



Highest honour for Belgian Judoka

Gella Vandecaveye, representing Belgium in World level judo competitions has been awarded the highest sports trophy in Belgium. This award is given only once in a sports career. The 26 year old Belgian female judoka was the 1999 European Champion in the -63 kg category and came second in the recent World Championships in Birmingham. She also took a Silver medal in the 1996 Olympic Judo Tournament in Atlanta. The European Judo Union awarded Miss Vandecaveye the title '1999 European Judoka of the Year'. Gella Vandecaveye recently made an amazing comeback from a serious accident which fractured a cervical vertebra. The high esteem in which judo is held in Belgium is also evident with Mr. Jean Marie Dedecker, the coach of the Belgian National Judo Team, being elected as a senator into the second Belgian chamber, a political body, which stands beside the parliament.

Claus Beissner

Gella Vandecaveye
Five times European
Champion



Judo, closer to the people...

The European Judo Union is preparing for the new millennium. During the Extraordinary Congress of the EJU in Birmingham, I had the opportunity to present the plans we are formulating to prepare the EJU for the future. Through Sports Director Jean Luc Rouge you heard about innovative proposals for new events which we were pleased to see adopted. I am sure you would agree that the Directing Committee is working on a vision which will greatly contribute to the overall development of Judo.

At the Extraordinary Congress I introduced you to the concept encapsulated by the motto '*Judo closer to the people*'. The idea behind this stems from the knowledge that the principles of our sport can contribute enormously to enhancing the social values of our society. I know that sport as a whole could lay claim to this idea but nevertheless Judo, with its strong philosophical background and its emphasis on etiquette and tradition alongside the enormous physical discipline, has perhaps even more opportunities to contribute than other sports.

In order to bring judo closer to the people it will be necessary for additional structures to be added to our organisation so that we can fulfil the specific requirements which support this aim.

To achieve this my proposal is to divide Europe into 4 regions and to appoint people in each region who will be the intermediaries between the Sport Directors of the EJU and the activities which need to be organised in order to develop Judo in their regions.

In this way the Directing Committee will be closer to each region and will be working with the direct cooperation of the appointed people who come from that region.

The range of people appointed in each region will be: one to deal with refereeing matters, one for educational matters, and one to be Sports Director.

They will be in direct contact with the Sport Directors of the Directing Committee.

By developing this system the EJU Directing Committee will be in closer contact with their appointed regional representatives and in turn these representatives will be more easily and directly approachable to the members of their region.



Thirty years is too long to wait for progress...

With this as the basis, the Directing Committee will develop and refine this system and will aim to set the wheels in motion late in the year 2000.

I followed our Extraordinary Congress with attendance at the 2 day IJF Congress where it is customary for all Continental Presidents to give a presentation. I took the opportunity to clarify the role of European Judo on the world stage and established that we are a leading player in the progress and development of our sport. Taking coloured judo suits as an example, I indicated the need for progress to be welcomed. Thirty years for such an innovation to be accepted is too long. Following the Congress I was pleased to receive many favourable comments on our presentation, which was considered to be one of the highlights of the event.

I join you all in looking forward to an exiting year filled with continued progress for judo, both on and off the mat, in the year 2000 and I wish everybody health, happiness and love for the new millennium.

Frans Hoogendijk



Bob Willingham,
EJU Newsletter Editor
3rd Dan, Official IJF
Photographer &
Media Assistant

I am pleased to have the opportunity to take on the responsibilities of editor for the European Judo Union newsletter. Having worked closely in the past with Mr Robbert van der Geest, I have seen the newsletter develop. Coupled with my own experience as editor of *The World of Judo* magazine

(www.twj.org) I am confident that I will be able to maintain the standard of quality and interest that he has achieved.

With the rapidly developing communication networks across the entire world of judo, I feel this newsletter is an important link in the chain and gives European Judo a chance to build its sense of unity.

