



WAKO KICKBOXING



WORLD CUPS

WAKO HISTORY

INTERVIEWS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



*Dear Ennio,
we are waiting for You*



WAKO KICKBOXING



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8. Iraq
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11. Kuwait
12. Kyrgyzstan
13. Laos
14. Lebanon
15. Malaysia
16. Mongolia
17. Nepal
18. North Korea
19. Oman
20. Palestine
21. Philippines
22. Saudi Arabia
23. Singapore
24. South Korea
25. Syria
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28. Thailand
29. Turkmenistan
30. Uzbekistan
31. Vietnam
32. United Arab Emirate
33. Yemen



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2. Angola
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4. Botswana
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6. Burundi
7. Cameroon
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12. Egypt
13. Equatorial Guinea
14. Eritrea
15. Ethiopia
16. Gabon
17. Gambia
18. Ghana
19. Guinea Bissau
20. Mauritius
21. Ivory Coast
22. Kenya
23. Lesotho
24. Liberia
25. Libya
26. Madagascar
27. Mali
28. Malawi
29. Mauritania
30. Morocco
31. Mozambique
32. Namibia
33. Nigeria
34. Sao Tome and Principe
35. Senegal
36. Seychelles
37. Sierra Leone
38. Somalia
39. Sudan
40. South Africa
41. Swaziland
42. Tanzania
43. Togo
44. Tunisia
45. Uganda
46. Union of the Comoros
47. Zambia
48. Zimbabwe

IN THE WORLD



WAKO EUROPE

President

Borislav Pelevic

1. Armenia
2. Austria
3. Azerbaijan
4. Albania
5. Belarus
6. Belgium
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Bulgaria
9. Croatia
10. Cyprus
11. Czech Republic
12. Denmark
13. Estonia
14. Finland
15. France
16. Georgia
17. Germany
18. Great Britain
19. Greece
20. Hungary
21. Ireland
22. Israel
23. Italy
24. Latvia
25. Liechtenstein
26. Lithuania
27. Luxembourg
28. Macedonia
29. Moldova
30. Monaco
31. Montenegro
32. Netherlands
33. Norway
34. Poland
35. Portugal
36. Romania
37. Russia
38. Serbia
39. Slovakia
40. Slovenia
41. Spain
42. Sweden
43. Switzerland
44. Turkey
45. Ukraine



WAKO PANAMERICA

President

Paulo Zorello

1. Argentina
2. Barbados
3. Bermuda
4. Bolivia
5. Brazil
6. Canada
7. Chile
8. Colombia
9. Ecuador
10. El Salvador
11. Guatemala
12. Mexico
13. Paraguay
14. Peru
15. Puerto Rico
16. Trinidad and Tobago
17. Uruguay
18. U.S.A.
19. Venezuela

WAKO OCEANIA

Acting President

Peter Thompson

1. Australia
2. New Zealand

EDITORS LETTER



IMPRESSUM

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– WAKO EUROPE



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Dear WAKO friends,

Finally we have the opportunity to present you the completed edition of the WAKO Magazine, published by the WAKO European Kickboxing Federation (WAKO EUROPE), after a few years of pause.

Unfortunately, for the past few years, WAKO has been the only world organization of combat sports which didn't have its own magazine.

We are the one of the biggest combat federations (besides karate) and obviously it is expected from us to start informing our international members about all the activities and the news through this form of journal. SportAccord, IOC, IWGA and VADA will also receive our printed edition in order to stay updated regarding all the activities such as competitions, projects, seminars, General Assembly, Board of Directors and commission operations.

The WAKO magazine will be published twice a year (January and September editions) and it will bring you the news from all over the globe. Therefore, we are kindly asking all continental federations and confederations to send us the reports and statements, as well as the photographs from all activities and competitions you organize.

In addition to the WAKO news, we will have a special section dedicated to the WAKO PRO Federation, since it originally emerged from the WAKO.

Of course, there will always be the ones who think that this is an unnecessary project because of potentially outdated news. They are partially right but in the printed edition, you will have the unique opportunity to read interesting interviews from all the WAKO IF and WAKO officials, best competitors, coaches and also all the articles about national federations etc. The website does not offer these possibilities.

We live in the internet era, and without it it's basically impossible to work and live. Therefore, the WAKO IF and the WAKO will make sure that all their operations are up to date with the latest technologies.

But, since the Internet is not a paper document and the WAKO Magazine is, it will surely stay as a reminder of all the great sporting activities, events and also the history of the WAKO. In addition, I will give you an example. At the SportAccord convention this year in Turkey, all the participants were receiving a SportAccord magazine with all the news and interviews, besides the usual information from Internet.

Since the last publication of the WAKO Magazine many great things happened, but unfortunately we also have some bad news.

WAKO has become an official member of SportAccord, the world's biggest association of Olympic sports and relevant non-Olympic sports, which means that there is only one relevant and recognized amateur Kickboxing Federation in the world – the WAKO.

All the others have been shut down or continued to exist as a small, private unrecognized federations.

We are expecting the official recognition from the IOC since we fulfilled all the required conditions.

Also, we have become members of the IWGA this year, and in 2017 WAKO will participate in the World Games as the only Kickboxing Federation.

But unfortunately, one very painful situation has come upon, besides all the nice things and activities. Our beloved president Dr. Enio Falsoni got very ill on the 17th of March 2013, and his condition still has not changed. It is very hard to work without him and as his closest associates we know that very well. We will continue to work hard while expecting his return.

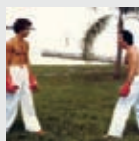
Dear friends, the Editorial Team from the WAKO Magazine is looking forward to your support and cooperation.

Thank you for your understanding.

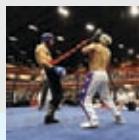
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WAKO Vice-President
WAKO EUROPE President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

06 **WAKO HISTORY**



13 **Irish Open**

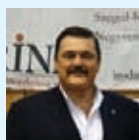


18 **Historical meeting in Dublin**

19 **Szeged World Cup**



23 **Interview**
RICHARD LEYER,
Vice President of the
WAKO IF



25 **Athens Challenge 2014**

26 **WAKO IF Board meeting**

27 **Sportaccord Combat Games**

29 **Austrian Classics**



31 **Best Fighter**

34 **The 1st International Kickboxing**
University Championship

35 **Serbia open**



37 **Interview**
Vadim Ukrainchev,
WAKO Board Member



39 **8 Star - Oslo - report**

40 **German Open 2014**

41 **Slovak Open**

43 **Polish Open**

44 **Bihac Open 2014**

45 **Balkan Open 2014**

46 **Karlovac Open**



47 **Edinburgh Open**

48 **Yokoso Dutch Open 2014**

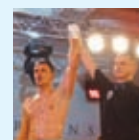
49 **Next Events**

50 **Visit to city of Bilbao**

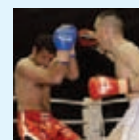
52 **WAKO PRO**



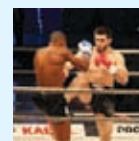
53 **Ivan Strugar**
The Last Conquest



55 **Milos Anic**
Champion Farewell



57 **Last fight of Zildzic**



58 **WAKO PRO WORLD**
TITLE BOUT LOW KICK
+ 94.100 KG



59 **ANTALYA WAKO WORLD**
TITLE K1 56.00
BRAZIL WAKO PRO K1 56,4

60 **CAMEROON WAKO PRO LOW KICK 94,1**
GABON WAKO PRO LOW KICK 54

61 **ITALY WAKO PRO FULL CONTACT 62,2**
GERMANY WAKO PRO FULL CONTACT 94

62 **KYRGISHTAN WAKO PRO K1 66,8**
LAS PALMAS WAKO PRO K1 69,1

WAKO HISTORY

history



Mike Anderson and Ennio Falsoni sparring in St. Petersburg (Florida) in 1978.

In 1972, Mike Anderson (USA) created the rules or a new sport he called "all-style sport karate". Today, in most countries, it is now called "point fighting". He created this sport with the goal of attracting more interest from spectators, sponsors and television as existing, traditional versions of sport karate were not accepted by the public, the media or by major sponsors.

Bill Wallace in the ring



In this new sport, protective equipment (gloves, kicks and groin protectors) had to be worn by the fighters. Anderson thought that the use of protective equipment would make the sport safer and more exciting to the general public as the protected fighter would produce more action.

Then, in 1974, with the help and support of his friend and student Georg Brueckner, Mike Anderson introduced the new sport to Europe.

Still, the new version of sport karate failed to gain any significant



The legend Bill "Superfoot" Wallace makes a beautiful kick to Ennio Falsoni's head during a seminar in 1977.

interest in the media, with the general public or with sponsors. Then, Anderson made his biggest, most risky move. He created the rules for a new sport he called „Full Contact Karate“, a sport in which the fighters could actually make full contact so a knockout meant a win instead of a disqualification. Surely, thought Anderson, this would get the public's attention.

Again, not only was everyone against him, but his life was threatened on numerous occasions, as well. The general consensus was that this new sport would end with the deaths of many fighters

who would be killed by deadly karate blows. Even Elvis Presley tried to sabotage the new sport by offering Bill Wallace, who worked for Elvis at that time, \$10.000 not to participate in Anderson's premiere event. Wallace refused his famous employer and supported his friend Mike Anderson.

Then, Anderson introduced Full Contact Kickboxing to the whole world with a show that was televised for 1 ½ hours world-wide and shown on three separate occasions. The event was called „The World Professional Karate Championships“ and was held Sept. 14, 1974 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. The announcer

were Mike Anderson himself and Telly Savalas (Kojac), who was the number one television star in the world at that time. The event broke every world martial art record for television viewers, number of live spectators, paid attendance and prize money. The first full contact World Champions were crowned: Joe Lewis (Heavyweight), Jef Smith (Lt. Heavyweight), Bill Wallace (Middleweight) and Mexican Isaias Duenas (Lightweight).

