

CROATIAN YOUTH OLYMPIC DELEGATION
NANJING 2014



HRVATSKI OLIMPIJSKI ODBOR
CROATIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE





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Nanjing (China)
16 - 28 August 2014





I.	
Foreword by Zlatko Mateša	4
Foreword by Josip Čop.....	5
II.	
Croatian Youth Olympic Delegation	9
Mission	11
Croatian Athletes at the YOG	12
Young Ambassador	28
Competition schedule	30
Culture and Education Programme	32
III.	
Olympic hopes of Croatian sports.....	36
Olympic medals of Croatian athletes.....	40
Croatian tangible and intangible heritage	46
IV.	
Sponsors and Partners of the COC	50



Zlatko
Mateša

**President of the
Croatian Olympic
Committee**

Dear sports friends,

Youth Olympic Games, founded as an Olympic festival of unity, solidarity, learning to understand and appreciate the diversity and cultural wealth of new generations of athletes.

Moreover, the first Youth Olympic Games, held in Singapore in 2010, have proven to be not only a great global event organized by the International Olympic Committee but something far more important.

Sports excellence of young athletes- participants of the Games and diverse creative force united in a splendid youthful celebration of multiculturalism, solidarity and fair play represent today an immeasurable contribution to the advancement of the Olympic Movement - something we definitely need in shaping a more tolerant, more just, more equal and prosperous society and its everyday life - not only the everyday life in sports.

I am sure that both the Croatian athletes and young athletes from other countries – participants at the second Summer Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014, are bringing along an integrated knowledge, skills and high motivation to leave at the Games a stamp of success in everything. Moreover, we are aware that they were trained by the world's top names - highly appreciated and skilled coaches from Olympic and sports movement.

On behalf of the Olympic family and partners of the Croatian Olympic Committee, may all the participants be successful and may the Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014 bring us new joy and successes.

Dear young Olympians,

ahead of you there are twelve days of sports competitions at the second Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing. For the second time in the history, the best athletes from all around the world between 15 and 18 years, 3,800 of them, will gather at this, after the Olympic Games the greatest sports event of the International Olympic Committee.

With hard and dedicated work, you have accomplished that what many young athletes dream of. You got the chance to test your strength and prove your talent and sports quality among the most talented coevals in your sports discipline at the global level.

The first Youth Olympic Games held in 2010 In Singapore gave rise to a number of future Olympians, some of which - only two years later - climbed the Olympic podiums at the London Olympics. I sincerely wish that this Olympic dream comes true to some of you, but first of I wish you to gain - in the spirit of Olympism, respect and fair play - valuable experience both in the sports fields and outside of them.

Through its development programs, the ones some of you are already using, but also through its regular programs, the Croatian Olympic Committee gave its best to ensure you the necessary conditions for achieving the best personal results. I am sure that you, dear young Olympians, will give your best to represent your homeland with dignity, making your dear ones and all of us extremely proud of you.

I wish you all a lot of sports success and great experiences.

Good luck!



Josip
Čop

**Secretary General
of the Croatian
Olympic Committee**



ATHLETES	M	F	TOTAL	Team Officials	TOTAL
ATHLETICS		1	1	1	2
BADMINTON		1	1	1	2
BOXING	3		3	2	5
FENCING	1		1	1	2
GYMNASTICS	1		1	1	2
JUDO	1	1	2	1	3
ROWING	2	1	3	1	4
SAILING	1	1	2	2	4
SHOOTING	1	1	2	1	3
SWIMMING	2	1	3	1	4
TABLE TENNIS	1	1	2	1	3
TAEKWONDO		2	2	1	3
TENNIS	1		1	1	2
MISSION				2	2
TEAM DOCTOR				1	1
PHYSIOTHERAPIST				1	1
YOG AMBASSADOR				1	1
TOTAL	14	10	24	20	44



Rovinj



PETRA NOSSO

(CHEF DE MISSION)

DATE OF BIRTH:
29th of August, 1975
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Zagreb, Croatia



ZORAN ŠTEFEC

(MISSION MEMBER)

DATE OF BIRTH:
30th of July, 1971
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Koprivnica, Croatia

MEDICAL TEAM



DAMIR JEMENDŽIĆ

(TEAM DOCTOR)

DATE OF BIRTH:
4th of January, 1980
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Žepče, Bosnia & Herzegovina



DEAN MISTURA

(PHYSIOTHERAPIST)

DATE OF BIRTH:
28th of December, 1970
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Rijeka, Croatia

ATHLETICS



EVA MUSTAFIĆ

(HAMMER THROW)

DATE OF BIRTH:

27th of February, 1998

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



SAŠA MILOŠEVIĆ

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

22nd of May, 1988

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



Eva Mustafić



MAJA PAVLINIĆ
(WOMEN'S SINGLES)

DATE OF BIRTH:
14th of July, 1997
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Zagreb, Croatia



RATKO GALJER
(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:
31st of August, 1969
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Bjelovar, Croatia



BOXING



TONI FILIPI

(MEN'S HEAVY / 91 KG)