In order to cover the spectrum of European Judo it is important that all member nations should keep me informed of judo news and developments in their country. I will be delighted to meet you at the various events that I attend (*you'll see me matside with my camera*) and in between times don't hesitate to send emails and faxes keeping me up to date. ●

European judo news

Editor: Bob Willingham, La Guerite, Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5QT England. Tel 0044 117 9226270; Fax 0044 117 922 5179; e-mail bob@twj.org
Contributors: Barnaby Chesterman, Tel 0044 162 4676; e-mail barnaby@twj.org
Simon Hicks, Tel 0044 181 874 3314; e-mail simon@fightingfilms.com
Design: Cole Design Associates, Tel 0044 117 923 9118; Fax 0044 117 923 9120; e-mail designers@cole-design.co.uk

BILLY CUSACK: BRITAIN'S TOP COACH

Billy Cusack, who helped Graeme Randall to take the -81kg World title in Birmingham this year, was named UK Coach of the Year at a high profile lunch at the Cafe Royal in London on December 9th, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. In an interview on the occasion he indicated that his best chance of attending the Olympics next September was to work abroad: "I've had a couple of offers from other nations but I'm only interested in working for Britain." he said. "Unfortunately, I don't work for the British Judo Association so I may not even get a coaches' pass for Sydney." Cusack, 33, a Scot who represented Britain at -71kg at the 1992 Barcelona Games, was also inducted into the National Coaching Hall of Fame along with fellow Mussabini Medal recipient Steve Pullen who has been long-time coach to the British Partially Sighted Judo team. The National Coaching Foundation in Britain award the Mussabini Medal (named after the sprinters coach made famous by the film "Chariots of Fire") for outstanding success at world class level. ●

IJF Honorary Silver Award for Franco Seini

In acknowledgement of his major contribution to the development of judo and quality of administration at world cup level, Franco Seini was presented last June with the IJF Silver

Award, (pictured right). The emotional high point of the occasion was the reading of the message from Mr YS Park, president of the IJF, by Mr Frans Hoogendijk EJU President. Mr Park referred to Mr Seini as a "A tireless promoter and coordinator of many initiatives and a reference point for Judo. Still able to maintain his lively spirit, he has made this tournament now one of the elite International events". This year's event - two days of intense fighting between old adversaries and new fighters looking for success - brought together 82 teams with 300 athletes representing 5 continents and left the Cuban team reigning triumphant. ●



Photo: Gianluigi Pignatelli/FILP-JK

Europa Club Cup Rule Changes

With effect from the start of the new session of the Europa Club Cup Championships, a series of rule changes will be implemented. It will be compulsory for the teams to compete in either Blue or White Judogi. Players will no longer have to be signed up with a club for one year before being able to compete for that club.

A Ranking system based on the Europa club results over the last 3 years will be used to ensure a fair seeding system for the knockout table. ●

Awazu receives Legion of Honour

Shozo Awazu (right), who was one of the pioneers of judo in France, has been awarded the Legion of Honour (one of France's highest honours) for his achievement in promoting the sport over many years. The 76 year old judo

instructor who lives in Paris, was named Chevalier - the fifth highest title - in a ceremony at Paris City Hall on June 8th 1999. The Legion d'Honneur was founded in 1802 by Napoleon 1st to reward national achievement. ●



Silver lining for Frenchman

PARIS, Nov 17th: The Court of Sports Arbitration Tribunal restored a Silver medal won in the 1997 World Judo

Championships to France's Djamel Bouras, who had been stripped of the medal by the International Judo Federation for failing a dope test.

Bouras tested positive in October 1997 for the drug Nandrolone in a spot-test eight days before winning the medal.

The legal reasons for the judgment are not yet known. However, early indications are that the Court considers that only a failed control (drug test) made formally in competition can result in the disqualification of the athlete. The decision of the C.A.S. is definitive, and the IJF will conform strictly with this decision. For the future the IJF is determined to maintain full participation in the fight against doping and to provide complete support of the I.O.C in this fight.

The IJF will continue to make propositions for a better adaptation of sports rules ensuring at the same time the rights of a proper defence, to protect the athletes against the plague of doping and to assure sports equity. ●

Olympic Referees

The refereeing committee has selected its seven referees for the Olympic Games at the Junior European Championship in Rome. The European allocation of referees is one quarter of the total referees at the Olympics. We have seven, Asia have six, Pan-America have six, Africa have three and Oceania have two.

The decision was made by a democratic majority vote by the members of the refereeing commission and we selected our seven representatives. They have been submitted to the Directing Committee and we are very pleased to have seven excellent referees to represent Europe at the Olympic Games.

The seven referees are: Nalis (FRA), Tardos (HUN), Bode (GER), Hausler (AUT), Chyurlia (ITA), Elisalde (ESP) and Hrast (CRO). The Reserves are: Motryzc (POL) and Trofimov (RUS).

Observers for A Tournaments

The year 2000 is a heavy year for the EJU Directing Committee with the Sydney Olympic qualifications. In an attempt to eliminate any misunderstandings or errors in qualification via the European qualification system of selected "A" Tournaments, a team of Observers has been appointed.