Kojac was just one of over 200 of Hollywood's biggest stars who attended the live event. At ringside were such notables as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Lorne Greene (Bonanza), David Carradine (Kung Fu), Peter Falk (Colombo), George Peppard (A-Team) and Ryan O'Neil (Love Story), just to mention a few. Chuck Norris was a side judge and Pricilla Presley, Elvis' wife, was the scorekeeper. Bruce Lee's wife Linda was even involved in the live show. Truly, it was the most spectacular event in the history of the martial arts, by far. Mike Anderson produced, directed and even announced the event all by himself. The televised portion he co-produced with Universal Television, the largest television company in the world.



After forming the WMAA, Mike Anderson called his friend Georg Brueckner and other European contacts, many of which were ex-students of his who had become leaders of their own organizations in different countries. Anderson held the meeting in West Berlin, Germany. Altogether, leaders from 12 countries were represented. These leaders signed the WMAA charter and vowed to work together for the betterment of the sport, with the ultimate goal of getting into the Olympics. Mike Anderson was voted President and Georg Bruckner was voted Vice-President of the WMAA. This was in 1975.

A few months later, in 1975, Anderson said that the initials WMAA didn't sound so good. The organization needed a better sounding name.

After joking with Brueckner about different names with funny initials, Anderson came up with the name „World All-Style Karate Organization“...WAKO.

Afterward, Georg Brueckner became obsessed with the WAKO and the new sports it represented, full contact and semi contact karate. He worked feverishly to spread the organization throughout Germany and Europe. Georg Brueckner

Dominique Valera (right) vs. Jeff Smith (USA), in 1979 in the de Coubertin arena of Paris. Valera lost by points.



became the driving force behind WAKO. Anderson was just a figurehead. Brueckner contacted the Olympic Committee but was told he couldn't use the name „karate“ for the sport as the traditional Japanese organization, WUKO (now WKF), already had the name karate reserved. So, the WAKO Board of Directors agreed to change the name of the sport to „kickboxing“.

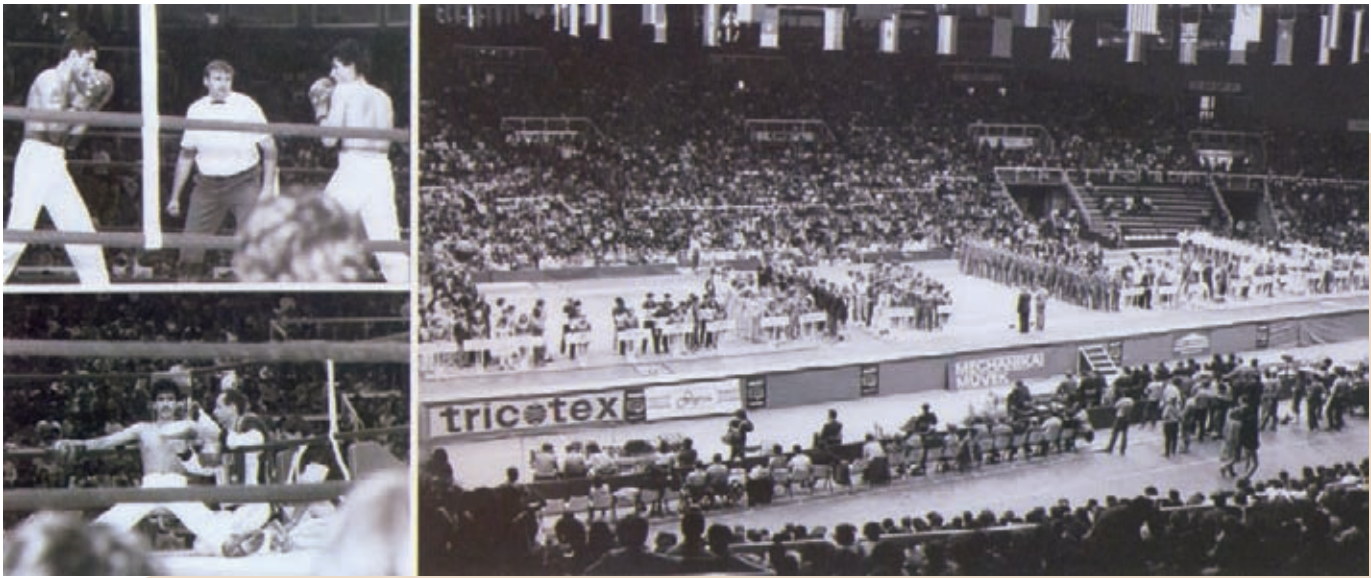
In 1978, Dr. Ennio Falsoni visited Mike Anderson at his home in Florida. He informed Anderson that the WAKO representation in Italy was less than satisfactory. When Anderson finally

saw the Italians fight, he couldn't believe his eyes. If their fighters were just barely touched, they would fall on the mat crying that there was too much contact. Anderson was disgusted and immediately appointed Falsoni as the Italian WAKO President. Anderson knew of Falsoni's reputation as a fighter as the Italian was a European Kumite Champion for the WUKO. Anderson wanted real fighters, and not politicians, to lead the WAKO to success and Falsoni was a bone fide champion. Besides being a fighter, Dr. Falsoni was an English teacher who spoke several other languages fluently.

Falsoni became a force within the WAKO, and along with Georg Brueckner, worked diligently to spread the sport. Other than having introduced a new sport he called „Musical Forms“ to the WAKO in 1985, Anderson remained basically a figurehead whose only real contribution was listen to complaints and settle disputes between different WAKO leaders. One dispute he was unable to settle was the dispute between Brueckner and Falsoni, which ultimately led to a WAKO split in 1984.



*Benny "The Jet"
Urquidez and
Ennio Falsoni
in the Milan (1984).*



WAKO World Championships, 1985 in Budapest.

In 1987, at the WAKO World Championship in Munich, Brueckner and Falsoni reunited. Falsoni was voted President. Anderson continued to be the mentor of the WAKO USA Kickboxing Team, which dominated the WAKO World Championships in the early days of the sport. In the 1989, after promoting a World Professional title fight between Don Wilson and Ferdinand Mack and Team USA vs. Team Germany in Berlin's famous Deutschlandhalle, Anderson retired from the martial arts. Georg Brueckner, who was mainly responsible for the WAKO's early growth, died of lung cancer in 1992.

Ennio Falsoni continued to lead the WAKO to new heights. Since becoming World President, the



George Brückner introducing Ennio Falsoni as the WAKO President at 1987 World Championships in Munich.

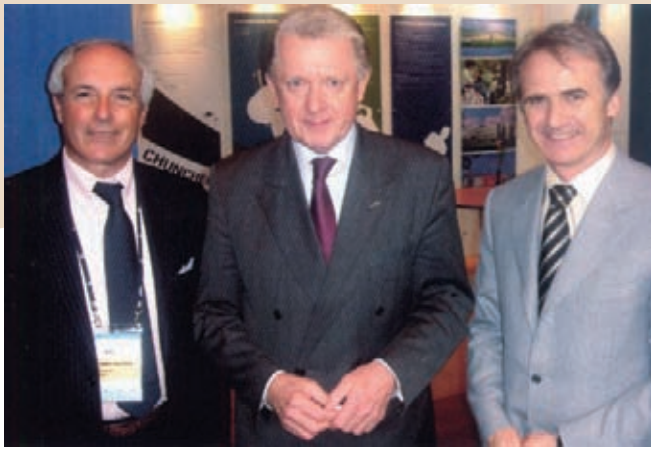
organization has doubled in size. Now, with the 2001 WAKO World Championships in Belgrade playing host to important representatives of the International Olympic Committee, the WAKO is at the brink of earning Olympic recognition.

WAKO is expecting an official admission of membership in IOC this year. WAKO has submitted an application form for enrollment during previous year and satisfies all the requirements to become officially recognized by IOC.

WAKO - Member of SPORTACCORD

Kickboxing as a sport obtained its largest diplomatic success when WAKO was granted the GAISF' membership on 7th April 2006 in Seoul, Korea. This recognition (which was ratified on 17th October 2006 in Lausanne) is a milestone in the life of our organization and for our sport in general. Thanks to Sportaccord, we are today in the position to talk, negotiate and develop within the official sports' world. From now on WAKO will look for IOC recognition like other GAIFS sports. Regarding this/mentioned – Because of that, WAKO became only kickboxing federation officially recognized in the world. All the other amateur kickboxing federations are either small, private or unrecognized.

Representative of the WAKO in the Executive Committee of Sportaccord is our Acting President Espen Lund.



WAKO President Ennio Falsoni, Sportaccord President Hein Verbruggen and IAKSA president Horst Prelog after signing the merging agreement and celebrating victory of Sportaccord membership for WAKO, Seoul April 2006

WAKO ASIA and Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)



Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah and Nasser Nassiri

WAKO - Member of WADA

We have signed the World Anti Doping Code and worked out anti – doping rules accepted by WADA, rules that we have implemented among our members.

Programs have been made, tests have been carried out both in and out of competition. In general, we have a strong focus to make Kickboxing a clean sport.

Our representative in WADA is first Vice President of WAKO EUROPE and member of the Board Directors of the WAKO IF, Roy Baker.

Wako Asia Continental Division, led by Mr. Nasser Nassiri, got the recognition of the Olympic Council of Asia (Kuwait) on 28th May 2007 during OCA's 50th Board meeting.

OCA have included Kickboxing in its activities like:

- 2nd Asian Indoor Games held in Macau, China 2007
- 1st Asian Martial Art Games held in Bangkok, Thailand 2009
- 3rd Asian Indoor Games held in Hanoi, Vietnam 2009

WAKO - Member of IWGA

The addition of the World Association of Kick Box Organization (WAKO) to the Membership of the International World Games Association (IWGA) will encourage closer ties between the sport's National Association and National Olympic Committees.

