

IBSA European Judo Championships Report

Debrecen (Hungary)

3rd – 5th July 2009

An exceptional 11th IBSA European Judo Championships has just drawn to a close in Debrecen, Hungary. The Hungarian Federation and the Organizing Committee, under the Presidency of Mr Janos Tardos, left nothing to chance in order to ensure the success of the championships. Indeed, several different events took place simultaneously :

IBSA Judo European Championships 2009

Seventeen nations attended this event, which was the opening event of the new Paralympiad leading up to London 2012. IBSA's new Sports Director, Mr Radu Rosenthal, was able to fully appreciate the excellent organization of the event and the very high level of judo demonstrated by the IBSA athletes. We also had a visit from Ms Lisa Allen, competition manager for the 2012 London Paralympic Games, who attended so as to establish initial contact with the IBSA team involved in organising the competition along with the Hungarian national technical staff.

In the individual competitions, Russia took first place in the women's event and Azerbaijan in the men's. In the overall medal table, Russia came first followed by Azerbaijan, with Germany in third place and Hungary fourth.

In the team competitions, the results were:

Women's event

- 1 Russia
- 2 France
- 3 Spain

Men's event

- 1 Azerbaijan
- 2 Russia
- 3 France and Ukraine

International Youth Tournament

For the first time ever, an international youth tournament was held at the same time as the IBSA European Championships. The presence of our young athletes is part of IBSA Judo's development programme. The event was a success, because over and above the European nations which took part, China, Chinese Taipei and Japan attended and won several medals at the event. The young athletes were able to appreciate the level of their elders and thus providing them with motivation to continue their training so as to reach the same level, if not surpass them!

Post-championship training session

A three-day training session followed the championships. Five nations stayed on to attend this session (Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Japan, Sweden). Around 40 judokas (mostly young athletes) on the tatamis were able to work on their technique and exchange information with the many coaches present. This type of session also gives nations an opportunity to meet up and exchange on their various working methods. Such sessions are therefore most beneficial to IBSA in general.

Video Production

Under the direction of Mr Anthony Misse, a blind judoka, a production team completed a video film on the European Championship so as to promote IBSA Judo. This video will be offered to several TV channels and other structures likely to show it so as to promote IBSA Judo.

Fair Play Prize

For the first time at an IBSA competition, a prize for Fair Play was attributed on top of the traditional medals. Three magnificent bronze sculptures on a marble base were thus presented to the athletes (one for men's seniors, one for women's seniors and one for the young athletes) on the initiative of the Hungarian Lion's Club and its President, Mr Pàzmányi György. This type of initiative will be continued over a period of three years at each official IBSA Judo competition in relation with the Lion's Club of the organizing nation.

Jean-Claude Prieur
Chairman
IBSA Judo Subcommittee