

# editorial



## Dear Friends,

**World Weightlifting** was first published 27 years ago and this is the 104<sup>th</sup> issue. When we published the first

we'll find there is **Jenő BOSKOVICS**, Editor-in-Chief since the very beginning, i.e. for 27 years. So, where is the jubilee, the anniversary, the round number of years? There is one: It's

writer on football, boxing and weightlifting, an internationally renowned official, has been coming to the IWF office since 1976 practically on a daily basis. You will agree to his nickname 'Walking

Olympic champion **László Papp**. No wonder he has always been popular with athletes: unlike many of his colleagues, his approach to the competitors is in pure goodwill; stressing only the merits



With Tommy Kono at the 1962 World Championships in Budapest



1984, Vitoria, Spain: Interview with Perurena, stone-lifting world champion, in company of Naim Suleymanoglu (right) and Neno Terziiski (half-covered)

magazine in 1980 it was a pioneer publication amongst all sports in the world. The title given was also somewhat unusual – yet it was later imported by other international sports federations to their own journals, adding the word "World" to their respective sport. Now, let us look behind this magazine: who is in its background? The man

50 years our friend Jenő has been "married" with weightlifting. And it was not only "love at first sight", it has remained a lifetime affection and an unconditional devotion – at least on his part. Jenő Boskovics, a leading sport journalist of the Hungarian News Agency for decades, a learned specialist

Weightlifting Lexicon', as he is an unparalleled historian and meticulous statistician of the sport. He is liked by sportsmen and officials all over the world - even beyond the limits of weightlifting. Recently deceased **Ferenc Puskás**, the world's most famous Hungarian counted as one of his closest friends and so was three-times boxing

and the positive achievements of anyone. His smiling face is welcome at any weightlifting event the world over. A man of brilliant ideas, Jenő was the initiator of several successful ventures. He was one of the creators of the weightlifting World Cup series. He made the annual award ceremony of Hungary's Best Athletes an international

success and invented and organised upon the turn of the millennium the Greatest Athletes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Award gala, welcoming to Budapest the world's top sportsmen and sportswomen. In 1991, he initiated and founded the Hall of Fame of Hungarian Sport. Among his accomplishments was the restoration of a very special and unique event: the annual football match between the teams of the actors and the journalists, complete with a show featuring the most popular stars, in "Népstadion". During more than 10 years, Hungary's largest stadium was always full to capacity. For the 1972 edition of the match 480,000 tickets could have been sold: no other sport event in Hungary had ever seen this demand.

## 50 Years with Weightlifting — An unconventional biography

In the nineteen-forties and fifties all children in Hungary wanted to play football. **Jenő Boskovics** was no exception, and more, he had talent. Between 1945 and 1948 he was on the Budapest junior team and later became a player of the national student team.

After army service in 1952, a premier league team wished to draft him but he preferred to join MTI, the Hungarian News Agency to be a sport journalist.

After two years of apprenticeship, he was involved in various sports, in addition to football. As the youngest in the department, he was assigned weightlifting, as none of his colleagues wanted to deal with this then low level sport. Jenő, however, took an early fancy of weightlifting, his affection increased by his friendship with Győző Veres,



The IWF Gold Order – received from Gottfried Schödl

who was just making his appearance. In 1957, Boskovics published an interview in one of the popular Hungarian papers in which

into reality and based on his article, Jenő, although a beginner sport journalist, was proclaimed to be an "expert" on the sport.



Former IWF General Secretary, Oscar State takes over a present from Jenő Boskovics at the 1970 European Championships in Szombathely

Veres stated that he would win a medal at the Olympic Games in Rome, what is more, with a total over 400 kilos. At the time, this prophecy was something as if today – say – a Dutch weightlifter should declare that within three years he would become a world champion and break the world record. As it was: Veres turned this "fantasy"

The 1961 World Championships was the first one Boskovics covered, this followed by 1962 in Budapest and 1963 in Stockholm. His first Olympic Games was Munich 1972 and ever since he only missed the Olympics in 1976. Between 1961 and 1975 he reported to MTI as its correspondent on seven world championships. In 1977 he

opened a series non stop: to date not missing any Olympic Games or senior world championships. Oscar State, former General Secretary of the IWF, asked him to be Press Chief of the 1973 World Championships in Havana.

For many years, Boskovics was a member of the Hungarian Weightlifting Federation's Executive. Upon the foundation of the AIPS Weightlifting Commission in 1969, he was elected its General Secretary, a position he has held ever since. In the history of the AIPS he is thus a world record holder, unmatched by any other journalist in any other sport.

Following Dr. Tamás Aján's election to IWF General Secretary in 1976, Boskovics became the Spokesman of the Federation, and as of the first issue of **World Weightlifting** he has been the magazine's Editor-in-Chief.

Since 1964, he has been a Board member of the Hungarian Sport Journalist Association; for several decades he was its General Secretary. Since 1971 he has attended the AIPS congresses. In 1997 he was elected to the AIPS 5-member Council and worked as Assistant General Secretary and Treasurer for 8 years. Boskovics has various distinctions. In 1993, he was among the first members of the Weightlifting Hall of Fame.

Even today, fighting his failing strength, Jenő is the driving force behind this publication (in pair with Senior Editor Anikó Németh-Móra) and thus an indispensable contributor to the sport's exposure. Dear Jenő: keep going in good health, please! And thank you.

**Dr. Tamás Aján**  
President

**Yannis Sgouros**  
General Secretary

(Photos curtesy Sheikh Sultan Bin Mejren/Mansour S. Houran)