There are hopes that kickboxing will be introduced to the World Games as an invitational sport for the next edition of the multi – sport event in Wroclaw, Poland in 2017.

Ninety-four of our National Associations are recognized by their National Olympic Committees, with the remainder in the process of applying.

WAKO AFRICA

We must not forget that because of our success in 2006, WAKO also took part in the 9th AFRICAN GAMES held in Algier, Algeria 2007.

Today, WAKO counts on a market of kickboxers estimated to be more than 5.000.000 practitioners in 147 world countries and no less than 9.000 clubs around globe and sanction more than 1.000 events a year.

Now, officially recognized by SPORTACCORD (former GAISF), IWGA, OCA, being a member of WADA, WAKO is the sole governing body for Kickboxing sport in the world.

IRISH OPEN

amazing championship



Irish Open beat all records in number of athletes and also in quality of performing

As far as we are talking about championships, we have to say that master of all master championships in WAKO kickboxing ever was latest Irish open. Amazing number of 3450

participants leave us speechless. If somebody doubt that this is possible in one tournament, we were the bystanders. We participated. And we really enjoyed.

Irish open grows every year, but like Mr. Roy Baker, promoter, said:

- Number of countries and competitors grow every year. This year, we are 23% bigger in every issue than the last. From this level, I really don't want it bigger, because it would be difficult to function.

In sport hall there were 17 areas (16 tatami and one ring). You could meet people from all around the World: Venezuela, Israel, Cuba, Chile, USA etc. All colors of beautiful world of martial

sports and arts were there.

- The best thing about Irish Open is that we do this for child charity projects, nobody here get's payed! You see judges and referees doing their job all day and know that they are doing this for no money! In the first day we sold about 3000 Irish Open T-shirts , the last penny goes to humanitarian activities for kids.

Level of fights was very high, quantity didn't ruined quality. In -74 kg division there were 97 fighters!



Mr. Roy Baker - "Number of countries and competitors grow every year. This year, we are 23% bigger in every issue than the last. From this level, I really don't want it bigger, because it would be difficult to function."



In sport hall there were 17 areas (16 tatami and one ring). You could meet people from all around the World: Venezuela, Israel, Cuba, Chile, USA etc.





All colors of beautiful world of martial sports and arts were there.





- Honestly, I must say this: I think this level of competition will never be again! Of course, Irish Open has it's time now. In future, something else will come. We needed 21 years to get to this. This

event wasn't created overnight. But, I have to remind that there are four big tournaments now in Europe: Athens challenge, Irish Open, Austrian classic and Best fighter in Italy- said Roy Baker.



IRISH
OPEN

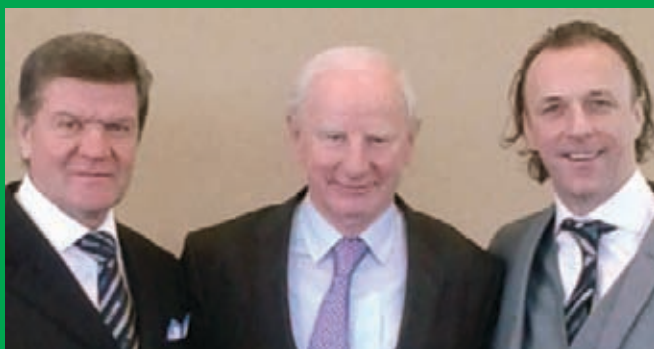
HISTORICAL MEETING in Dublin

Horst Prelog, Richard Leyer, Borislav Pelević, Espen Lund, Pat Hickey, Roy Baker, John Tracey, Nasser Nassiri and Brendan Dowling



Thanks to the promoter of the Irish Open tournament, Mr. Roy Baker, a very important meeting was organized.

Mr. Pat Hickey (President of the European Olympic Council, IOC Executive member and President of the OCI), Mr. John Tracey (Chief Executive of the Irish Sport Council) and Mr. Brendan Dowling (President of the Irish Martial Arts Council) met with members of the WAKO standing committee: Mr. Espen Lund (acting WAKO President), Mr. Borislav Pelević (WAKO Europe President), Mr. Roy Baker (WAKO Board Member), Mr. Nasser Nassiri (WAKO Vice President), Mr. Richard Leyer (WAKO Vice President) and Mr. Horst Prelog (WAKO Vice President).



Borislav Pelevic, Pat Hickey and Roy Baker

President of the EOC Mr. Pat Hickey stated that he was very pleased with all that was seen on Irish Open tournament. According to that, the WAKO really deserves to be recognized from the International Olympic Committee. Also he was convinced that WAKO should be recognized from European Olympic Committee EOC, as soon as possible. First opportunity for that will be in SportAccord convention in Belek, Turkey, on the 8th of April this year where the WAKO will formally apply for recognition. Mr. Pat Hickey suggested a meeting with WAKO representatives there, after which he can announce the WAKO IF to be recognized by the IOC Executive Committee as one and only real kickboxing organization in the world.

Mr. John Tracey, Chief Executive of the Irish Sport Council, had an honour to stress out that kickboxing is a very popular and a very well organized sport in Ireland. Mr. Brendan Dowling, President of the Irish Martial Arts Council shared that opinion.

In any case, this was a very productive and important meeting for the WAKO considering the recognition of the WAKO IF from the International Olympic Committee.

SZEGED

world cup



Kick-box World Cup in Szeged (Hungary) was held in the City Sporthall on May 15th to 18th 2014.

Hungarian open tournament World Cup gathered the best fighters from Europe. There were three days of very good competition. About 1100 fighter from 25 countries participated at the tournament.

In Szeged you could see the best ring and tatami fighters, former World and European champions. They were testing their readiness for the upcoming World and European Championships.

We spoke about the tournament with Mr. Ferenc Nèmet, Hungarian kickboxing federation board member and the main organizer of the World Cup in Szeged.



These are his main impressions about the competition:

“We didn't have many problems in organization, everything is going well. There are 120 fights in the rings daily. We didn't have one fight with complains for the result so we can see that judging is going fine. The fighters gave clean, good fights to spectators. Here we have the best

ring and tatami fighters, former world and European champions. They are testing their readiness for the upcoming World and European Championships. Hungary brought here very good fighters and we expect a lot from them. We see that in K1 hegemony of Belarus is still going on, they are here with very strong fighters. Very good Serbian fighters are here also. Unfortunately, concerning tatami sports, we don't have Italian

world cup



There are 120 fights in the rings daily.





and Ireland team here. As for our fighters, this competition is for sure a very good opportunity to select the best among them for the upcoming championships in Spain and Slovenia. We are very well supported from our government and Ministry of sports. Here we have a special guest, Mr. Tamás Deutsch, a Hungarian politician and a member of the European Parliament. He was a

member of the Hungarian Parliament between 1990 and 2009 and the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports between 1999 and 2002. I have to stress out that in our country, since last year there have been everyday sport activities for kids in elementary schools. I find it of great importance when we discuss sport“.



*Ferenc Nèmet,
Richard Leyer,
Borislav Pelevic and
Tamás Deutsch*

SZEGED WORLD CUP

INTERVIEW

RICHARD LEYER

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WAKO IF

the quality of work always shows in the ring

On the Word Cup in Szeged, we took the opportunity to talk to Mr. Richard Leyer about the ongoing situation and plans for the future in the WAKO.

He shared with us his point of view and also his hopes and predictions for the upcoming period:

“We worked very hard in last few years and now the results came through: We have the membership in the IWGA. Also, hard work for the IOC recognition is still in progress. But we have a realistic basis concerning these efforts: Many National Olympic committees respect and recognize kickboxing. The WAKO now has all continental divisions formed. But, the real and main job is performing in our joined countries. Continental federations are not enough. For us who are in the headquarters the biggest job is to support our members in their work. When we become recognized by the IOC, all the WAKO members will get more respect in their national sports organizations, and also more support from the governments. Among continents, we have very different amounts of money in our budgets. Financial level of every country member is different. We have countries with minimum financial levels. In such conditions it is very hard to plan our development.

When we get the recognition from the IOC, everyone will get “to the table”. This is the first minimum level and the first “gold step” in the

equalization of our work in the WAKO. After the IOC recognition, we can build the unique system of work. National OC recognizes your kickboxing organization, which means you can count on some amount of money, yearly fees for the WAKO IF will be paid and you can plan the development of your sport: Voting for decisions in WAKO, educating your coaches and judges on seminars, taking parts on competitions, working in committees among the WAKO IF, increasing the number of your clubs and organizing more tournaments in your country. It is very simple and this system works everywhere in the world. Your



strength in the WAKO IF depends on how you develop the sport in your country.

Recognition from the IWGA and application for recognition from the IOC represent joint work on the same goal. We are working in order

to strengthen our position in the world's sport. As a SportAccord member, we can apply for the IOC recognition. And we are a very serious candidate. When we get the recognition, in what, on my opinion, there is no doubt, everybody will come to us: New members, better work, TV, sponsors, etc. That will be a big responsibility and also an incredible amount of job to be done.

The second important thing is learning – in better words, e-learning. We have to teach our members how to use the new technologies in sports business. That is one of our most important values.



If we have a serious approach, than we can apply for funding to the EU with some social programs. If we are clever in the future, we can get support from many organizations.

Finally, I have to admit that we in the WAKO have to be happy and satisfied. Our members worked very hard to get to this level. I have to stress out excellent work in Brazil, thanks to our friend Paolo Zorello. There we have strong system based on many clubs and many, many competitions. I see that Paulo`s work is similar to Ennio`s ideas of how the WAKO should be organized. But, if we talk about Africa, I am not satisfied with the work there. The similar situation is in Asia. Ok, thanks to Nasser, we have some recognition, but tell me: How many incorporated countries are doing kickboxing there? How many competitions, tournaments? How much real work? I don`t see that kind of results. The future is in the real work. In Europe also, we have a lot of problems in some countries but Europe is the mother of kickboxing. We have to end the system that relies on persons. System of acting is what is important. But I see all this difficulties as a challenge for all of us.

