, with heavy punches and kicks delivered from both fighters. At the beginning Antonio wanted to have the same result like last year, he pushed from the same start. But this time Eugen was ready and he did not want to come close and go for trading punches. He decided to move and to stay out of the rage of dangerous Antonio. Even though he had a



good tactic, Antonio was able to come close and deliver mighty punches which gave him some advantage in the first rounds. Eugen stuck to his game plan and it turned out to be very successful.

From the fifth till the seventh round he was the one who was all in it. In the seventh round after a hard exchange from both fighters Antonio was down by K.D. Rounds eight and nine were in favour of Waigel. Round ten for Sousa, then during the last two rounds a slight advantage for Waigel. The last round ended with hard blows from Waigel which made sure that he was going to win and conquer the title. He absolutely deserved it. Antonio De Sousa is really a great fighter and a real Champion but that night Waigel was

better and he took the belt from him. Congratulations to both of them for what they showed. The official decision was:

Referee Srdjan Bugarcic (Serbia)

Judge Johannes Wolf (Germany): 116:111

Judge Yury Lakhtikov (Estonia): 118:114

Judge Goran Simurina (Serbia): 117:113

All three were in favor of the new WAKO PRO World Champion in full contact -94.100 kg Eugen Waigel from Germany.

WAKO-PRO EUROPEAN TITLE DEFENSE IN FULL CONTACT KG-69,100

MARIBOR (SLOVENIA): 11/04/2015

CHALLENGER WAS BETTER



GREGOR STRACANEC (Slovenia) vs. ALESSANDRO PATRIGNANI (Italy)- the title holder

On 11 of April in Maribor (Slovenia) took place the fight for the title of the European champion in kickboxing WAKO PRO Full Contact-69,100kg between Alessandro Patrignani (Italy) – the title holder - and Gregor Stracanek (Slovenia).

Central Referee – Vodopivec Ivo (Slovenia)

Neutral judge 1 – Szabo Gabor (Hungary)

Neutral judge 2 – Simurina Zoran (Serbia)

Judge 3 – Breg Milan (Slovenia)

Timekeeper – Stegar Edo (Slovenia)

WAKO Supervisor – Lakhtikov Yury (Estonia)

The winner by unanimous decision (99:94, 99:95, 99:95) and a new WAKO PRO European Champion in Full Contact -69,100 kg is GREGOR STRACANEK from Slovenia.



WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE BOUT
LOW KICK, 66.800

BELGRADE
(SERBIA)
07/02/2015



STRONG KENAN SELEBRATED THE VICTORY

The first WAKO PRO event in this year took place in Belgrade on Saturday, February 07, 2015. It was the WAKO PRO World title defense in Low Kick, 66.800 kg.

The challenger for the title was Nebojsa Denic from Serbia, the WAKO PRO European Champion in this weight class. The champion, who defended his title for the first time, was Kenan Gunaydin from Turkey.

Both fighters were ready for this fight and highly motivated to get the belt.

The sports hall "Pinki", which used to be a "temple of kickboxing" in Serbia where many great kickboxing events took place in the past, among which were the WAKO European Championships back in 1996, was crowded with people and reminded us of the glory days.

Around 2000 spectators made a great atmosphere before the main event shouting the challenger's name as he was entering the ring. Everything was there: support, uncertainty, electricity in the air and the public cheering the name of one very good fighter that night. But, unfortunately, the better fighter was not the challenger Nebojsa Denic. Better was Kenan Gunaydin, who showed us why he is the best in the world. His performance was outstanding and for it he could be named "Gunaydin express" since all he needed to do, he did in only two rounds.

In the opening round he needed just not more than 30 seconds to understand the "game plan" of his opponent and then he started to cross his way to first successful title defense. After a good combination of punches, the first with right and then left hook, he put the challenger on the canvas for the first knock down. Nebojsa Denic, due to his perfect physical condition, managed to stand up on eight and to continue the fight. But almost at the end of the first round, after a couple of precise and strong punches, he was on the floor again. Another knock down, he stood up at eight again and was ready to continue but since the time was gone in this round he got the chance to recover before second one.

He did some recovery, that was the fact, and he started from the beginning of the second round with total attack, but for the experienced champion Kenan, that was not a big deal. He allowed him to get close, received some punches, and made him to open himself and then again, a perfect punch and Denic was down for the third time. Not long after that the job was done with a brilliant uppercut and by the way of technical knockout, Kenan Gunaydin defended his title for the first time.

That was a shock for the crowded "Pinki", but after the emotions had quieted down, the champion received a big applause from everyone in the venue for all he had done.

Of course, even bigger applause got Nebojsa Denic for his desire, courage and big heart he had showed. Although he was almost "dead" after the first round he didn't want to give up. He did his best and fought till the end. The fact that he was the one who did the entire job in the promotion of this title event: sponsors, organization, and preparations, made all of us have a great respect for him.

Judges for this title event were:

Neutral Judge: Marco Pacor from Italy

Neutral Judge: Gabor Szabo from Hungary

Judge: Jelena Kuburic from Serbia

Referee: Zoran Simurina from Serbia

Supervisor of the title fight was Srdjan Bugarcic, the WAKO PRO Technical Supervisor



WAKO PRO FEMALE EUROPEAN TITLE FC (KG -66) CARUSO CRISTINA (ITA) Vs ELSA HEMAT (France)



Winner: CRISTINA CARUSO by unanimous decision

CRISTINA "THE STRONG"

MILAN (ITALY): 4/10/2015



On Sunday October 4th, 2015, "Arena Fighting Games" gala promoted by Mr. Omar Vergallo was held in Milan (Italy).