This group will draw on their vast experience as past referees and have the task of providing objective reports on the tournaments for the EJU directing committee to examine.

The team members are: Graham Turner (GBR), Kaj Lindsburgh (FIN), Freddy Kiburz (SUI) and Pepe Rosas (ESP). ●

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

ITALY'S FINEST TRADITION

We talked to Franco Cappelatti about his role in the European Junior Championships

Tell the readers about how Italy came to stage the European Junior Championships because originally it was set to be staged in Yugoslavia, was it not?

As everybody knows Yugoslavia could no longer organise the championships due to the political turmoil that began earlier this year. There was, therefore, an opportunity for another country to take over the organisation. Frans (Hoogendijk) was speaking to me and he asked if Italy was in a position to host the championships. Of course we were, so we were happy to take over at short notice.

How long did you have to organise the championships?

It was not decided until the Congress in England. We knew we had the necessary facilities though. This centre in Rome was built specifically for judo. It is the perfect host hall because it is the ideal size. That is, it is not too big. Normally the European championships are held in big halls and the atmosphere gets lost in the vast spaces. This stadium is the right size, but it is also ideal in many other ways. It has accommodation attached to it and there are several other hotels in the near vicinity. It is only around 15 minutes from an international airport.

Rome is a central city which means that it is usually possible to arrive with just a single flight. This greatly reduces the travelling costs for federations and also the time spent travelling as they will not have to change flights three times. There is a metro station just around the corner making access very easy, so basically all in all the stadium has been very well designed for these purposes. So, obviously, if anybody was in a position to hold a tournament in a short space of time it was Italy!

I would just like to also support what you were saying at the seminar in Birmingham about it being no use to search for huge stadiums. The size of the crowds do not warrant big stadiums as the public will never fill them. It is better to find a smaller stadium such as the one in Rome as it will be packed for the competition.

Why do you think the organising committees continue to host events in huge stadiums when it is so obvious that

the Italian federation have such a perfect stadium here?

This, unfortunately, is politics. But this is the direction which the directing committee is taking to organise an administration board that takes into consideration the facilities of host stadiums and also the advantages and disadvantages of travel to arrive at that place. But they must also take into account the costs because the costs are very important factors.

What problems did you encounter at such short notice?

There were not really any big problems because we already had the experience of hosting the World Junior championships and every year we organise the 'A' tournament of Rome. So, in all fairness, we were experienced in organising these events and there were no major problems. There were some small problems but these were not Italian, they were because Europe is still in groups. We need to join these groups. For instance England, France, Holland and Germany all have a great tradition; Spain and Italy are gaining a great tradition but it is necessary for these growing countries, even ISEC countries to gain experience so that it becomes easier to communicate.

In what area is this experience needed?

For example, there were some problems communicating with the people who have the sponsorship contract to advertise during the championship. Some information arrived late and the decision that there would be no sponsored advertising came in late so the Italian federation lost a great opportunity to try to recover some expenses. We could have sold the advertising but did not. Of course the Italian federation did not leave any stone unturned to achieve the standard necessary. For instance the back numbers are normally supplied by our main sponsor Bako but we were only informed last week that they would not make the judo suit back numbers. Therefore these had to be made at an extra expense to Italian federation.

Why did they say they could not make the back numbers for the suits?

Because there was no television coverage so they were not interested in advertising. The advertising



is sold to an agent and this agent can then re-sell it. When the agent resells it, it is up to the advertisers as to whether they will actually use it. Generally Junior European championships are not covered by television and again this was the case. It was not covered but as we did in Slovenia we gave them this opportunity to make up some expense with this advertising. It was not used but in Slovenia there were no great problems.

Why are no other competitions held here? Surely this centre should be pushed, or does take too much organisation?

I am not of the opinion that there should be a lot of pressure to organise a lot of things in the same place. Everyone should take a share of the responsibility for organising tournaments.

But you have the premier set-up?

There are many other events that take place here. The hall is also used by wrestling, weight lifting and karate federations. There are a lot of championships held here on a national basis, the centre's primary function is to serve the national needs but it can also be offered for international needs. Since its conception this centre has been used for the EJU seminar because it is perfect for all sorts of events. There is also the bus station and train station around the corner so it is easy to get to. We have held this seminar here for three years because it is very convenient, only next year we are going to move it to Malta.

And there is also the beach!

But of course! ●



Slovenian winning team: Marjan Fabian and Urska Zolnir (right).