Same as you have many different kinds of flowers in your garden - we have 7 disciplines in the WAKO to meet all interests. To offer people the kind of activity they would like. Talking about popularity on the screen, on my opinion, point fighting has more clear dynamics, so that can be interesting to the people that are watching it. My idea was also to use more team fights. Finally, a few years ago we had a big event with Russia and Serbia teams fighting in K1. But, I think that K1 is not our style. Our style is low kick. Low kick rules are more clear, attractive, dynamic and interesting. No clinch, no wrestling. Audience has to understand what is going on in the ring. I experienced this when Eurosport representative once said to me that he was not that interested in our K1 fights.

In the end, we did a great job. We went through a long journey to make kickboxing a strong and defined sport recognized all over the world. Our efforts are still focused on the same purpose. I am convinced that quality of our work will bring success.”

M.P.

ATHENS CHALLENGE 2014



The beginning of February was reserved for traditional tournament Athens challenge. We still remember brilliant fights performed by Nikos Memmos, and now we have him as a great organizer of this important tournament.

These two days (1st and 2nd of February), Olympic Tae Kwon Do Arena in Athens hosted fighters from 15 countries (975 competitors and 1426 registrations). Main impression was that all program was on time, arena was suitable for this kind of competition and there were 21 international reffree who carried on with fights.

ATHENS
CHALLENGE 2014

WAKO IF Board meeting



WAKO IF board meeting was held in Vienna, 22 nd and 23 rd April 2014.



On the first day of the meeting the budget of the WAKO IF 2014 was accepted. On the proposal of the WAKO Europe President Mr. Borislav Pelević, WAKO Europe budget was increased for this year, knowing that the WAKO Europe has to organize two European championships: The first in Slovenia (4 tatami disciplines) and the second in Spain (3 ring disciplines). The budget for WAKO Asia and WAKO Panamerica has also been increased.

The second day was reserved for reviewing the draft of the WAKO IF Statute, produced by the Legal Committee. Mr. Borislav Pelević, the WAKO Europe President was displeased with the fact that the work on the Statute draft had lasted for seven months and members of

this meeting had the opportunity only to look at the draft for the first time, so there was no time for preparations and discussions. On his proposal, voted by majority, a new Working Group was formed. The members of this Working Group which continued to work on the WAKO IF Statute draft were

- Mr. Espen Lund, the WAKO IF Acting President
- Four Presidents (or representatives) of four Continental Divisions
- The WAKO lawyer Mrs. Franceska Falsoni
- An independent Swiss lawyer.

The deadline for giving the proposal of the WAKO IF Statute to the Board of Directors WAKO IF was 23rd May, and the Board meeting when it was given for acknowledgement was on 7th

June in Lignano Sabiadoro, Italy, during the World Cup “Best fighter”.

During the World Cup “Best Fighter” in Lignano Sabiadoro, Italy, 6th of June, a meeting of WAKO Europe Board of Directors was held.

It the meeting in Vienna, acting President WAKO IF Mr. Espen Lund had the opportunity to introduce all about WAKO becoming a member of the IWGA and taking part on the next World Games in Wroclaw, Poland 2017. He introduced a report about many meetings he had with representatives of SportAccord and the IOC, for the purpose of acknowledgement of the WAKO kickboxing by the International Olympic Committee.

SPORTACCORD combat games



2ND WORLD COMBAT GAMES
SAINT PETERSBURG, 2013

SPORTACCORD COMBAT GAMES is a multisport event for all combat sports members of SportAccord.

Every four years, these games celebrate, involve and show the world our fantastic sports and all the action and enthusiasm they bring. Only the best of the best athletes from each International Federation will participate and everybody will enjoy our top athletes' performances and achievements.

The first edition of the Combat Games took in Beijing from August 27 th to September 4 th 2010 in the same fabulous sports halls used in 2008 Olympics.

Fighting/combat olympic and non-olympic sports contested in the Combat Games in Sankt Peterburg in 2013:

SPORTACCORD combat games

- Boxing
- Judo
- Taekwondo
- Wrestling
- Kickboxing
- Karate
- Muay Thai
- Aikido
- Sumo
- Sambo
- Savate
- Fencing
- Kendo
- Wushu
- Jiu jitsu

Number of represented continents:
5

Number of athletes:
1345

Number of represented countries:
94

Number of sports:
15

AUSTRIAN classics



The beginning of April is traditionally reserved for the Austrian Classics in the WAKO calendar.

This year the competition was held in the Olympic Hall Innsbruck from April 9th to 12th. Austrian Classics was organized in team event, full contact and K1 divisions.

Among 26 countries with 13 teams and 1727 registered entries, competition ran all age and weight classes from younger cadets up to veterans.



The main favorites of the competition were All Stars USA and Hungary Team. They showed the most, and the audience knew how to reward it. Hungarians had more luck, USA team had to fight against

injuries too, which took off their advantage and let opponent team win the finals. Saturday morning was the grand champion divisions with 27 female and 45 male fighters. On Sunday it was time for light

contact and kick light. There were fewer fighters than in point fighting divisions, but not less quality.

Photos thanks to Mr. Michael Kruckenhauser



BEST FIGHTER

world cup



Best fighter WAKO World Cup was held in Ge.Tur Village in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, from 6th to 8th June 2014.

On this tournament Evita Viltanioti from Greece and Zsolt Moradi from Hungary won the open weight grand championship.

OFFICIAL REPORT

WAKO World CUP BESTFIGHTER 2014

Categories: 223

Countries: 31

(in alphabetical order)

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

Entries: 2054 (only official WAKO members)

Female Entries: 703

Male Entries: 1351

Biggest Categorie: Grandchamp male (43 Entries)

Entries PF: 1168

Entries LC: 453

Entries KL: 175

Entries FC: 137

Entries Forms & Tricks: 121

Biggest international Teams:

01 Slovenia (SLO), 108 Entries

02 Russia (RUS), 105 Entries

03 IKKEN (BUL), 81

Biggest italien national Teams:

01 Bestfighter Group, 58 Entries

02 Team hmd, 43 Entries

03 Team Lombardia, 41 Entries

WAKO EUROPE REPRESENTATIVES VISITING EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY SPORT EUSA

WAKO EUROPE AS A PART OF EUSA

The WAKO Europe Board Members Mrs. **Aleksandra Nedelkovska** and Mr. **Bojan Kolev**, who is also a member of WAKO Europe Education and Students Committee, together with Mr. **Vladimir Sitar**, the Chairman of WAKO Europe Education and Students Committee, have visited the European Association of University Sport (EUSA). The visit was about including kickboxing in the big family of the European University Sport Association which would be a great step forward for the WAKO EUROPE and kickboxing

In Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, on February 21st we had a productive meeting with the president of the EUSA, Mr. **Adam Roczek**. In the meeting were also present Mr. Matjaz Pechovnik, secretary and Mr. Patrik Perosa, sports manager of the EUSA.

The EUSA has 45 country members from Europe and this year the EUSA Championship will be in Rotterdam, Holland, including 19 sports

In the meeting, which started very well, we discussed about including kickboxing in the big family of university sports. We explained everything about the championships organized by the WAKO IF and the WAKO Europe and big popularity of our sport around the world. We introduced the WAKO as an affiliate of GAISF and

SportAccord. Also, kickboxing is a sport which includes students in the WAKO championships. Mr. **Kolev**, the president for the Balkans, suggested that the Balkan championship this year should be separated from the university championship. This was accepted from the EUSA. President of the EUSA was invited to be a part of this championships and he accepted.



That was one more step forward for the WAKO Europe and for us as representatives of the WAKO Europe on this meeting.

The president of the EUSA, Mr. **Roczek** has introduced us with the terms that we must fulfill so the WAKO Europe can be included in the EUSA and also he gave us full trust for cooperation.

Aleksandra Nedelkovska

UFA WILL HELP KICKBOXING TO BECOME IOC RECOGNIZED



On July 3, Ufa held a press conference dedicated to the Olympic prospects of kickboxing. An important step towards inclusion of kickboxing in the IOC recognized circle was The 1st World Kickboxing Student Championship, held in Ufa on July 12th to 17th, 2014.

Rishat Salimovich Sayapov, the Vice President of the Kickboxing Federation of Russia and a member of the Supreme Council of the Russian Union of Martial Arts, **Ruslan Giniyatovich Bikimbetov**, a deputy Chairman of the Committee of Physical Culture and Sport Administration of the City of Ufa, and **Ruslan Anvarovich Gainullin**, head of the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Therapy of the Bashkir State Medical University, were explaining to sports journalists about what kind of role the capital of Republic of Bashkortostan will play in the fate of this spectacular sport.

Also, a video call with the capital of Norway – the city of

Oslo was arranged in the middle of the press conference, during which the journalists had the opportunity to ask some questions to Mr. **Espen Lund**, acting president of the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO).

Rishat Sayapov told that huge work is being done today to get kickboxing IOC recognized. Therefore formalities on certain aspects are important. Lack of kickboxing in the program of student international sports (FISU) has been a challenge. Creation of the Student Kickboxing Development Committee of WAKO and organization of WAKO joining FISU must contribute to resolve that challenge.

An application to FISU will be done at the next occasion and the WAKO is discussing with FISU on this matter. Co-chairs **Boyan Kolev** (Bulgaria) and **Rishat Sayapov** (Russia) are leading the informal committee - Student Kickboxing Committee of the WAKO together. The committee will be formalized upon the next occasion when reviewing the WAKO by-laws.