Main event of the fight card was the WAKO PRO female European title in Full contact at Kg -66 between the Italian CRISTINA CARUSO and ELSA HEMAT, from France.

Match was very tough between the two strong girls and lasted till the end of the 8 rounds x 2 min.

At last official score of the judges was:

- Zoran Simurina (Serbia) - 79:73
- Michaela Kovacova (Slovakya) - 80:75
- Marco Pacor (Italy) - 79:75

CRISTINA CARUSO has been awarded of the prestigious belt as the new WAKO PRO European champion FC Kg -66!



WAKO-PRO WORLD TITLE
IN FULL CONTACT KG-56,400
ILNAZ SAYFULLIN (Russia)
vs. **MARCO VILLIO ATZORI (Italy)**



CHELYABINSK (RUSSIA): 23/02/2015

ILNAZ TOOK THE BELT



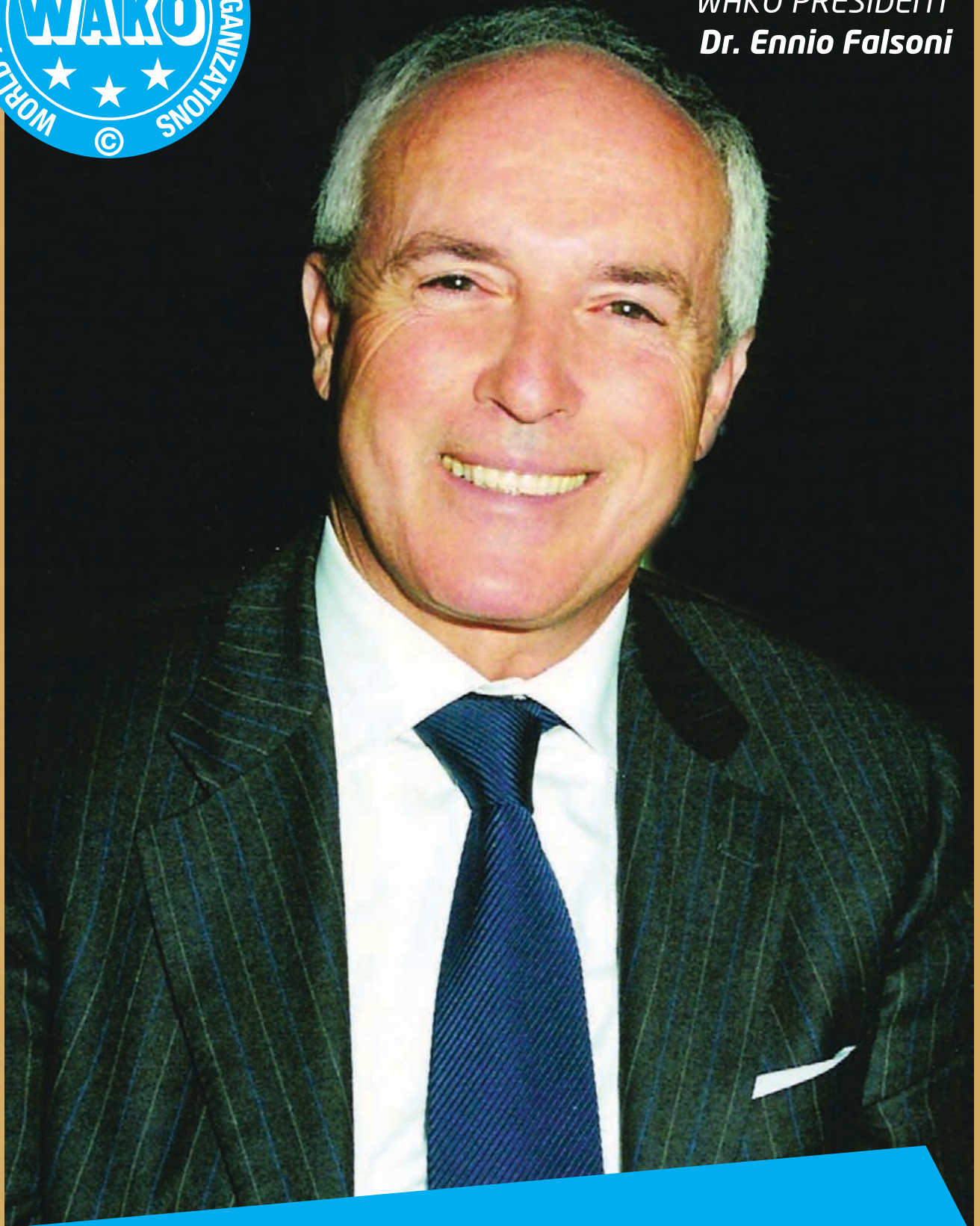
The WAKO European Championship 2014 from Bilbao in Full Contact-54kg, MARCO VILLIO ATZORI, tried to grab the title in light category in pro bout, but the strong Russian was better and won the title. The Italian, who is famous for his quality technique, timing and precise punches, did not have a chance against the strong Russian. The fighters managed to meet the expectations of a numerous audience. They did their best in the ring but Sayfullin was all the time one step ahead. In the end, there was no suspicion who would take that heavy belt.

Winner: ILNAZ SAYFULLIN





*Honorary
WAKO PRESIDENT
Dr. Ennio Falsoni*



*Dear Ennio,
we are waiting for You*

Publisher:
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