



GoodSport NEWS

S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

NOC NEWS

Give us the land and we will produce results



Equestrian a sport with great promise

An ongoing debate among the Olympic hierarchy and the other sports pundits in the arena is, "How are we going to develop a sport that would get direct visa to Olympic Games and which sport would we have to develop to achieve that mirage like goal?"

Yes, it does come by but literally it must be stressed that; leave alone medals, even direct entry to the Olympics is few and far between.

Hey, just a minute, this year too the direct qualification nearly came our way even more than a year ago, but only a wicked twist of fate if you can call it; only prevented show -

jumper Matilda Karlsson (Equestrian) from making it to the Games.

This goes to prove that sports which off the main stream also could be medal contenders and they must be taken very seriously at all costs.

Today we are digging deep into the fortunes and misfortunes of the sport Equestrian in Sri Lanka -

and with GoodSport was Suranjith Premadasa who knows this horse tale from head to toe.



Continued on Page 02

From Page 01

GoodSport asked Suranjith about the current status of the sport in Sri Lanka.

He said, "Equestrian has a story behind it. It also serves as a huge tourist attraction in this country and at the same time, we could make use of the beauty of this country and attract more competitions.

"We are affiliated to the World Body FEI, the Ten Picking Association and the Asian Federation; they want to support Sri Lanka. Yet, the problem is, though we have the horses we do not have a course to conduct our competitions in Sri Lanka with all disciplines show jumping, endurance racing just to name a few.

"We have done all these discipline without the horses. That is how Matilda Karlsson's name already has come to our radar.

"We also have a show jumper who represents our country.

"We also have endurance racing 160-140 kilometres team, we have over 125 qualified endurance riders and they all are taking part in competitions in Dubai. But, within the country there is not much scope, maximum we have 250 horses of all types in the entire country and mostly they are not equestrian horses.

"The challenge is to build this; we must have our horseracing continuously. When the horses retire after five years, they can be shifted to equestrian.

"If we do not have horseracing, we would have to import the horses, Right now there are around 1500 people who are learning the art of equestrian in this country, but they do not have a place to prove their talent competitively."

GoodSport then popped the question of "how popular the game is in Sri Lanka and how it is being spread among the schools".



From Page 02

Suranjith Premadasa replied “When you take sports like Athletics etc the government spends money to develop them. Most of the people describe this as a rich man’s sport, but in reality, it is not so.

“We do not need money to do this, because we get support from the world body.

“As a result of the situation last year, we got so much money, yet we did not have competitions, but, in turn the organisations gave material support to those who are engaged in the game in a bid to sustain themselves because of the COVID-19 slowdown.

“Now I spend money to train schoolchildren with the consent of the world body, yet we do not have a place to sustain our sport in the country.”

We at this end asked him, “In that situation is this sport at a standstill and how are you going to break that deadlock?”

Suranjith replied “During the last regime, the Director-General of Sports released seven acres of land in Diyagama.

“We started work, building the Equestrian centre in Sri Lanka. The work went on till last December. We spent 2.5 million rupees towards the building; but now the present regime has brought a temporary halt to the project. Now we are stuck, I think they have halted all such projects in this programme, but we do not want government money to build this facility; we only need a location to do so.

“To mention,

“We would not have to import horses. Breeding horses is an industry and we even could export horses to other countries if the industry is up and going – Arab horses. Most of these horses are also born here.”

We queried from him, “What is the solution? What does he have to do?” Suranjith explained, “I need the land; that’s all I want. I will build it. I have people, I have sponsors.

“I intend hiring a land in Pepiliyana to build a temporary equestrian centre but I have not received the green light owing the COVID-19 issue.

“On this centre we could have pony racing, show jumping, ten picking, barrel racing – which are all Olympic Sports. We cannot go to the Olympics with this state of affairs, but we have to look for our locals who are in training outside Sri Lanka to do the job for us.”

Finally, it was the customary short-term plan and the long-term plan? He said “The short-term plan is to develop our schoolchildren and to lure them into the game. We presented two horses to St. Thomas’ Guruthalawa.

“There, there is a horse culture; they are also a member of the Sri Lanka Equestrian Association. If we get the land, we would build a facility that would offer all the disciplines in equestrian.

“We can organise an Asian Championship in our country. We have a huge future ahead of us. We are in the World Map of equestrian with the feat of Karlsson.

“She is taking part in an international event through our entry. She cannot take part in international competitions without our blessings”, said Premadasa in conclusion.



even the National Olympic Committee also promised to help us with the project.

“We are now waiting to go ahead with the green light to recommence. We even have levelled the land and we can play Polo in this

Sports Minister gives green light for school cricket 'big matches'

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa has given the green light for schools to conduct school cricket big matches. Following requests by school heads and various other parties, Minister Rajapaksa held discussions with the Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris before arriving at this decision.

However, the big matches have to be conducted strictly adhering to quarantine regulations, said the Sports Minister at a press conference held at the Duncan White auditorium of the ministry yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion of the National Sports Update provided by the National Sports Council (NSC) chairman Mahela Jayawardene, the Sports Minister said arrangements are underway to conduct big matches such as Royal-Thomian, Ananda-Nalanda and Richmond-Mahinda.