Espen Lund also announced that the WAKO is currently preparing a package of documents for the recognition by the International Olympic Committee and following their requirements. Even though this requires an extensive teamwork that includes many people in the organization, activities in all continental divisions are important, and for this is being done.

*Kamil Yulayev,
Deputy Chief of the
Press Service Department*

THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL KICKBOXING UNIVERSITY

championship



The 1st International Kickboxing University Championship was successfully held in Ufa, Russia, from 12th to 16th July 2014 at the sports center of the Bashkir State Medical University.

There were 164 participants representing 14 countries from Nepal to Ireland who attended The 1st International Kickboxing University Championship.

Following fighters showed most spectacular fights and became champions of The 1st International Kickboxing University Championship winning medals and diplomas: Philip Salugin (Russia)

was the best in point fighting and light contact. Desmond Leonard (Ireland) won tatami style – point fighting, 74 kg, and Vitaly Salyga (Ukraine) was the best in low-kick, 71 kg.

The winning team was composed of students coming from Omsk State University. They were awarded with the Cup of the Championship.

SERBIA OPEN



On the 1st and 2nd March 2014 Serbian kickboxing federation hosted European cup Serbia Open in the city of Belgrade.





This WAKO international tournament hosted 118 fighters from 42 clubs representing 7 countries. Numbers are not so great but the level of the fights seen there, specially the finals, was amazing. We could see great final fights both in kick light and K1 rules presented by some of the WAKO world and European champions.

We hope to have some more fighters from more countries next year, since this tournament is on a very high organization and quality level with good prizes for winners in all categories. Until then you can enjoy in a video of the final fights in K1 rules posted on our web page.



INTERVIEW

VADIM UKRAINCHEV

WAKO BOARD DIRECTORS MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE REFEREE COMMITTEE FOR RING SPORTS

RUSSIANS
always
loved to fight



A champion, a coach, a sports manager, the chief of the WAKO ring referees, a man with the smile on his face who is always ready to discuss kickboxing matters.

Can you tell us something about your sport biography?

I've started kickboxing in 1988, at the time when it appeared in the USSR. At the time it was USSR. Starting from the first fight on the Moscow Championship I won the USSR championships three times and I participated in the world and European championships. I dedicated a big part of my time to kickboxing, about a half of my adulthood. Later I continued boxing only for myself, and I started working as a coach in kickboxing. I prepared 7 world champions, 2 honoured masters of sport (it was at the time of the Soviet Union) and 4 international masters of sport. I also opened my own fight club "ProfiSport" and I'm still the head of this club, but something more as a manager these days.

Tell us something about Mr. Ryndin, the president of the Russian kickboxing federation.

Yuri N. Ryndin was a silver champion of the USSR Championship. We were kickboxing together on the USSR championships. But very soon he left kickboxing and became a businessman. The time passed, and we found each other. He helped me a lot at the time when I was the chief coach of the Russian Kickboxing Team. Later it was decided that he should take the Federation in his hands and help it. It has been 10 years since Mr. Ryndin is the Head of the Russian Kickboxing Federation. He is a sportsman himself and he knows kickboxing perfectly.

What can you tell us about popularity of various WAKO disciplines in Russia?

In Russia the musical forms are very developed thanks to Yury Filimonov and Kira Borisenko. We have a lot of women and men from the rhythmic gymnastics and artistic gymnastics. Musical forms, on my opinion, are the best in Russia, as we have the great coaches and a serious team on the Russian Championship. Unfortunately, we are not so good in point fighting because it was forbidden during the communist regime. So nowadays we don't have much practice, and neither the popularity of point fighting in Russia. But, the popularity of point fighting has grown with the arrival of Andrey Kotov, the head of point fighting and Ilya Urov, the vice-president, five years ago. Today we have a big and strong team and we participate in different championships thanks to Mr. Urov and great financial contributions. And as a result we won the gold medal on the European Championship 2010 with the fighter Gerasimov Mikhail, and on the World Championship 2013 with Bobrov Alexander. The most popular disciplines in Russia are low kick and full contact. Here we have a huge competition and a lot of fighters, such as Natalia Rogozina – the absolute world boxing champion. She was five times world kickboxing champion. Also, there is Alexander Povetkin who was the European and the world kickboxing champion, and more other great fighters. We also have the most titled sportsman, nine times world champion – Vyacheslav Teslenko.

Where is the place of kickboxing in global Russian sport?

Unfortunately it is not an Olympic sport, so I would say that kickboxing is the first among all non-Olympic sport, and that is most important right after the Olympic sports. We always have good results thanks to the financing of our President Mr. Rindin.

Russian people are dedicated to sports. Tell us about kickboxing in Russia.

Kickboxing is very popular in Russia. At the time boxing was very popular in Russia together with sambo, and kickboxing was the part of it. Historically, Russians always loved to fight. The fisticuffs were always well known in Russia. And in kickboxing you may also kick with the legs, so it is an additional advantage. And kickboxing became very popular in Russia and though it is a non-Olympic sport nowadays we have a lot of participants. For example, the last low kick Russian Championship had 474 participants. Last year full contact Russian Championship had 600 participants. So I think these shows the popularity of kickboxing in Russia nowadays, despite the fact that the government helps us very little. There are a lot of sportsmen nowadays in Russian KF, and it's impossible to tell the number of fighters. I can only tell that there are 62 Russian regions. We don't have A, B and C classes. We have men, women, juniors younger and older (men/women), seniors and veterans. We have a lot of clubs and competitions.



Does the funding of this sport come from the government in Russia?

Of course the government helps us, helps the best fighters participate in Russian championships, pays the logistics and the accommodation, and moreover most of sportsmen receive their salary, even though it is small, but still they receive it. And also sport committee pays us the training camps for our fighters on the territory of Russia. And the world, European championships and world cups – these are paid by the president Mr.Rindin and his business team.

You were elected by the WAKO Board of Directors as Chairman of Referee Committee for ring sports. What are the main challenges of your function? Tell us about the problems and the plans for the future.

Well in fact there are no real difficulties. All the referees are great; of course there are some mistakes, as always, there is nothing to do with it, sometimes something is missed, misunderstood... It is always very difficult to be a referee. I can't criticize a referee, even in Russia I always say that it is possible to criticize the referee, but first try to be a referee yourself. I think referee is the person who can put the signature on his opinion, the person who announces his decision, although it sometimes can be wrong. And for me the referee immunity is the prior thing. I will always work for the welfare of the referees, because I was a referee myself, and I was a sportsman, as well as I was a coach. And now I am the head of the Referee Committee, so I'm ready to help them all the time, to be next to them. We all make mistakes. The main thing is that we understand our mistakes and can correct them immediately.

What are your impressions about the future of kickboxing in the world?

Well, there are a lot of disciplines in kickboxing and it is great because that way our young generation can have its hobbies and interests. There are no problems at all. We are now in SportAccord. In Russia it has a positive influence. The government structure has more interest in kickboxing. And because we entered in SportAccord, we have good relations, we are accepted by everyone. And as you know, thanks to SportAccord our national team that participated in the martial arts festival was welcomed twice by the presidents of Russia: First time it was Dmitry Anatolevich Medvedev and the second - Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, and this fact shows a lot. And finally, I don't know yet how long it will take for us to become the Olympic sport, but I am definitely sure that we are very close to that. And that is great and it inspires optimism. So my impression about the future of kickboxing is the Olympiad, where we will have a great competition because if kickboxing becomes an Olympic sport the governments all over the world will start helping to develop and finance this sport, and as a result we will receive more competition with all the countries. In this case, when we become the Olympic sport kickboxing will step to the next level. So we are looking forward to recognizing the kickboxing by the Olympic committee, in order to see the real and powerful kickboxing.

M.P.

8 STAR - OSLO

report



Norway is taking an important position in full contact kickboxing. With 11 strong countries participating, and using this tournament for qualification to the WAKO championship this autumn, this seems to be the most important tournament for full contact in Europe.

The 8 Star Full Contact Kickboxing Tournament, was held on the 2nd and 3rd May in Oslo. It was a great tournament with a lot of good fights. Fighters from 11 countries participated in the tournament: Brazil, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Ireland, Great Britain and Norway.

During the two day tournament quality fighters met and challenged each other in the ring. With prominent guests from the official Norway



ringside and with good media coverage, this is the highlight of the year in Norwegian Full Contact.

“The 8 Star Tournament is very professional, with good help from the WAKO nations and Norwegian Kickboxing Federation. We are really looking forward to next year, it will be even bigger and better”, says promoter Mr. Daimi Akin from Fighter Kickboxing club.

The representatives of the Ministry of Culture, Olympic Committee of Norway, Oslo Sports Association and Norwegian Sports Federation were also present on the tournament.



German Open 2014

The German Open was held in Ebern from 8th to 10th May.

Approx. 550 starters from Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Poland, Czech republic and of course from Germany found the way to Ebern and fought in the different weight classes and disciplines for the title.

SLOVAK open



WAKO International tournament Slovak Open 2014 - Memorial of Ladislav "Doky" Toth, was held in Banska Bystrica, 21st – 22nd February 2014. It was the 15th edition of the tournament.



This year was exceptional concerning the record number of participants: 646 starters from 51 clubs and 12 countries. We had competitors from Belarus, Czech Republic, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

There were many world and European champions and medalists from the top WAKO events.

Athletes demonstrated excellent performances, in some cases at the top world and European level. There were also presented the

matches of the new fighters entering into international confrontation...

But that is why these tournaments exist.

SLOVAK OPEN

POLISH Open



Third Polish Open took place at Hala Sportowa in Krynica-Zdroj (Poland) from 2nd to 4th May 2014 and it gathered 252 fighters from 39 polish clubs.