Slovenian Gold Medallist...

"My name is Urska Zolnir, I am Slovenian and I have just won my second Junior European Gold medal. I fight at -63kg and I was also the champion in 1997. The first time felt a lot better because I did not know what to expect, whereas this time I had already experienced the winning feeling.

In spite of my success and the success of the Slovenian team, the national coach Marjan Fabian is not completely satisfied. He is happy but it is not enough for him. We work very hard and he feels that we can win more than just two medals, one gold and one bronze. It is very good for a small country like Slovenia but it is not enough for him because of his work ethic.

We only have 30 clubs and about 1300 judoka in Slovenia. There are two big centres for women, in Ljubljana and Celje that operate specifically for women. My club, Celje, was represented at the European Junior championship by four girls and we won 2 medals and a 5th place which is an excellent result.

There is not a lot of money in Slovenia, especially for Judo. We get just 40,000DM from the sports council and 70% of this goes to the national federation with just 30% going to the clubs. This means we do not have a lot of money for travel and accommodation at tournaments. In fact a lot of the time when we travel we sleep in sleeping bags and have to make do with sandwiches or hamburgers to keep us going. It can be quite tough for us."

interview/Bob Willingham report/Barnaby Chesterman

Small countries take gold at the European Championships

Sasa Safranic – Croatian Gold medallist

As Croatia's first ever medallist can you introduce yourself to our readers.

My name is Sasa Safranic this is the first success I have had at this level but it is more important than just my personal success as it is the first medal Croatia has won. Now I will have the chance to fight in "A" tournaments and attempt to qualify for Sydney.

How old are you?

I am 19 years old so this is my last year in the juniors. Next year I will be a senior and I will be competing in "A" tournaments. I do not think I have a great chance of success but I will go to six "A" tournaments which I think will help my judo. I will gain a lot of experience and, although Sydney 2000 may come a bit early for me, I think it will stand me in good stead for Athens in 2004.

Croatia winning team: (left to right) Dragomir Tavra, Marijan Novak and Sasa Safranic

Why has Croatian judo improved so dramatically?

I have practised judo for 13 years and now I train full-time for 8-10 hours per day with my own coach, Marijan Novak. This year he turned professional as the Croatian national coach and I believe in and trust him. I think what he is doing with me is very good and now you can see the results. It is great to have him as the Croatian national coach. He has been in judo for 36 years and is the most important person in Croatia for judo. He is a judo man through and through and he

loves the sport. He is especially a fan of Japanese judo and I at some point hopefully will go to Japan. He dedicates his whole life to me and the other national players, he is a great coach.

How is the judo funded?

Our club pays our coach but not very much because we do not have a lot of money to pay coaches. He gets money and he spends it on me and my club; he has nothing but the club.

Where does the club get its money from?

The president of our club is



Mr Josip Lucic who is a General and is president of the Croatian Judo federation; he is a very important person in Croatia. He is the sponsor for the club and for our country's judo.

Dragomir Tavra – Croatian selector

"My name is Dragomir Tavra; I am the Croatian national judo team selector and before that I was the national coach for five years. Croatia is a small country; we only have 32 judo clubs and 600 judokas. We have good organisation but unfortunately we have no money. This competition has been a great experience for us as we have won our first ever medal.

We can only afford to attend two or three training camps a year but that is not enough to get better results. These championships have been a huge success for us. After this result I think that the Olympic committee will give us more money to prepare our talented judokas, although they still will not have the opportunity to grow up with successful piers to look up to." ●



Photos: Simon Hicks

EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Coming less than two weeks after the end of the World Championships in Birmingham, The European Team Championships were always going to be lacking a lot of the major European judoka. However it also offered nations an opportunity to field their reserves for the Worlds or those who might have been eliminated in the early rounds. In the event only eight nations entered and it was disappointing that two of the traditionally strong nations in this event, Germany and France, did not field a team in either the men's or the women's competition.

Nevertheless the Judo was still exciting. It is only team competition that can generate this particular kind of excitement, as the matches sway backwards and forwards and teams get 'on a roll'. In the Women's event the Belgians fielded their number 1 side. If Ulla Werbrouck and Gella Vandecaveye had been disappointed with their unexpected, and in Vandecaveye's case controversial, losses in the finals of the World Championships, there was some consolation here. The team looked a class above the rest of the field and swept to victory with a series of convincing wins including the final match where they overcame a strong Spanish side which was anchored by their World Silver medallist Isabel Fernandez. The eventual score was 6-1. Russia and Italy picked up the bronze medals.

