



EYOWF
2011 Liberec

EYOWF 2011 info

10TH European Youth Olympic Winter Festival 2011



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Festival smiles

Facts, records and trivia



Patrick Hickey, President of the Association of the European Olympic Committees (on the right) with Roman Kumpošt, President of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee

Patrick Hickey: The best village in history!



INTERVIEW
OF THE MONTH

Patrick Hickey, President of the European Olympic Committees, was one of the top officials and at the same time he was a watchful spectator at the European Youth Festival (EYOWF) 2011 in the Liberec Region. This prominent official of world sporting diplomacy stayed in Liberec for the whole week and was abounding with superlatives.

I must say that this Youth Olympic Winter Festival had flawless organisation. During the whole week, I did not hear one single complaint about the sports programme or the organisation as such. The organisers, in cooperation with volunteers, mastered the organisation, paid great attention to every detail and took wonderful care of us.

What moment from the EYOWF 2011 do you remember the most?

I was very touched by the story of the Andorran downhill skier Barrios Gros Gabriel, who had an unfortunate injury at the beginning of the Festival. Not only did he receive perfect care from the organisers and the hospital staff, but the organisers also made it possible for his parents to be with him in Liberec. This is the „extra something“ the organisers gave.

Were you satisfied with the accommodation of the young athletes?

The Olympic Village was in one word, excellent! I think that in the whole history of European Olympic Festivals, we have never had a better Olympic Village.

Are you not afraid that other sporting events, such as the Youth Olympic Games,

may threaten the future of these European Festivals?

When the Youth Olympic Games were recently established, I admit I thought it would be competition for the Festivals. But on the contrary, the world Olympic Games strengthen the European Festival. This year's event was attended by more athletes than will start at the Youth Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck in 2012. This is proof of the strength and importance of EYOWF. What is more, I am convinced that Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC, who is the founding father of these Festivals, would never come up with anything that would threaten or belittle this Festival.

What are the chances of the Youth Festival returning to the Czech Republic in the future?

The whole EYOWF 2011 team has proved once again that the Czechs are very good at organising sporting events. Brno has been twice a candidate city to host the summer edition. The decision was always very close – first it was defeated by Utrecht, then Tbilisi. However, I hope the city will try for a third time and go for the candidature of the Summer European Youth Festival in 2017. Personally, I believe they have every chance of succeeding this time.

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Sporting world in Liberec

The elite of world sporting diplomacy arrived in Liberec shortly before the launch of EYOWF 2011. The President of the International Olympic Committee **Jacques Rogge** (see photo) spent two days with the athletes, **Patrick Hickey**, President of the European Olympic Committees and **Lord Colin Moynihan**, President of the British Olympic Association, spent the whole week in Liberec. Apart from them, Liberec also saw legends of international sport – the figure skater **Katarina Witt**, the javelin thrower **Jan Železný**, the skier **Květa Pecková** and the ice hockey players **Jiří Hrdina** and **Jiří Šlégr**.



Ceremony: President excited



The EYOWF 2011 Opening Ceremony in the Tipsport Arena in Liberec was attended by some 4,500 spectators and the majority loved it. It offered attractive choreography, innovative content and perfect execution. "At various events,

I have seen more than 150 opening ceremonies, but this was undoubtedly one of the best and the most impressive," Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC, praised the organisers. **Pavel Jakubec** from the Liberec company P. J. Art Production and his team spent nine months preparing the ceremony.

Two Czech triumphs

During the five days of competition, **1,514 athletes from 44 countries** performed in eight disciplines. There were 216 medals awarded in 28 different competitions. Two gold medals went to Czech athletes – **Petr Coufal** (see photo on the left)



from Ostrava in Figure Skating and **Ester Ledecká** (see photo on the right) from Prague in Parallel Giant Slalom in Snowboarding. The Czech Olympic Committee awarded them a silver plaque from the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and a cake. The hero of the EYOWF 2011 was the German biathlete **Laura Dahlmeier**, who collected three gold medals.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

"The Irish are a very hospitable nation. But you have provided the same, if not greater hospitality than in our country. Thank you very much for that."



PATRICK HICKEY,
President of the European
Olympic Committees

Festival smiles

The European Youth Olympic Festival is over and the organisers have to evaluate the whole event. We now offer you some of the funny moments and interesting facts from behind the scenes.

The organisers were sometimes faced with difficult tasks that needed to be sorted out in a very short time. On Thursday, 17th February, the NOC Department, which took care of all the sporting delegations, had 30 minutes to find a **cake for the Czech gold medallist Ester Ledecká**. Overwhelmed by the Czech triumph, the responsible member of the Czech delegation forgot to bring it. Fortunately, the Catering Department operatively helped out and caused a small miracle.