The best fighter in the ring discipline (forms) was Damiana Śpiewaka from Starachowic and the best ring fighter was Klaudia Cichoń.



POLISH
OPEN

BIHAC OPEN 2014



Bihać, a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, on April 4th hosted a traditional tournament Bihać Open.

That was the 15th edition in a long and successful line of organizing one of the most prestigious open tournaments in this part of the country. Atmosphere was marked with huge expectations from competitors as well as all participants. There were 590 competitors from 56 clubs coming from nine European countries.

Competition was organized in point fighting, light contact, kick light, full contact and low kick.

The quality was confirmed by Mr. Romeo Desa, the WAKO supervisor:

“It started in modest conditions, with pioneer efforts, but with strong WAKO IF support. Now, we are proud because the work paid off and

quality showed up. This tournament is the beginning of the work in kickboxing on a high level in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”



Aleksandra Nedelkovska (Macedonia), Vladimir Sitar (Slovenia) and Zijo Halilovic (BiH)

BALKAN OPEN 2014



International kickboxing cup named "Balkan Open 2014" took place in city of Tešanj in Bosnia and Herzegovina on last June 13-15, 2014.

On this WAKO international event participated 512 fighters representing 79 clubs from 14 countries: Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Israel, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In all kickboxing styles there could be seen many good fights and fighters. The best team was National team of Serbia who dominated in all ring disciplines.

The promoter of this WAKO event was Mr. Alija Ogrić, president of WAKO Bosnia and Herzegovina and technical organizer was kickboxing team "Tešanj".

WELCOME AMONG THE WINNERS

karlovac open



On the 8th and 9th February 2014, the city of Karlovac was the center of European kickboxing.

In two days of the tournament Karlovac hosted 1245 competitors representing 117 clubs from 15 countries. This kickboxing festival was organized under the guidance of the Croatian Olympic Committee and was officially opened by Mr. Sinisa Krajač, the secretary of the Croatian Olympic Committee. The Ministry of Science and Sport of the Republic of Croatia, Karlovac County, the City of Karlovac and Karlovac Sports Community were among the organizations that also sponsored this great WAKO event.

The first day was reserved for the tatami sports where we could see many great fights on eight



fighting areas. On the second day there were only ring sports and among more than 90 fights on two rings a lot of them made audience really enjoy in spectacular kickboxing.

Traditionally good organization of this event rose even higher popularity of kickboxing in Croatia. The impression is that the quality of the competition has outgrown the B class level, so it is reasonable to consider the possibility to place it at a higher class level.

EDINBURGH Open



The inaugural Edinburgh Open took place in May with over 700 entries from 8 countries providing some world class competition.

The competition started off with the team event consisting of 8 teams of 4 men and 1 woman. Team Adidas had enough to field 2 teams and both of them made it to the final with their first team winning. Jacey Cashman, Stevie Parker, David Firth and Chris Aston made up the team.

The ladies grand champion division was up next and some big names like Elaine Small, Shannon Ryan and Gaynor Morgan took to the tatami but it was Bev Sturzaker and Ina Grindheim in the final with Sturzaker winning.

The men's grand champion division was next up and again it was full of world class competition. Chris Aston and David Firth, both of

Team Adidas UK were in the final and Chris Aston took the title and the Edinburgh Open Grand Champion Sword as well as €200 prize money.

With 5 tatamis running all day, the junior divisions were crammed full of up and coming talent in both light contact continuous and point fighting styles.

The advanced adults finished up what was a very successful first edition of this tournament and a great new addition to the WAKO calendar. Dates for next year have already been announced so make sure to keep the 3rd of May free next year so you can be part of the action in what will surely be a bigger and better event.

Report and photo by Danny Slevin

EDINBURGH
OPEN

YŌKOSO DUTCH open 2014



On the 10th of May the Yōkoso Dutch Open 2014 took place in the Emergohal, Amstelveen. Over 720 entries from 18 countries took part in what is known as the friendly tournament. With some of the best organization seen at any tournament using state of the art technology courtesy of Sportdata, entrants knew to the minute the expected time for their fight to start.

Scores and results went out online in real time so everybody could stay up to date with the competition from the comfort of their own home. Sportdata registered 1.900 unique visitors that were following the event on live blog. Furthermore, it was possible to capture 4 tatamis on video with the scores embedded in the video shoot. Hopefully this system will be adapted in more tournaments soon.

The tournament covered four aspects of kickboxing: point fighting, light continuous,

traditional forms and musical forms and some of the best competitors from Europe were there to try to get on the podium.

The day started off with light continuous. In the juniors Joyce Poppe of Belgium and Elijah Everill from the UK took gold in two divisions each while in the seniors, Shannon Ryan, Evelyn Neyens, Tilen Zajc and Anatoli Kuschnir all managed to win double gold.

The highlight of the day, the adult grand champions divisions were last to take place, and Maria Semenova from Russia was crowned grand champion. In the men division Tilen Zajc from Slovenia won his 3rd title.

This was the last year that the Yokoso Dutch Open will be a one day event as next year on the 11th and 12th of April, there will be most likely new divisions added to the event to include the ring sports and K-1.

UPCOMING events



Cadets & Juniors World Championships, Rimini (Italy), from 6th to 14th September 2014

Scandinavian Open, Oslo (Norway),
from 19th to 21st September 2014

World Cup Diamond, Anapa (Russia),
from 23rd to 28th September 2014

Flanders International Kickboxing Cup, Beveren, Waas (Belgium),
on 27th September 2014

Bristol Open, Bristol (England),
from 11th to 12th October 2014

TOP TEN Scorpions Cup - Int. Martial Arts Championship, Munich
(Germany),
from 18th to 19th October 2014

Senior European Championships, Bilbao (Spain), from 18th 26th October 2014

Czech Open International Kickboxing Tournament, Prague (Czech
Republic),
from 24th to 25th October 2014

Slovenia Open, Zagorje (Slovenia),
on 8th November 2014

Senior European Championships, Maribor (Slovenia), from 15th to 23rd November 2014

8 Pan-American Kickboxing Championships, Catamarca y San Martin, Corrientes (Argentina), from 4th to 7th December 2014

Croatia Open, Makarska (Croatia),
from 12th to 13th December 2014

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Visit to city of Bilbao

The WAKO officials visited the city of Bilbao in order to inspect the facilities and organization capability for the WAKO European Championships in K1 rules, low kick and full contact.



“WE WILL HAVE
EXTRAORDINARY
CHAMPIONSHIPS”

Our visit to Spain and the city of Bilbao, in order to check how the preparations for the upcoming WAKO European Championships are going on, was more than satisfying because of the job already done by the promoters. Moreover, we were under the impression that, besides the fact that technical organization of the championships will be on a very high level, we will also have Spain as a real, good and honest host for all of our members participating in this great WAKO event.





These are the first impressions that we, Mr. Espen Lund (WAKO acting President), Mr. Borislav Pelević (WAKO Europe President and WAKO IF Vice-President) and Mr. Salim Kaiyici (WAKO IF Executive Board Member and WAKO Europe Vice-President) had after a successful journey to Spain.

The WAKO promoters of this region, Mr. Mendioroz Borja, Mr. Jose Vicente Eguzkiza and the WAKO Spain President, Mr. Juanjo Rodriguez were our kind hosts at the first visit to the City Hall of Bilbao. We had a very productive meeting with Mrs. Sabin Anuzita, Bilbao Councilor of Sports.

Despite the fact that they had a relatively short deadline, promoters - the City Government of Bilbao and the Basque Region made a great job so far. Because of that we can all be sure that the next WAKO European Championships will be another great WAKO event.

Borislav Pelević





WAKO-PRO

HISTORY AND FUTURE

WAKO-PRO was officially founded in 1991 by WAKO President, Mr. Ennio Falsoni, during a Board meeting held in Spain in occasion of a WAKO European Championship, with the precise purpose of putting an end to the loss of WAKO best fighters who, after a brilliant career as amateur fighters in WAKO, were looking for opportunities to continue as professional fighters in other, so called "international kickboxing bodies", which started using them against WAKO like "a gift from heaven" to gain more credibility for themselves. The idea of establishing WAKO-PRO was due to the fact that fighters are the best representatives of any organization, by promoting galas featuring them, WAKO could approach media in general to attract their interest in the kickboxing sport.

For this reason WAKO-PRO started to generate more activity, more exposure, more credibility for WAKO best fighters. WAKO-PRO soon became the "professional window" for all WAKO styles. On September 26th, 2006, in Zadar (Croatia) during an Extraordinary General Assembly held at the World Cadet and Junior Championships, WAKO-PRO was officially separated from WAKO. From that date on, WAKO-PRO is independent from WAKO from a legal and administrative point of view, but because of its founder and history it is still strictly linked to WAKO of course. In fact first of all it has always be given priority to all WAKO national federations to represent officially WAKO-PRO by agreement on an exclusive base. Logically, wherever the different national organizations are not interested in "pro" activity, WAKO-PRO can choose its own representatives freely. Nowadays WAKO-PRO has been run by a newly founded company, International Sports & Entertainment S.r.l. ("IS&E"), a limited liability company duly organized under the laws of Italy with operating offices in Monza (MB), Italy, whose only General Director is Ms Barbara Falsoni, dealing with any matter regarding WAKO-PRO's activity.

