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SPORTS NEWS

Introducing the new faces

THE FIRST FEMALE NOC SRI LANKA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER?

The entire sports world or in a broader sense of the word – the entire world is now determined to look at new ways of bridging the gap between the man and the woman and present a balanced playing field where both genders and have equal opportunities in their given field of activity.

In a way, the International Olympic Committee has presented and launched the norm that at their events there should be equal representation. At the last Olympic Games in Tokyo, they made sure that they walk the talk and had a balanced track.

Still in the South Asian hub the uptake is rather slow, there is a pronounced reluctance to break the shackles of gender balance.

Yet, at the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka, the new wave of thinkers led by its President Suresh Subramaniam and the Secretary General Maxwell de Silva have taken a bold stance of accepting and giving equal opportunities to the fairer sex by throwing the challenge at renowned golfer Niloo Jayathilake to get elected as one of their vice presidents and arguably the first woman to occupy a seat in that hallowed hall, but certainly the first woman to

be elected into its realms since the IOC accepted NOC SL constitution in 2017.

In the previous executive committee Jayathillake was co-opted and headed the Women's Committee of the NOC Sri Lanka.

“I was pleasantly surprised that it was all the males who voted for me. Most of the federations were represented by males in the voting and when they elected me, I was humble and it was like a victory for the female. Because men actually voted and fortunately,

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they have recognised whether it is a male or a female who has the capacity to take a body to another level and therefore they voted for me.

"I know that we have to accomplish in terms of gender balanced in sport. I think the glass ceilings were shattered when I came forward for the election.

"For instance, take a game of golf; there either you win or you lose, but you give your best shot.

"It's the person that I am and I took up the challenge and came up for the election in this environment and it's a very happy moment to be elected. The most important is that it was the mandate given by the respective federations.

"I take this as a challenge and I am taking it in a very positive manner. I think with the team at the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka we can change the dynamics of sports and at the next elections I would like to see more females facing the ballot box representing different sports. Fifty percent of the population is not represented at the sports administration.

"It is imperative; we need to make that huge change where you empower these ladies to come forward and be in the forefront of the decision-making process. Then only we can bring in the problems faced by the female athletes and what needs to be done because it is they who know the real issues.

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"Because a male representative may not be so sensitive to those issues. I mean the problems faced by the female athletes and what needs to be done, be it training or when you go overseas; for selections cannot be really fine-tuned by a male. A female could feel and see the subtle needs and they can bring in that empathy and the change that is required for these athletes to become super high-performing individuals."



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She said that she is not willing to take this proposition as a male or a female.

She said that any task that she has undertaken she has not seen it as a job that not cannot be accomplished by a woman and you need a male to do it. She said that that was not the way she operates.

She said that if she is given a job, she would give two hundred percent and only look at the goal set or the mission that she has set upon.

Jayathilaka added "I think that we have a good team and if all of us get together brining in a lot of systematic changes that is what is needed in sports administration in Sri Lanka today.

"In fact, we have written to the Ministry of Sports to enable female administration in the respective federations. At least two females to represent their respective committees.

ing given that opportunity. Likewise, I feel now that the door is opened, there may be females who will grab this opportunity and be in the future administrations. They will feel if she can do it why can't I do the same. If you have the talent, you can achieve it.

"My mindset changed when I saw Rohini Nanayakkara the General Manager of the largest Bank in Sri Lanka – Bank of Ceylon, Marianne Page a person who has brought in some of the largest investments to Sri Lanka – those kind of young females and I am sure even in the sports world there will be females coming forward and say if Niloo could be elected -- the mindset will be changed and I am sure it will change. The litmus test for this situation was taken by me".

"Then only that the change could occur. If the federations do not recognise females in to their own bodies, how can they come up into the ranks of National Olympic Committee c o m m i t - tees – they cannot, because they are not be-

Finally, Niloo Jayathilake gave a brief account of her golf career. She said "Starting as a junior, I won the junior open. Then I progressed to representing Sri Lanka Asian tournaments and the most interesting win was when I won the Pakistan women's open. I only think of a very few Sri Lankans who have won tournaments beyond Sri Lanka.

"To win a tournament outside Sri Lanka, beyond the local domain is an achievement that I would always cherish. I also have won the Sri Lanka stroke play championship twice along with wins at many club tournaments. But what is most interesting is that I am still competing even at my age. I am also involved in developing junior golf in the country and taking golf to different parts of Sri Lanka. It is indeed a hectic task, but I get the energy because it is giving back my sports to what it has given to me and it has been a pleasure".





