

Athletes Who Fled Iron Curtain Eye Olympic Games

By JOHN McCALLUM
NEA Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK (NEA)—An imposing legion of Old World athletes—many of whom fled from Communist rule—moved in—were voicing a protest.

Provisions, they lament, ought to be made to permit them to join the Olympic Games in Helsinki in July. If not, this trip, certainly in 1956.

These combatants are among the 4,000,000 refugees who have fled native soil to escape Red domination.

They officially set themselves up in business, jumped on their legions of white horses and formally organized the Union of Free European Sportsmen. Headquarters are in New York.

Remembering the brighter days when their mighty warriors roamed the sports paths triumphantly, the UFEES' original objective is to get the show back on the road.

Before the wheels can roll, however, certain modifications of the Olympic Games charter are required.

Under existing international rules, UFEES delegates are not eligible to participate as a unit. They have previously competed for their mother countries, automatically disqualifying them from performing with another group.

In other words, the sole alternative would be to return home and compete for the homeland again. This would mean almost certain imprisonment.

Lodge members belonging to the UFEES come from Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Tennis Star Jaroslav Drobny, the stout-hearted Czech who bolted the Curtains, really started something. UFEES ranks increased daily, now include 16 Olympic, 30 world and 35 former intercollegiate champions.

The UFEES movement is headed by J. Dikmanis, Latvia, who formerly served on the International Olympic Committee. Gen. Kazimir Glaziev, for 15 years Polish Olympic committee president; Vasil Valoušek, Czechoslovakia, former vice-president of the International Soccer Association; and Peter Zerkowicz, Hungary, ex-European Judo Union vice-president.

"We have formally filed an application with the International Olympic Committee in which we ask that our group be recognized," relates Zerkowicz, a soft-spoken, regular big buster of a guy with a smile. "Certainly something should be done about letting us participate."

After all, the Olympic Games idea is to get all the peoples of the world playing together.

"Our plan is to unify Europe's refugee sportsmen, to win recognition by all international athletic associations. The problem plaguing us is to get recognition in those areas where the Communists have a major vote. They will oppose every move we attempt."

The UFEES solicited Avery Brundage's cooperation. Last February, the United States Olympic Committee chairman stood up at a meeting in Oslo and demanded that something be done about letting refugees enter the Games.

He declared, in effect, that the present Olympic constitution should be altered so as to meet the self-exiled refugee situation.

How did UFEES confederates get the program under way?

"It began in Hungary two years ago," explains Zerkowicz, secretary general of the group. "When the Communists came to town, we decided to get out and contacted other national sports groups who had fled the Iron Curtain. Last January, with headquarters in New York, we went to the National Committee for Free Europe and the American Olympic Committee, won their support—and here we are."

Though UFEES athletes are widely scattered throughout the free world, Peter Zerkowicz and his brethren are in constant contact with them.

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Which might be a long wait if the Communists have anything to say about it.

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Portland Nipped By Hollywood

By The Associated Press

The doubters and scoffers who said San Diego didn't have a Chinaman's chance in the Pacific Coast League race will be chagrined to see how Lefty O'Doul's Padres won their latest tussle.

Tuesday night the Padres pulled off the most daring play in baseball and it paid off for a 3-2 win over the power-laden Angels of Los Angeles. In other games Sacramento took Oakland 6-1 and Hollywood edged Portland 3-2.

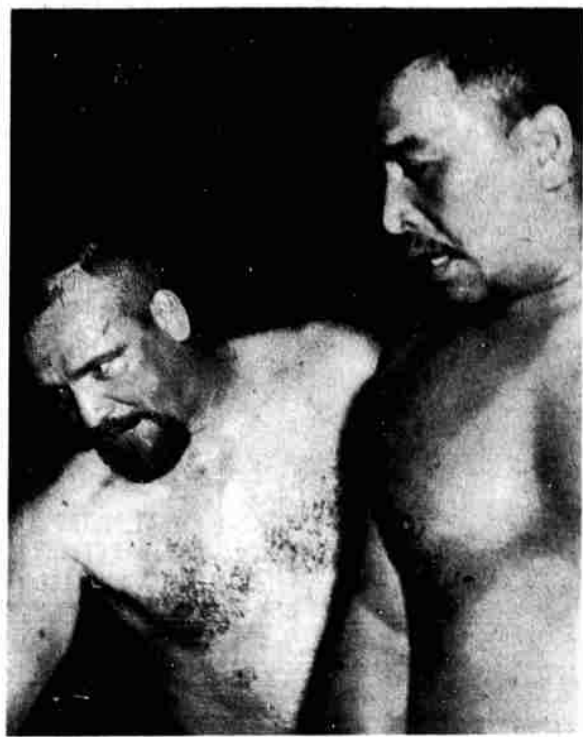
The San Francisco-Seaside game was postponed because of cold weather and will be made up with a doubleheader Thursday night.