Big matches could not be held last year after the outbreak of COVID-19.

After the Royal-Thomian big match, all big matches were cancelled.

Meanwhile, the minister said he was not in haste to appoint members to the national cricket selection committee, including the vacant position of chairman.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), the SLC Cricket Committee comprising former national cricketers in consultation with the NSC would appoint a selection committee with a long-term vision, the minister said.

The minister said every selection committee would in future comprise veterans who have an understanding of the talent in the national pool and not select individuals tour by tour.

By Susil Premalal

7th Advanced Sport Management Course completed

The seventh edition of the Olympic Solidarity Advanced Sport Management Course (ASMC) concluded with a great at Laya Leisure Kukulleganga recently.

The course was held through 17 August 2019 to 27 September 2020 and it was consisted of 7 sessions inclusive of two outstation sessions.

The organisers managed to conduct two sessions out of these 7 sessions, online challenging the COVID - 19 threats.

The programme of the course was as follows:

- Module 1 - Organizing an Olympic Sport Organization,
- Module 2 - Managing Strategically,
- Module 3 - Managing Human Resources,
- Module 4 - Managing Finance,

- Module 5 - Managing Marketing,
- Module 6 - Organizing a Major Sport Event

The course facilitators were as follows: Programme Director - Mr. B.L.H. Perera. The Facilitators of the programme were Mr. B.L.H. Perera, Mr. Maxwell de Silva, Mrs. Lalitha Mendis, Ms. Kinithi Jayatissa

There were 21 candidates at the beginning of the course (10 male and 11 female). The 17 candidates (06 male and 11 female) successfully completed the course.

The Programme Director, Mr. B.L.H. Perera conducted the modules which were missed by few candidates in order to give them an opportunity to complete the whole course as the Solidarity has decided to change the structure of the course from next version.

After sending the final report to the Olympic Solidarity by the Programme Director, the Olympic Solidarity recognized 19 candidates (17 from 7th ASMC and 02 from 02 previous editions) for awarding Diplomas.

The list of Diploma recipients are as follows:

- 7th ASMC: 1. Lieutenant Commander D. M. J. N. Pinthu, Abdallah Yusuf, H. Gehan M. Dias, Reshmin Mihin Amarasinghe, Senaka Ranasinghe, Mrs. Irangani Rupasinghe, Ms. D. S. Vitharana Ms. Devni Madurapperuma, Ms. Iroshika Namasinghe, Ms. J. A. S. D. Bandara, Ms. Lakna Harindi Hewavitharana, Ms. M. G. G. H. Laksara, Ms. M. T. P. L Perera, Ms. Udeshika Kaushalya Danthanarayana, Ms. V. N. Rajapakse, Sqn. Ldr. Lilangi Randeni, Wing Commander M. R. M. Hamza, P. M. K. Jayawardena, from 5th ASMC 2016/2017, Ms. Hithaishi Jayawardena from 6th ASMC 2017/2018

Tokyo 2020 first ever gender-balanced Olympic games

On international women's day, the international Olympic committee (IOC), the international Paralympic committee (IPC), the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, the government of Japan and the Tokyo metropolitan government (TMG) are reiterating their commitment to make the Olympic and Paralympic games this summer a landmark in gender equality on and off the field of play, paving the way for a more equal and inclusive society.

At the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020: - Almost 49 per cent of the athletes participating will be women, according to the IOC quota allocation. These will be the first gender-balanced Games in history.

- There will be a ground-breaking competition schedule. Ensuring equal visibility between women's and men's events and featuring nine more mixed events than at Rio 2016, raising the overall number to 18.

- For the first time ever, all 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) should have at least one female and one male athlete in their respective Olympic teams.

- All 206 NOCs and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team will be encouraged to have their flag carried by one female and one male athlete at the Opening Ceremony.

At the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020:

- At least 40.5 per cent of all the athletes will be women, according -

to the IPC Qualification Criteria. This equates to 1,782 athletes, an increase on the 1,671 women who competed at Rio 2016 (38.6 per cent).

- At the Opening Ceremony, all the competing National Paralympic Committees will also be encouraged to have their flag carried by one female and one male athlete.

Following the appointment of its new President, Hashimoto Seiko, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee has increased the size of its Executive Board, bringing the percentage of women to 42 per cent.

It has also created a Gender Equality Promotion Team under the leadership of its Sports Director, Kotani Mikako, in order to further promote gender and inclusion initiatives during the Games.

"The IOC is committed to gender equality in all areas, from the athletes competing on and off the field of play to leadership roles in sports organisations", said IOC President Thomas Bach.

"With only four months to go until the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the Olympic Movement is getting ready for a new milestone in its efforts to create a gender-equal sporting world – the first gender-balanced Olympic Games in history."

"Inclusion is at the core of everything the IPC does," said IPC President Andrew Parsons. "We are constantly striving with our members to increase female participation at all levels of the Paralympic Movement, from athletes to administrators, from coaches to Board members.

Tokyo 2020 is on course to have more female athletes compete than any previous Paralympic Games.

In less than a decade, we will have increased the number of women competing at the Paralympics by at least 18.7 per cent compared to London 2012.

IOC News