The IOC - Olympic Solidarity | Technical Course for Wrestling Coaches

Sri Lanka do possess good talent

The Wrestling Federation of Sri Lanka, under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee – Olympic Solidarity and the United World Wrestling has organised a Technical Course for Coaches and Referees.

The Technical Course for Coaches is a level 1 course which would cover the Introduction to Coaching and Safety is scheduled was held from 17th to 21st January 2022 at the Ministry of Sports Indoor Stadium at Reid Avenue, under the guidance of Mohamed Abdelfattah.

Abdelfattah is a two-time Olympian who is now the USA Greco-Roman National Coach.

The 20 to 22 coaches have been selected to participate in the level 1 Coaching Course.

According to Wikipedia; Mohamed Abdelfattah, born Egypt, commonly known by his nickname "Bogy", is an Egyptian Olympic Greco-Roman wrestler who competed in 76 kg, 84 kg, and 96 kg weight class.

He is a 2006 world champion, -

3-time World Medalist, and 3-time Olympian who is best known for his technique, creativity, strength, and his powerful and accurate scoring ability.

After retiring as a player, Bogy became coach of Sweden National Team, and in his first season 2009 he successfully guided Jimmy Lidberg to win a silver medal and Jalmor Sjöberg to win a bronze medal in the 2009 world championship in Denmark.

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After 2004 Athens Olympic Games Bogy was a resident athlete at the United States Olympic Training Center work close with coach Jakob Panotas part of USA team under the Special Athletes Programme for individuals with extraordinary ability and achievement. He won a gold medal in 2006 World Wrestling Championships the same year the United States Greco-Roman team was second tied with Russia.

The following year, The United States Greco-Roman team went on to win the 2007 world championship in Azerbaijan for the first time in history for the United States Wrestling. After proving he had a great talent in the sport of wrestling not just as an athlete but as a Coach USA Wrestling announced, Bogy would join the USA Greco-Roman technical coach.

As a Coach, bogy won 6 trophies in the first four years of his coaching career.

" I have only one week so I am trying to make an impact with this programme at level one to the best of my abilities the theories and practice which is followed by training and later on there would be international competitions."

He is one of the most successful coaches in the world and is considered by a number of Wrestlers, Coaches and commentators to be one of the best coaches in the world.

Speaking on his impressions of the session, Mohamed Abdelfattah started by stating that this was his first visit to Sri Lanka though he has worked in many Asian countries before.

He added "This is a new step for Sri Lanka in the realms of its wrestling, to train the new breed of coaches. This is the best way to learn – today I am coaching the level I coaches and it's a long journey but it is the best method of training new coaches."

When asked about the mid-term, long-term and the future impact that he intends inculcating Mohamed Abdelfattah said "I have only one week so I am trying to make an impact with this programme at level one to the best of my abilities – the theories and practice which is followed by training and later on there would be international competitions and there I believe I will be in touch with the Sri Lanka Wrestling Federation so in the future if they need any help I would love to be of any help."

Explaining about his impression on Sri Lanka he said "Actually today I was surprised. Yesterday I gave my audience some homework and today I was surprised with the reciprocation and the level of understanding. Besides, I see some exiting talent; especially I see three young girls who are really good and if there is a proper platform, they could yield some positive results in the near future. They are strong and they have the talent and now what is needed is a good plan with proper training and coaching."

" The Wrestling Federation of Sri Lanka is grateful to the International Olympic Committee - Olympic Solidarity, United World Wrestling, National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka "

The Referee Course is being held from 19th to 21st January 2022 under the guidance of Mr. Ashok Kumar who is also an Olympian. The Referee course will provide an introduction to refereeing and it will be participated by 20 referees.

As per the instructions given by the United World Wrestling, the Federation will conduct its National Championship on 22nd and 23rd January 2022 at the National Youth Centre at Maharagama with the involvement of the Course participants. Its purpose will be to evaluate and analyse the standard of the coaches and referees in the island.

The two courses are one initiative of the long-term development plan of the Wrestling Federation of Sri Lanka. The Federation is in the process of introducing the Greco-Roman sport to Sri Lanka.

The Wrestling Federation of Sri Lanka is grateful to the International Olympic Committee – Olympic Solidarity, United World Wrestling, National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka for the support given for the initiation of the project.