In the men's competition the sides were more evenly matched and there were some very close contests. Some nations fielded their first teams, including Italy and hosts Turkey, whilst others, like Britain and Russia had brought teams that included only some of those fighters that had competed in Birmingham. The defending champions, from the Netherlands did not include any of the Kenamju fighters that had taken medals in the Worlds, and they lost 5-2 in the semi-final to a British side that had narrowly defeated the Italians 4-3 in the first round. Unlike most of the other nations Russia had brought a very large squad of fighters to the event and this paid off for them as they defeated Turkey en route to the final against Britain. Interestingly the young World Bronze medallist at -100 kgs Alexandre Mikhailine was here fighting at the weight at which he won the Junior World

Istanbul, Turkey,
23- 24 October 1999

Championships, +100 kgs, and looks a huge prospect for the future. The tense final began closely, Johnson taking the lead for Britain, Djafarov levelling for Russia, who also took the next contest, defeating Bonti. Kingston then defeated Kroutogulov to bring the match level at 2-2. But from here on it was all Russia who won all three matches to win 5-2. The bronze medals were taken by Italy and the Netherlands who defeated Turkey. The Turks were magnificent hosts for the event, even producing table top belly dancers at the farewell dinner! Turkish TV provided the pictures that were shown as highlights later in the week on Eurosport, and Istanbul proved itself a worthy venue for future championships. If there was any problem it was simply that the venue was too large for an event of this scale and the spectators that did support the event were lost in the vastness of the auditorium. Future hosts for this event (Belgium 2000 and Britain 2001) should be looking to stage it in a much smaller hall, where the exciting atmosphere of team events can be best exploited. Only then can the future of this event be judged, whether it should continue as a separate tournament or whether it should revert to the old format where the team event is the climax of the week at the end of the Senior Individual Championships.

Simon Hicks

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1999 HYUNDAI WORLD JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

BIRMINGHAM, GBR – 7-10 OCTOBER, 1999

The world's premier judo tournament continues to gain strength and the **1999 Hyundai World Judo Championships** demonstrated the progress that has been made in the presentation of our sport. The excellent National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, GBR, provided a magnificent setting. There was a tremendous amount of media attention with unprecedented national press and TV coverage.

The event was completely sold out for the Saturday and Sunday sessions and an extended visit by Her Majesty's Minister for Sport was a statement of the support of the British Government.

The event was heralded by a spectacular laser display and a stirring performance by the band of the Royal Marines accompanied the parade of the flags of participating nations to a wonderful reception from the capacity crowds of spectators. The standard of the contests was excellent. The Refereeing Director of the IJF, Jim Kojima, commented that *"The Tournament was a great success and it was one of the best Worlds or Olympics I have seen."*

The competition was extraordinary with the competitors trying to win by Ippon and show the world how interesting and dynamic Judo can be". This sentiment was echoed by EJU President, Frans Hoogendijk, and EJU Secretary General, Francois Pacquee, who agreed *"We believe that the championships were a great success and a great promotion for the judo"*.

There is no doubt that it would be impossible to run an event of this scale

without the dedication of the many volunteers who complemented the staff of the home federation. The British Judo Association is justifiably proud of the professionalism and high standards of everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

Lesley-Anne Alexander, Chairman BJA



Graeme Randall on his way to the –81kg title



Benboudaoud (FRA) throws for Ippon against Ozkan (TUR) to take the –66Kg title



EUROPE SLIPS UP AT THE WORLDS

For the first time at a World Championships Europe slipped into third place behind the Continental Unions of Asia and Pan-America, due to outstanding performances by the athletes of Japan and Cuba, who captured 8 and 4 gold medals respectively. Of the 16 World titles on offer Asia took 8, Pan America 5 and Europe the other 3. But the underlying strength of European Judo is indicated by the actual number of medals taken: Europe emerged with 32 (half of the medals), Asia took 21 and Pan America the other 11.

The last World Championships of the Millennium was superbly staged by the British Judo Association at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, Great Britain. As in France two years ago the event was a sell-out, with a few spectators having to be turned away at the weekend. Combined with focussed lighting for the finals, the packed auditorium created a gladiatorial atmosphere, which in turn inspired some truly fantastic Judo.

