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ANALYSIS OF THE 2012 EUROPEAN FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP FOR MEN AND WOMEN, HELD IN LEGNANO, ITALY

INTRODUCTION

The contemporary Fencing become more and more popular “...in the free time industry on the entire Balkans region...”because there is “...exercise which are health preventive for the clients...” and “...the third concerns the creation of a marketing strategy...” (5, 13).

The 2012 European Fencing Championships was held June, 15-20 in Legnano, Italy. This tiny Italian town (population 59147) is positioned in the north-west part of the Milano district, about 20 km. apart from the centre of the city of Milano. Olona river, which passes through 13 Lombardian towns crosses Legnano. Legnano and Rome are the only towns included in the text of the Italian anthem, thanks to an ancient battle which took place at that town. All the members European fencing elite gathered together in Legnano.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The individual and the team contests last 6 days, but in this article we will study the individual contest only, which lasts 3 days with a competition program as follows:

1. 15.06.2012 – epee men and foil women;
2. 16.06.2012 – epee women and foil men;
3. 17.06.2012 – sabre women and sabre men.

It is typical for that kind of competitions the contestants to look forward to realizing high efficiency and a propensity for high effectiveness in the scoring (touches) (1, 2, 6, 7), because a very dynamic and attractive style of fencing is practiced in Europe nowadays(4, 6, 11).

The **purpose** of the study is to reveal the opportunities for realization of the “leading” nations in fencing in the individual contests.

Problems to solve:

1. The trend in the development of the fencing with different kinds of arms to be determined via estimation of the competitiveness(the number of competitors with different kinds of arms);
2. Revealing the opportunities of the leading nations in fencing (via the number of the finalists from each nation).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

We studied the results recorded in the official protocols of the championship and the combats and we identified the following trends for development in the different kinds of arms according to the order of their participation in the contest:

1. Epee men. There are 92 competitors from 28 states taking part in the contest (table 1).

Table 1

Rating	Competitor	State
1	Pavel Sukov	Russia
2	Nikolai Novosjolov	Estonia
3	Max Hancer	Switzerland
3	Iorg Fridler	Germany
5	Paola Pico	Italy
6	Motika Tomaz	Poland
7	Jan-Michel Loucenit	France
8	Fridrich Backer	Norway

2. Foil women. There are 40 competitors from 15 states taking part in the contest (table 2).

Table 2

Rating	Competitor	State
1	Irina Deriglasova	Russia
2	Kamila Gurfizianova	Russia
3	Larissa Korobeinikova	Russia
3	Arianna Erigo	Italy
5	Eliza Di Francheska	Italy
6	Aida Shaneva	Russia
7	Valentina Visali	Italy
8	Jusora Timus	France

3. Epee women. There are 75 competitors from 26 states taking part in the contest (table 3).

Table 3

Rating	Competitor	State
1	Simona Alexandru	Romania
2	Anka Maroiu	Romania
3	Lubov Shutova	Russia
3	Monika Sozanska	Germany
5	Brigita Feidemann	Germany
6	Violeta Kolobova	Russia
7	Laura Flessel - Tsolovich	France
8	Anna Sivkova	Russia

4. Foil men. There are 71 competitors from 25 states taking part in the contest (table 4).

Table 4

Rating	Competitor	State
1	Alexei Cheremisinov	Russia
2	Benjamin Kleibrink	Germany
3	Richard Krus	Great Britain
3	Michal Mazevski	Poland
5	Radoslav Gronek	Poland
6	Renal Ganaev	Russia
7	Alexander Chupenich	Czech Republic
8	Andre Vessel	Germany

5. Sabre men. There are 71 competitors from 25 states taking part in the contest (table 5).

Table 5

Rating	Competitor	State
1	Alexei Iakimenko	Russia
2	Bolat Apitu	France
3	Alexander Buikevich	Belarus
3	Andri Iagodka	Ukraine
5	Diego Okchucci	Italy
6	Nicholas Limbach	Germany
7	Tiberiu Dalnianu	Romania
8	Luigi Samele	Italy

6. Sabre women. There are 51 competitors from 19 states taking part in the contest (table 6).

Table 6

Rating	Competitor	State
1	Olga Karlan	Ukraine
2	Vassiliki Vougiuka	Greece
3	Alexandra Sosha	Poland
3	Marion Stoltz	France
5	Ilario Bianco	Italy
6	Bagna Jozviak	Poland
7	Julia Gavrilova	Russia
8	Aracelli Navaro	Spain

387 fencers took part in the European Championships. After studying the above mentioned results, we determined the competitors in the epee men and epee women tournaments to have the highest rate of competitiveness 92 and 75 respectively. The

next in the list is foil men with 71. We found the worst competitiveness in the foil women tournament (Figure 1).