"I worked very close to Ennio during the past 7 years helping him in WAKO-PRO activity, untill unfortunately he fell ill on March 2013. I'm very proud to say I had a great teacher. Following his lessons I'm going to develop a fair and professional system more and more, giving the possibility to the best kickboxers to prove themselves and have great professional experiences, in order to enrich their personal record and reach even more higher goals in their kickboxing career! WAKO-PRO today has created solid standard rules to guarantee both promoters and fighters the respect of their different rights and interests. The outstanding technique and quality of performance of



Mr. Ennio Falsoni, founder of WAKO PRO and Miss Barbara Falsoni, General Director of WAKO PRO

WAKO best fighters provide the certainty of a good show. This means credibility for our organization, credibility that is growing day by day all over the world. Its activity started slowly in Europe and the USA in the '90s. Very first criteria used in building up WAKO-PRO rankings was to consider the official results of WAKO World and European Championships only. Today things have changed thanks to a new well structured score system that guarantees a correct update of the rankings, taking in consideration not only results of WAKO World Championships but also of Continental Championships (European, PanAmerican, African, Asian Championships), World Cups and World Games. WAKO-PRO is today granting a better future and extra international activity NOT ONLY to the best WAKO competitors, WAKO-PRO in fact can also grant them wild cards for challenges with fighters coming from other organizations. WAKO-PRO guarantees them fair decisions in their title bouts and fair treatment in general. Highest moral principles in WAKO-PRO activity are loyalty, fairness, respect and integrity in the best interest of kickboxing and its Champions... WAKO-PRO protects the health and well being of kickboxers, having adopted the WADA Code, we are strongly against drugs and are for fair play in sports. WAKO-PRO is against discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, and religion. WAKO-PRO acts only in the interests of kickboxer, guaranteeing them fair payment, equal treatment and respect of their rights."

Barbara Falsoni

For more information please visit: www.wakopro.org

WAKO PRO
WORLD TITLE BOUT
LOW KICK - 88.600 KG

THE LAST CONQUEST



*On March 07, 2014,
City of Budva and hotel
"Splendid" hosted 6th
edition of "Splendid Grand
Prix", Wako Pro event
that has always been
known for its glamorous
style and high level
organization.*





This time it was even better than before. Main event was World title bout in low kick, under 88.600 between Ivan Strugar from Montenegro, former Wako Pro World Champion and Kirill Ivanov from Russia, current Wako Pro European Champion.

That was the last fight of Ivan Strugar, one of legends of WAKO PRO, fighter who was World champion in five different weight classes and one of the best fighters WAKO PRO ever had.

This time he won, his last fight, by decision and became a new WAKO PRO World Champion in low kick, 88.600 kg.

This title bout was promoted by Mr. Boban Nikic, WAKO PRO representative for Montenegro.

WAKO
PRO

WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE
BOUT LOW KICK - 62.200 KG

WAKO PRO EUROPEAN TITLE
BOUT IN LOW KICK - 64.500 KG

CHAMPION FAREWELL



JAGODINA,
SERBIA,
APRIL 11, 2014

On April 11, Serbian kickboxing federation and promoter Mr. Dragan Markovic Palma in city of Jagodina hosted Wako Pro event. This time we had two Wako Pro title bouts.

In front of 3.000 spectators in sport hall "JASSA" first title bout was European title defense in low kick division, 64.500 kg. Defender of the title was Italian fighter Marco De Paolis and Challenger Serbian Champion and amateur WAKO World Champion from Guaruja, Brazil last year Aleksandar Konovalov.

Bout started very aggressive from Aleksandar Konovalov and since the very beginning there was only one fighter between the ropes. Champion has tried to stop Challenger with some strong low kicks but there was no stop for him that night. After the combination of punches and kicks Konovalov delivered round house kick to Champion's chin, thundering kick that destroyed De Paolis. All we could see in first half of opening round was brutal power of Konovalov who became new Wako Pro European Champion in low kick, 64.500 kg.

Main event of the evening was Wako Pro World title bout in low kick division, 62.200 kg.

This title was vacant since Champion from Italy Alessandro Riguccini had to give it away due to an eye injury. For this title we had two fighters from the ranking list, Milos Anic, ranked as No.1 and Ramazan Cicek, ranked as No.3. That was also re match since Ramazan Cicek had defeated Milos Anic in final of World championships held last year in Gurauja, Brazil.

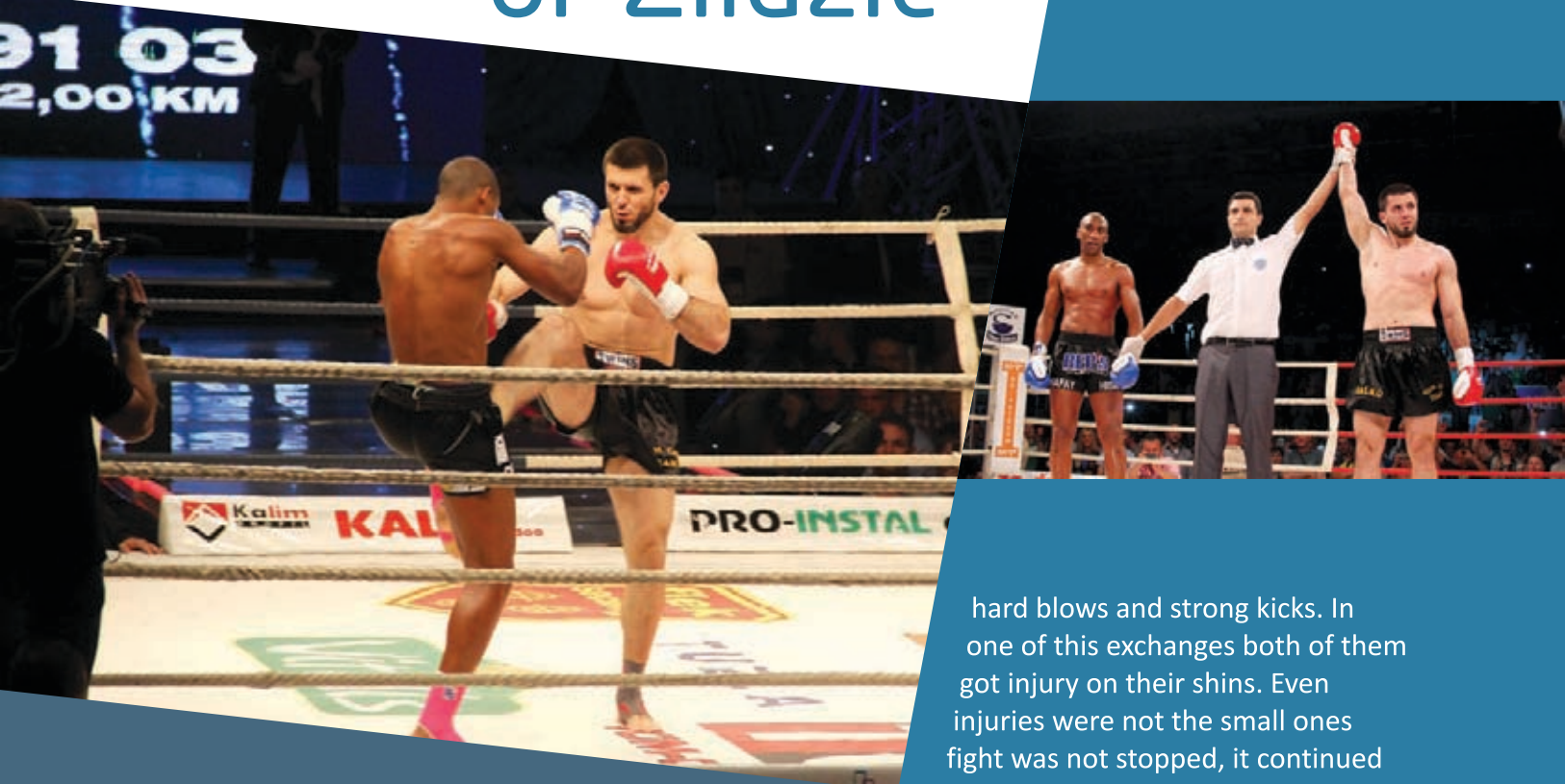
After five very hard rounds winner by split decision and new WAKO PRO World Champion became Milos Anic from Serbia. That was his last professional fight.



WAKO PRO EVENT

TUZLA,
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
MAY 24, 2014

LAST FIGHT of Zildzic



On May 24, 2014 city of Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted WAKO PRO event.

Main event of the night was prestige fight in low kick, under 86 kg, between Salko Zildzic from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Abderahim Chafay from France. This was at the same time last fight of former WAKO PRO World Champion and one of greatest WAKO PRO fighters ever Salko Zildzic. His opponent was WAKO PRO World Champion in low kick, under 85.00 kg, Abderahim Chafay, fighter who took away this title from Salko Zildzic winning by knock out in Tuzla two years ago.

Even it was not the title fight it deserved to be more than that. Both fighters started very aggressive from the opening round exchanging

hard blows and strong kicks. In one of this exchanges both of them got injury on their shins. Even injuries were not the small ones fight was not stopped, it continued in third round when Salko managed to, after couple of hard blows put Chafay down for first counting. After that Chafay has tried to come back attacking Salko with all weapons but that was not enough. Another strong punch came out of nowhere and that was the end for Champion that night.

Salko had his revenge and he went in history on best possible way. WAKO PRO has lost one of the best fighters ever but on the other hand got serious promoter since Salko Zildzic was at the same time promoter of the event. This will be new era for Salko and WAKO PRO in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE BOUT LOW KICK + 94.100 KG

ZENICA,
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
AUGUST 15, 2014



On August 15, 2014 a WAKO PRO World title bout in low kick, + 94 kg was promoted in Zenica, a small city of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Event was held in Zenica Arena, beautiful sport center in front of 3.000 spectators. Champion, Abderhmane Coulibaly from France, who is also actual amateur World Champion lost his title from Dzevad Poturak, very famous K1 fighter.

From the beginning of fight Champion tried to move and keep Poturak on distance. That was good tactic and Champion had all in his hands during first round. But in the second half of second round Poturak cut the distance and another punch came like a bomb to Champion's head. That was the end. Coulibaly was frozen in the air and he felt down on his back. Referee could only count him off and call for medical assistance...