The Japanese produced their best performance for years with Shinichi Shinohara showing that he could do in Europe what David Douillet had achieved in Japan four years ago: winning both the +100 Kgs category and the Open. Not only that, but he scored Ippon in every fight, and earned himself the Ippon Trophy and the male Judoka of the Year award at the end of the tournament. Ryoko Tamura equalled Karen Briggs' record of four victories in the –48 kgs and became the female Judoka of the year and Hidehiko Yoshida was quite masterful in capturing the –90 Kgs title with a great display of classical technique. But it was the young –100Kgs fighter Kosei Inoue who really set the seal on Japan's victory: his final against Sung-ho Jang of Korea, proving to be one of the most enthralling fights of the competition. Cuba had a stunning tournament, highlighted by the surprise victory of super lightweight Manuolo Poulot over the diminutive Japanese fighter Kazuhiko Tokuno. His brilliant driving Taiotoshi Ippon to take the title was one of the throws of the tournament. The United States also produced a great champion. Jimmy Pedro finally fulfilled the promise he has threatened for years and defeated Russia's Vitali Makarov in an exciting –73 Kgs final. But a special mention here should be made of Georgia's powerhouse fighter Georgi Revazhivili. Two years ago in Paris he was

the silver medallist in the –60 Kgs. This time he was fighting two weights up at –73 Kgs and apart from a very narrow loss to Pedro, he blitzed every fighter he came up against for Ippon with his incredible pick-ups, including World and Olympic champion Kenzo Nakamura, to earn himself the Bronze medal.

For Europe the highlights were three gold medal performances. Poland's Beata Maksymow flattened everyone for Ippon to take her second World title in the women's heavyweights, pinning China's Hua Yuan in the final. France's Larbi Benboudaoud produced the victory that he has looked likely to achieve for the last couple of years in the –66 Kgs. Though he struggled along the way against Mongolia's Purevdor Nyamikhagva, he looked every inch the champion, winning the only all European final of the tournament against the dynamic Chechen turned Turk Huseyin Ozkan with an O-uchi-gari for Waza-ari.

But for the delighted home crowd, the European performance of the championships was undoubtedly that of Britain's Graeme Randall who surged to victory in the –81 Kgs. Roared on by the home crowd he took all his opponents to pieces with a wide range of throws and holds, pinning Austria's Patrick Reiter, smashing Ruslan Seyilhanov of Kazakhstan with a massive Te guruma and holding Portugal's European Champion Nuno Delgado on his way to the final. In one of the most spectacular finals of the tournament he threw Uzbekistan's Farkhod Turaev for Waza-ari before pinning him to win the title.

Birmingham and the BJA proved to be excellent hosts for the Championships which move, in two year's time, to Munich in Germany before returning to Japan in 2003.

Simon Hicks



Maksymow (POL) throws Yuan (CHN) before holding her down to take the +78Kg title

2002 EJU CONGRESS

In a move to save money and increase efficiency, from 2002 onwards the EJU congress will commence in the week immediately before the European Senior Championships. It is anticipated that this will help increase the number of member federations who are able to attend. The venue for the combined Congress and Championships for 2002 will be Maribor in Slovenia.

EJU CONGRESS VENUES

- 2000** 7th–8th April
Basel, Switzerland
- 2001** 13th–14th April
Spain
- 2002** 13th–14th May
Slovenia
- 2003** 9th–10th May
Greece

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP VENUES FROM 2000

- 2000** ● Senior European Individual Championships, Poland
● European Team Championships, Belgium
- 2001** ● Senior European Individual Championships, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
● European Team Championships, Manchester or London, GB
- 2002** ● Senior European Individual Championships, Maribor, Slovenia
● European Team Championships, TBA

See overleaf for European A-Tournament dates in 2000.

New Youth Tournament

EJU introduce new event to promote competition.
We asked Jean-Luc Rouge why.

What developments have resulted from the EJU Congress?

First of all we examined the different events to determine how we need to progress. I had some discussions with various trainers during the open judo camps in the summer and we agreed we need to have special events for the young seniors. If they go straight into the A tournaments they are immediately knocked out and they have to travel a long way, sometimes for nothing. We need more experience for the young people and they need to find their level amongst other fighters of a similar age.

We decided to organise special tournaments for fighters under 23 years old. Firstly we are going to organise three tournaments in three different countries that do not already host 'A' tournaments, then very quickly we need to construct a ranking list. We are not looking to create an under 23 European championship but we do want to organise more tournaments to then compile under 23 rankings rather than have a champion like the juniors or the seniors. The main benefit, though, is that it will provide another stepping stone for these fighters to help them gain the best possible preparation for the big tournaments, the Olympic Games and the World Championships. It will become the next step after junior competitions and it will of course be open to both men and women.