Against the top-notch battery of Doyle Lade and Les Peden, O'Doul sent Jack Tobin in with a steal of home that accounted for San Diego's winning run.

Hollywood utilized the speed of its Puerto Rican rocket, Carlos Bernier, to conquer Portland. With the score 2-2 in the eighth, Carlos walked, stole second, continued to third on a wild peg, then came home on Gene Handley's short fly to left field.

Joe Brovia had tied it up in the top of the eighth with a mighty home run off Star hurler Jim Walsh.

Sacramento beat Oakland in the first inning, its two runs in the frame being sufficient. Ken Gables turned in a neat four hit pitching job for the Sacs.



PARTNERS LAST WEEK in a tag team match, Kurt Von Poppenheim (left) and Toi Yamato will finish a fight that started when the German refused to relieve the Nip in the hectic tag tilt.

Von Pop, Toi Mix Tonight

Wrestling fans like to pick a favorite—but they'll have a tough assignment in tonight's feature bout at the Armory.

The headline hassle puts Kurt Von Poppenheim against Toi Yamato. Both are candidates for The Most Disliked Wrestler of the Season title.

The customers would probably be satisfied if either Temperamental Toi or the Garrulous German won—but the ideal situation as far as the punch patrons are concerned would be to have both end in a horizontal position.

It all depends on which scores first with his favorite gimmick—Yamato's sleeper and Von Poppenheim's back-breaker.

The clash, billed for one hour or the best two of three falls, shares the top spot with one sending popular Georges Dusette against Tiger Nenoff, a Bulgarian, making his first appearance on the corner of Main and Spring.

Win, lose or draw against Von Poppenheim, Yamato has promised he'll meet Dusette next week. The French-Canadian Hercules has been clamoring for a rematch since the Nip put him to sleep in 30 seconds several weeks ago.

Tonight's opener—at 8:45—brings back Gino Nicolini against Frenchy Roy in a half-hour, one-fall brawl. The Armory ticket-office opens 7:45.

While Africa has a large variety of big game, there are no tigers there.—Sports Affair.

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"Well! What fantastic excuse have you this time for being back late from fishing?"

Andy Seminick, catcher for the Cincinnati Reds, played second base for Elizabethton of the Appalachian League in 1941.

The Michigan State tennis team won the Western Conference (Big Ten) championship last year, its first in conference play.

Bill Dunn, pitcher for the University of Alabama, lost only one game in 1951. He was shut-out, 20, while pitching a four-hitter.

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Easter's Clout Puts Indians Back in Lead

By The Associated Press

They're still trying to figure out which team got the better of Tuesday's nine-player swap between the Detroit Tigers and Boston Red Sox that involved several top flight stars.

Only hours after the trade, former Tigers Hoot Evers and Johnny Lipon appeared in Boston uniforms against the Cleveland Indians. About the same time, ex-Red Sox Walter Dropo and Don Lenhardt took their places in the Detroit lineup against the Philadelphia Athletics.

None of the four distinguished himself in any way. The Indians shut out the revamped Red Sox, 6-0, while the Athletics humbled the made-over Tigers, 3-1.

George Kell, key man from Boston's viewpoint, failed to appear in time to take over the third base duties with the Red Sox. Veteran pitcher Dizzy Trout, fourth Tiger in the deal, was on hand but was not called upon.

In addition to Dropo and Lenhardt, the Bengals acquired shortstop Johnny Pesky, third baseman Fred Hatfield and pitcher, Bill Wright. None of them saw action Tuesday night.