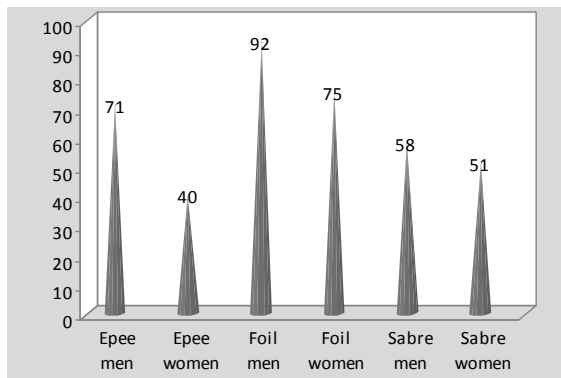


Fig. 1.

The number of medals won by different nations in the individual tournament is shown on figure 2. The undisputed leader is Russia with 8 medals total, four of which – golden. Nations with deep fencing traditions, like Italy, France and Germany, achieved humble results. The analysis of the number of competitors who achieved the final combats is very different from those of the medals won. The leading ratings are spread through 15 nations – figure 3.

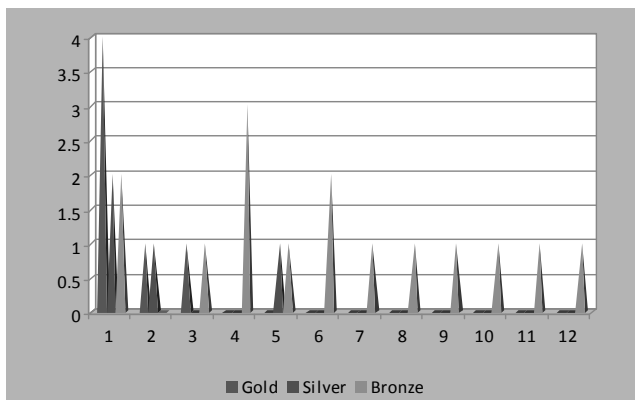


Fig. 2.

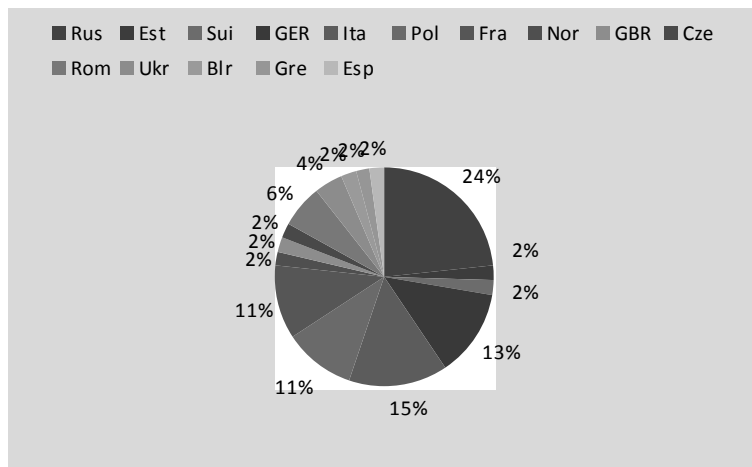


Fig. 3

CONCLUSIONS

1. The participants of the European Fencing Championship presented a very dynamic and athletic type of fencing technics. The leaders in the ranking are masters in attractive attacking, performed with impressive reliability (1, 2, 6, 7).
2. In order to improve the chances of the Bulgarian fencers for a better results on the 2016 Olympic games, it is necessary the quality of the attacking to be improved. It is important the success rate of the butt (strike) (6, 7, 9) to be improved, either.
3. The recommendations for the training of Bulgarian fencers we reached are:
 1. For a better ranking to be achieved it is necessary attention to be paid on improving the technics of attack, using movements of high difficulty and speed and 2. It is important to improve dramatically the quality of both the attack and the defence (6, 11, 12).

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We analyzed the participations and the rankings of the different European states in the 2012 European Championship. The diversity, which fencing brings with it in United Europe always attracts a lot of the attention of the sport public as an innovative and dynamic sport discipline. In this article the total number of contestants and the number of contestants in the different weapons for both sexes are monitored. We found that the most competitive disciplines were epee men discipline with 92 participants and epee women discipline with 75 participants, and the least competitive – foil women discipline with 40 participants. The nation that won the biggest number of medals was Russia with total of 8 medals 4 of which golden. The first three states ranked by the competitors in the top sixteen group for all weapons are as follows: Russia with 16%, Italy with 15% and Germany with 13%. After observing the technics most widely used by the most successful contestants in this competition we reached to the following recommendations for Bulgarian fencers to perform better: 1. For a better ranking to be achieved it is necessary attention to be paid on improving the technics of attack, using movements of high difficulty and speed and 2. It is important to improve dramatically the quality of both the attack and the defence.

Key words: *fencing, fencers, individual characteristic, European elite.*