Do you think this will help the French juniors who do not usually get good results?

I am not in charge of that anymore, but when I was we did not want to push the juniors too hard because the result is not very important. The risk of injuries is great and this can affect the mental preparation of fighters. I would, therefore, prefer to go slowly to get better long-term results. This, I suppose, is the French point of view.

Where will you hold the under 23 tournaments?

Countries without 'A' tournaments will be given priority for the under 23 tournaments. As I have said we are looking to begin by holding three per year but at the moment only Portugal and Belgium have expressed interest in staging these. As there has been no interest from any other countries the third one will be staged in France. When another interested country emerges then they will take precedence over France as they already have an 'A' tournament.

How often will these tournaments happen?

There will be one in January, one in May and one in December. This will allow the fighters to also participate in senior tournaments and 'A' championships. They will be like a Super Junior 'A' tournament. They will start next year, probably not in January as that is too soon, but maybe in May, if not definitely in December as both Belgium and Portugal have already stated they wish to stage their tournament in December.



Jean-Luc Rouge

Is this the European Youth Cup that was discussed at the last congress?

No, the European Youth Cup is for the under 18s. It will be held every two years and on alternate years to the Youth Olympics which are also held every two years. This will give the under 18 fighters a big European tournament every year. This was also discussed in the previous congress but no-one has mentioned it yet.

So when will the Youth Cup be held?

The first one will take place next year in July as this is during the holidays. It will be held in a small town in Romania near the Hungarian border. With the Youth Cup, though, the hosts will also be obliged to hold a training camp.

interview/Bob Willingham report/Barnaby Chesterman

EJU CALENDAR 2000

JAN	7th-8th Jan	Directing Committee meeting	Antwerp, Belgium
	16th Jan	B-Tournament	Monaco
	13th-19th Jan	Men's and Women's Training Camp	Mittersill, Austria
	22nd-23rd Jan	A-Tournament	Moscow, Russia
FEB	5th Feb	Audit meeting	Antwerp, Belgium
	5th-6th Feb	A-Tournament	Sofia, Bulgaria
	12th-13th Feb	A-Tournament	Paris, France
	14th-18th Feb	Men's and Women's Training Camp	Paris, France
	19th-20th Feb	A-tournament	Leonding, Austria
	26th-27th Feb	A-Tournament	Munich, Germany
MAR	4th-5th Mar	A-Tournament	Budapest, Hungary
	11th-12th Mar	A-Tournament	Prague, Czech Rep.
	11th Mar	B.D.P.	Antwerp, Belgium
	18th-19th Mar	A-Tournament	Warsaw, Poland
	25th-26th Mar	A-Tournament	Rome, Italy
APR	31st Mar-2nd Apr	A-Tournament	Rotterdam, Holland
	7th-8th Apr	EJU Congress	Basel, Switzerland
	22nd Apr	Europa Club Cup 1st & extra rounds	
	22nd-23rd Apr	Junior A-Tournament	Clermon-Ferrand, France
MAY	6th-7th May	Junior A-Tournament	Portugal
	17th May	Directing Committee meeting	Wroclaw, Poland
	18th-21st May	Senior European Championships	Wroclaw, Poland
	27th May	Europa Club Cup 2nd round	
JUN	7th-9th Jun	Prep. Ref. Seminar	Israel
	8th-10th Jun	Ref. Seminar	Israel
	10th Jun	B.D.P.	Antwerp, Belgium
	17th Jun	Europa Club Cup 3rd round - home match	
	17th-18th Jun	Junior A-Tournament	Gothenburg, Sweden
	24th Jun	Europa Club Cup 3rd round - away match	
JUL	3rd Jul	EJU Training camp	Castel del Fes, Spain
	17th-27th Jul	Men's Training camp	Aix-en-Provence, France
	22nd-23rd Jul	-17 European Championships	Oradea, Romania
	23rd-31st Jul	Women's Training camp	Boulouris, France
	27th-30th Jul	Youth Seminar	Malta
AUG	30th Jul-4th Aug	EJU Training camp	Papendal, Holland
	5th-6th Aug	A-Tournament	Minsk, Belarus
	7th-11th Aug	EJU Training camp	Hoogdele, Belgium
	12th-13th Aug	B-Tournament	Bonn, Germany
	12th-13th Aug	B-Tournament	Vilnius, Lithuania
	18th-19th Aug	Directing Committee meeting	Antwerp, Belgium
	19th-20th Aug	Junior A-Tournament	Hungary
	26th-27th Aug	Junior A-Tournament	Poland
SEP	9th-10th Sept	Junior A-Tournament	Czech Republic
		B-Tournament	Belgrade, Yugoslavia
	16th-17th Sept	Junior A-Tournament	Germany
	15th Sept-1st Oct	Olympic Games	Sydney, Australia
OCT	14th Oct	Europa Club Cup Semi-final and Final	
	26th-29th Oct	Junior World Championships	Tunis, Tunisia
	28th Oct	ECC Women	
	28th-29th Oct	Junior A-Tournament	Herentals, Belgium
	28th-29th Oct	A-Tournament	Tbilisi, Georgia
NOV	4th-5th Nov	Junior A-Tournament	Athens, Greece
	18th-19th Nov	European Team Championships	Belgium
DEC	8th-10th Dec	Junior European Championships	Cyprus
	14th-17th Dec	World University Championships	Malaga, Spain