Winner by K.O. in the second round and new WAKO PRO Champion in low kick, +94 kg is Dzevad Poturak from Bosnia and Herzegovina who was at the same time promoter of this event.

WAKO PRO WORTLD TITLE BOUT K1 RULES - 56.00 KG

ANTALYA,
TURKEY,
DECEMBER 06, 2013



During last successful WAKO World Championships held in Antalya (Turkey) on December 6th, 2013 a female WAKO PRO World title fight in K1 rules under 56.00 kg took place between Turkish title holder Seda Duygu Aygun and the Polish fighter Malgorzata Dymus, who finally won the World belt.

The WAKO PRO title bout was promoted by Mr. Nasser Nassiri, WAKO IF Vice President and President of WAKO Asia, in cooperation with Mr. Salim Kaiyci, President of Turkish Kickboxing Federation, newly elected WAKO Europe Vice President and WAKO IF Board member.

WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE BOUT K1 RULES - 56.400 KG

Deucelio Rodrigues, Brazil, is the new WAKO PRO world champion in K1 style Kg -56,400.

Guarapuava, Paraná, has lately hosted WAKO PRO World title bout in K1 rules, under 56.400 kg between Brazilian fighter Deucelio Roidrigues and the American Albert Tapia.

Deucelio, at 43 years old, showed great physical and technical preparation and a mental concentration above average, giving no chance to the dangerous fighter Tapia, representative of the strong Kick International WAKO USA, and winning by KO in the 3rd round.

The American came to Brazil accompanied by prof. Chip Post, representative of WAKO Pro in the USA. The Brazilian makes history as the first athlete in the Americas to win 4 world titles in different modalities and categories, an unforgettable personal achievement for sure.

This title bout was promoted by Mr. Pulo Zorello, WAKO PRO representative for Pan America.

GUARAPUAVA,
PARANA,
BRAZIL



WAKO PRO INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE BOUT LOW KICK - 94.100 KG

A WAKO PRO Intercontinental title bout in low kick under 94.100 kg was disputed on April 5th in Yaounde, Cameroun, during WAKO African Championships, between Abdullah Cem Akin from Turkey and Serge Patrice Tcounke from Cameroun.

Winner of the bout and new WAKO PRO Intercontinental Champion became Abdullah Cem Akin from Turkey.

This title bout was promoted by Mr. Emmanuel Essissima, President of Federation Camerounaise de Kick-Boxing & Disciplines Affinitaires, in cooperation with Mr. Nasser Nassiri, WAKO IF Vice President and WAKO Asia President.

YAOUNDE,
CAMEROUN,
APRIL 05, 2014



WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE BOUT LOW KICK - 54.00 KG

LIBREVILLE,
GABON,
JULY 26, 2014



Experienced Brazilian kickboxer Ivani Ferreira defeated Edou Pelagie, from Gabon, who was the previous title holder and became the first South American woman to win the title of WAKO PRO World Champion in low kick, under 54.00 kg, in history of kickboxing. The fight was held in Libreville, capital of Gabon, on July 26th during the Boudha Boxing Show and counted with the presence of many personalities from the local government and from the Brazilian consulate in Gabon.

WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE BOUT FULL CONTACT - 62.200 KG



MATERA,
ITALY,
JUNE 07, 2014

On June 7th in Matera (Italy) after 12 rounds the Italian fighter Giuseppe Di Cuia became new WAKO PRO World champion in full contact under 62.200 kg, winning by decision over Russian fighter Vasilii Zaitsev.

This title bout was promoted by Milano Donato, new elected president of Italian kickboxing federation.



WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE BOUT FULL CONTACT - 94.00 KG

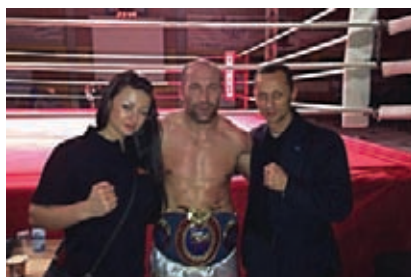
On March 29, beautiful city of Munster in Germany hosted WAKO PRO World title bout in full contact, under 94.100 kg.

Title holder Antonio Sousa from Portugal faced two times amateur World Champion Eugen Waigel from Germany.

This fight was promising to be a “clash of a titans” and it started on this way in first round, but in the beginning of second after heavy blow by Champion all dreams that Challenger had were “gone with the wind”. Referee in charge could only count Eugen Waigel of and declare Souse as winner by knock out in second round.

This title bout was promoted by Mr. Antonino Spatola in cooperation with Mr. Jurgen Schorn, WAKO PRO representative for Germany.

MUNSTER,
GERMANY,
MARCH 29, 2014



WAKO PRO WORLD TITLE BOUT K1 RULES - 66.800 KG

BISHKEK,
KYRGISZTAN,
JUNE 17, 2014

On 17 June 2014 city of Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan hosted WAKO PRO World title bout in K1 rules, 66.800 kg.

Emerson Falkao from Brazil, one of the best Brazilian fighter, lost by decision from Aleksey Fedoseev from Kyrgyzstan who became new WAKO PRO World Champion.

The event was organized and supervised by Mr. Nasser Nassiri, WAKO IF Vice President and President of WAKO ASIA together with Aleksandr Voinov, WAKO ASIA Executive and President of WAKO national Federation of Kyrgyzstan.



WAKO PRO EUROPEAN TITLE BOUT K1 RULES - 69.100 KG

LAS PALMAS, CANARIAS,
SPAIN,
JULY 26, 2014

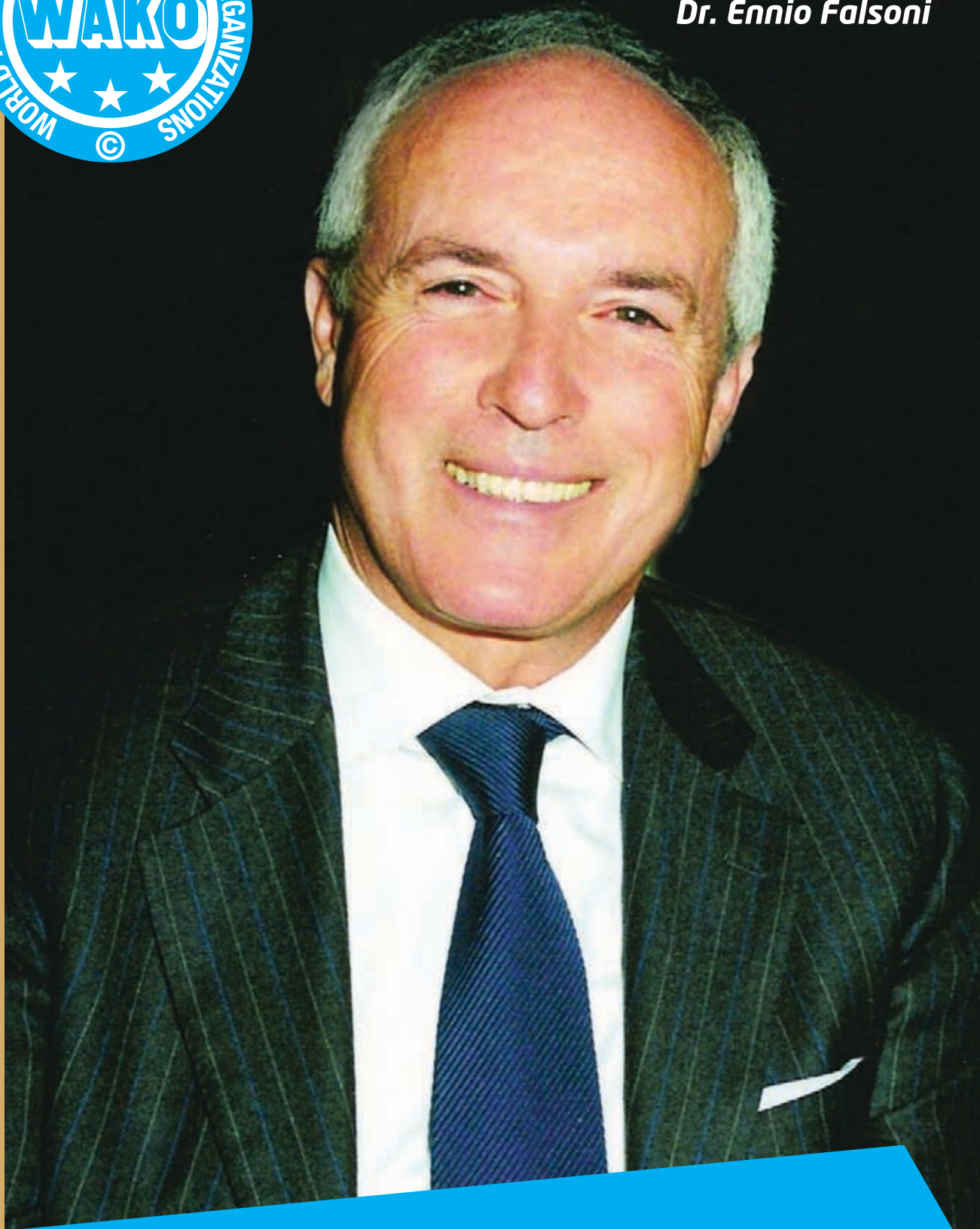


WAKO PRO European title bout in K1 style at Kg 69,100 was held in Las Palmas, Canarias (Spain) on July 26th, 2014 between DIEGO VAZQUEZ (SPA) and RAFA DEL TORO (SPA).

RAFAEL DEL TORO won by unanimous decision and became new WAKO PRO European Champion in K1 rules – 69.100 kg.



WAKO PRESIDENT
Dr. Ennio Falsoni



*Dear Ennio,
we are waiting for You*

Publisher:
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