NO ACTION
Luke Easter spearheaded Cleveland's triumph with his eighth homer and a single to drive in half his team's runs. The victory boosted the Indians back into the American League lead by one game over the Red Sox.

Brooklyn retained its one-game margin over the New York Giants in the National League race, defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates, 6-4, on home runs by Jackie Robinson, Carl Furillo and Gil Hodges. The Giants shellacked the third-place Chicago Cubs, 17-4, with the aid of 17 hits including a home run, three doubles and three triples.

Brilliant relief pitching by ageless Satchel Paige brought a 3-2 victory for the St. Louis Browns over the Washington Senators.

WIN IN 13TH
Another pitcher turned hitter when right-hander Johnny Sain, in a pinch hitting role, smashed a long single with two out and the bases loaded in the 13th inning to drive in the run that gave the New York Yankees a 4-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Rookie outfielder Wally Poff drove in both Cincinnati runs with a single and homer to give the Reds a 2-1 triumph over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Rookie first baseman George Crowe slammed an eighth-inning homer, his second in two nights, to give the Boston Braves a 3-2 win over the Cards. Jim Wilson pitched a two-hitter for his third triumph.

FAREWELL FOR ARMS—Willie Mays doffed his hat to Polo Grounds fans for the last time following a game with Brooklyn. The Giants' young outfielder is headed for a tour of duty in the Army.

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SPORTS

Russia to Send 300 Athletes to Games

ODDS ON CHARLES PUZZLING

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (AP)—One of the biggest mysteries in this fight training camp center, outside of how finely Ezzard Charles' mustache will be trimmed is why the ex-champ from Cincinnati is such a big favorite to dethrone Jersey Joe Walcott in Philadelphia Thursday night.

Not-so-dead Ezzard was rated a 1 to 1 choice, depending on where the bettors were doing their shopping, to become the first former heavyweight king in history to regain the prized crown.

Although a majority of the visiting fight writers are plunging for the 30-year-old challenger, no one apparently has any firm conviction that Ezzard is going to win because of the heavier power in 38-year-old Jersey Joe's fists.

The challenger closed out his boxing with a very impressive workout in which he viciously battered sparring partners Al Smith and Julie Keene.

Walcott simply toyed with Pete Nelson and Oakland Billy Smith. The camp was under wraps. He's boxed 76 rounds while Charles has gone 101 in training for their fourth meeting.

SET FOR BIG RACE
OSTEND, Belgium (AP)—Local cab drivers in bowler and traditional attire will compete here on July 26 in the Grand Prix des Cochers at the Wellington race track. The 900 meter race, open to all cab drivers who own their own horse, will be held at mid-meeting, to allow the cabbies to resume business at the end of the racing afternoon. The riders, incidentally, may ask to be replaced by a member of their family. All contestants must weigh less than ninety kilograms—about 170 pounds.

The Pacific Coast League, in its first week in the new open classification, played to only 105,000 people.

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HELSINKI Finland (AP)—Russia will participate in the Olympic Games for the first time in four decades this year and Western observers were wondering Wednesday just how powerful the Soviet delegation will shape up.

Of one thing they were certain: The Russians are sure to make at least a respectable showing or they would not be sending a team of 300 athletes here for the big international sports carnival from July 19 to Aug. 2.

For almost a year, the Russians remained mute on the question of their participation in the games although they are members of most of the international sports federations to which a nation must belong to be eligible.

But Tuesday they ended all speculation by announcing they would try for every title except field hockey.

Why they decided not to go in for field hockey was not explained and there was no immediate comment from Russian officials.

SCARCITY
MORGANTOWN, W. Va. (AP)—The day of the all-around athlete is fast-fading at West Virginia University. Aside from five varsity performers who lettered in the similar sports of cross country and track, only three athletes won letters in as many as two sports this year.

HIGH SCORING RECORD
WASHINGTON (AP)—Dick Todd, head coach of the Washington Redskins in the NFL, scored 994 points throughout his professional, collegiate and high school grid career. He scored 214 points with the Redskins, 116 with Texas A & M and 664 with Crowell (Texas) High.

Paul Bischoff, co-captain of the West Virginia football team, is also president of the school's student body.

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