EJU DIRECTING COMMITTEE

EJU Secretariat

M.Denise BAETEN
M.Nicole DEGRYSE
Generaal Thijsstraat, 12
B-1050 BRUSSELS
Tel: (32)2/ 648 73 66
Fax: (32)2/ 649 06 75
E-mail: eju@skynet.be

President

M.Frans HOOGENDIJK
Rode Kruislaan, 2
NL-3135 WC VLAARDINGEN
Tel: (31)10/434 13 99 (off)
Tel: (31)10/470 09 07 (priv)
Fax: (31)10/460 30 44

1st Vice-President

M.Willi HOFKEN
Kniestraße, 7
D-45772 MARL
Tel: (49)2365 488 00 (priv)
Fax: (49)2365 94 01 05 (priv)
Fax: (49)203 7381 409 (off)

2nd Vice-President

M.Gennadi KALETKINE
Russian Judo Federation
Louzhnetskaja nab, 8
RUS-119871 MOSCOW
Tel: (7)095 725 46 85
Fax: (7)095 725 46 85

3rd Vice-President

M.Envic GALEA
*Sakura3 Italian Mission Street
MALTA - KALKARA
Tel: (356)31 99 44 (off)
Fax: (356)31 88 53 (off)
Tel: (356)69 03 69 (priv)

4th Vice-President

M.Gerard BENONE
Immobilien an der Rheinlehne
CH-4133 SCHWEIZERHALLE
Tel: (41)61 82 10 201
Fax: (41)61 82 10 325

Secretary-General

M.François PACQUEE
Eekhoornlaan, 14
B-2980 ZOERSEL
Tel: (32)33 12 22 68 (priv)
Tel: (32)52 44 90 16 (off)
Fax: (32)33 09 19 18 (priv)
Fax: (32)52 44 97 20 (off)

2nd Secretary-General

M.Mieczyslaw BIGOSZEWSKI
Koscieliska street, 8
POL-03-614 WARSAW
Tel: (48)22 679 73 73 (priv)
Tel: (48)22 621 27 57 (off)
Fax: (48)22 679 73 73 (priv)
Fax: (48)22 629 88 82 (off)

General Treasurer

M.Christos ROUSKAS
Pollia, 4-6
GRE-11141 ATHENS
Tel: (30)1/22 88 168 (priv)
Fax: (30)1/22 88 168 (priv)
Tel: (30)1/51 32 267 (off)
Fax: (30)1/51 40 715 (off)

2nd General Treasurer

M.Gintautas VILEITA
Rinkines street, 3 / 11
LTH-2005 VILNIUS
Tel: (370)2 72 71 68
Fax: (370)2 72 71 68

Sports Directors

M.Jean-Luc ROUGE
c/o F.F.J.D.A.
Rue des Plantes, 43
75680 PARIS CEDEX 14
Tel: (33)1 40 52 16 04 (off)
Fax: (33)1 40 52 16 10

M.Franco CAPELLETTI

Via Milano, 13
25086 REZZATTO
Tel: (39)030 25 92 201
Fax: (39)030 25 90 522

M.George KERR

Hillside Crescent, 2
EDINBURGH EH7 5DY
Tel: (44)131 556 00 51
Fax: (44)131 557 01 85

Referee Sports Director

M.Juan Carlos BARCOS NAGORE
Fuente del Hierro 2
E-31007 PAMPLONA
Tel: (34)948 24 66 95 (priv)
Tel: (34)948 25 63 50 (off)
Fax: (34)948 17 23 31