An EYOWF 2011 documentarist, who was collecting interesting material throughout the week to make a documentary montage about the Festival, had a great piece of luck. On the last day of his shooting, during the Closing Ceremony in the Tipsport Arena, he was so engaged in trying to get the best shot that he risked his own health. At one moment he forgot he was standing on the edge of the stage and the **stepped into the air caused a fell from a considerable height**. He had to be taken to hospital and "got away with" torn knee ligaments. As a true professional, he was only interested in the quality of the shot.

Throughout the week, there were several items which ended up among the Lost and Found. Apart from the frequently lost accreditation cards, the most extraordinary item found was the **wallet of a Ukrainian athlete**, which was literally packed with bank notes. It was returned to the lucky owner immediately and with the full contents.

The delegation from the Chinese city of Nanjing, which took part in the Observer Programme for hosts of youth sporting events, caused some hard times for the organisers and the staff of the Hotel Zlatý Lev. Their accommodation request stated that **they require "extra-large beds"**. Everyone expected officials with the statures of basketball players and manoeuvres with special beds were being prepared. Everybody gave a sigh of relief, when the "standard-size" Chinese arrived in Liberec and apologised for leaving the requirement in the application form, which they primarily use during their travels in Asia.



EYOWF 2011 offered the attractive battles, unforgettable experiences and joyful moments

Facts, records and trivia

We have chosen this information from the starting line-ups and results, from note books and from what was seen at the venues:

The youngest participant: the Figure Skater Marta Grigoryan from Armenia, date of birth 28th June 1996.

The oldest participants: the Cross Country Skier Katya Galstyan from Armenia, who celebrated her 18th birthday on the 1st of January.

The most successful athlete: the Biathlete Laura Dahlmeier from Germany, holder of three gold medals.

The most numerous delegation: Russia with 98 members.

The smallest delegations: Albania, Moldavia and Monaco, each with three members.

The most unfortunate: the Alpine Skier Barrios Gros Gabriel from Andorra, who suffered serious injuries in training and had to spend the whole Festival in the Liberec hospital.

The most sportsmanlike deed: the Alpine Skier Miha Hrobat from Slovenia, who informed the jury about his not passing through one of the gates properly.

The most disappointed athlete: the Czech Ice Hockey player Josef Mikyska, who injured his groin during the last training session and could not take part in the Festival or carry the Olympic Torch during the Opening Ceremony.



BEHIND THE SCENES

The largest audience: 4.500 spectators at the Opening Ceremony on 13th February.

The most tasteful delegation: the most popular were the orange Dutch, followed by Ukraine and Sweden.

The most sweet-toothed athletes: The 27 recipients of a birthday cake during the EYOWF 2011.

The most popular guest: Rampich the Icicle, the official mascot, who appeared in three cloned versions throughout the event, at the venues, in the streets and in the Olympic Village.

The most read paper: the daily Czech-English newspaper COOL News with a total 21 000 prints.

The most ridiculous excuse: the Czech Nordic Combined skier Ondřej Kelnar explained that his fall was caused by a sudden gust of wind on the track.

The most hidden visitor: the former Figure Skating star Katarina Witt, who, despite hiding from the media, gave one single interview to the COOL News reporter.

The most upset coach: the head of Slovakian Alpine Skiers Martin Chorogwicky, when his team did not make it to the team finals after they had been disqualified following a protest by the Swiss.

INTERESTING

EYOWF 2011 info

Party surprise



Patrick Hickey, President of the European Olympic Committees and one of the most prominent guests at the EYOWF 2011, surprised the volunteers by attending their party after the Closing Ceremony in the Tipsport Arena. The unexpected

visit surprised everyone. Patrick Hickey stayed for about 30 minutes, talking to everybody, thanking them, kindly posing for photographs and shaking hands with the volunteers. **For the volunteers this meeting was a wonderful experience, a great honour and a beautiful conclusion to their hard work during the Festival.**

"A" mark for transport

The Transport Department was one of the busiest during EYOWF 2011. The most demanding moments were the two ceremonies, when 1.600 people were successfully transported to and from in only 45 minutes, using 25 shuttle buses by Bus Line Semily company. **There were 429 bus rides altogether**, which provided transport between the venues, the city centre and the Olympic Village for members of the Organising Committee, their colleagues, volunteers, sporting delegations and school children from the region. **Forty thousand kilometres were travelled** and ten thousand people were transported. The 50 cars provided by the official partner Škoda Auto made it a total of fifty-five thousand kilometres.



Marek the best volunteer



It was not only the athletes who were praised for their performance during the European Olympics 2011. The volunteers of the EYOWF Team, which consisted of 500 members, nominated from their own ranks the most hard-working, reliable

and willing personalities. The absolute winner and the best "team member" was 20-year-old **Marek Cimbál** (see photo), who helped in Transport Department and was in charge of transportation for VIP guests accommodated in the Hotel Zlatý Lev. His **perfect and independent** performance was noted by the guests as well as managers of other departments.



NUMBER OF THE DAY

46 500

number of bullets shot from their rifles by Biathletes during EYOWF

SILVER PARTNER



BRONZE PARTNERS



PARTNERS