DATE OF BIRTH:

1st of March, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zadar, Croatia



LUKA PLANTIĆ

(MEN'S MIDDLE / 75 KG)

DATE OF BIRTH:

29th of October, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



LUKA PRTENJAČA

(MEN'S WELTER / 69 KG)

DATE OF BIRTH:

16th of April, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



MARIJO ŠIVOLIJA JELICA

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

29th of June, 1981

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Rijeka, Croatia



MARIJO NIKOLIĆ

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

21st of November,
1951

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zadar, Croatia



Toni Filipi



Luka Plantić



Luka Prtenjača

FENCING



PETAR FILEŠ
(FOIL INDIVIDUAL)

DATE OF BIRTH:
26th of July, 1997
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Zagreb, Croatia



DARKO LIMOV
(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:
22nd of December, 1970
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Zagreb, Croatia



Petar Fileš



JAKOV VLAHEK
(INDIVIDUAL ALL AROUND)

DATE OF BIRTH:
18th of October, 1997

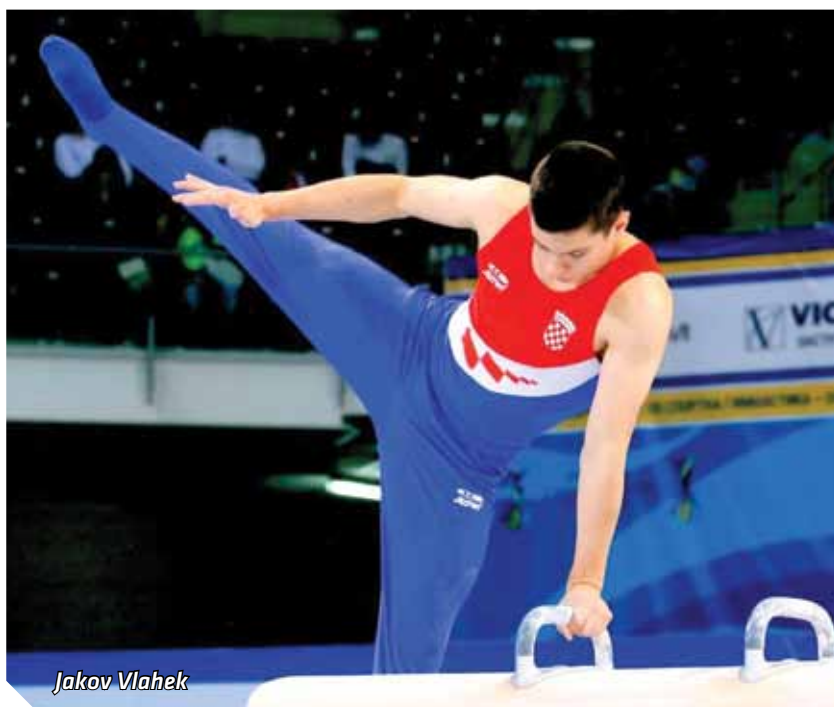
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Zagreb, Croatia



LUCIJAN KRCE
(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:
30th of January, 1975

PLACE OF BIRTH:
Zagreb, Croatia



Jakov Vlahek

JUDO



BRIGITA MATIĆ

(-78 KG)

DATE OF BIRTH:

31st of January, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Split, Croatia



LOVRO KOVAČ

(-81 KG)

DATE OF BIRTH:

8th of March, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Varaždin, Croatia



SLAVKO PRERADOVIĆ

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

31st of January, 1981

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Split, Croatia



Brigita Matić



Lovro Kovač



MARINA KAIĆ
(SINGLE SCULLS)

DATE OF BIRTH:
20th of October, 1997
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Pula, Croatia



IVO BONACIN
(PAIR)

DATE OF BIRTH:
2nd of February,
1996
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Split, Croatia



BERNARD SAMARDŽIĆ
(PAIR)

DATE OF BIRTH:
22nd of February,
1996
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Split, Croatia



MLADEN PAVELIĆ
(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:
6th of July, 1973
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Pula, Croatia



Marina Kaić



Ivo Bonacin



Bernard Samardžić

SAILING



KARLA ŠAVAR
(ONE PERSON DINGHY)

DATE OF BIRTH:
24th of July, 1999

PLACE OF BIRTH:
Zagreb, Croatia



PAVLE ŽIVANOVIĆ
(ONE PERSON DINGHY)

DATE OF BIRTH:
3rd of December, 1998

PLACE OF BIRTH:
Rijeka, Croatia



**DAMIR
NAKRST**
(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:
27th of March,
1981

PLACE OF BIRTH:
Rijeka, Croatia



THEO PIZZUL
(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:
24th of November,
1975

PLACE OF BIRTH:
Rijeka, Croatia





IVANA BABIĆ

(10M AIR RIFLE - 40 SHOTS)

DATE OF BIRTH:

14th of February, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Innsbruck, Austria



BORNA PETANJEK

(10M AIR RIFLE - 60 SHOTS)

DATE OF BIRTH:

26th of March, 1998

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Karlovac, Croatia



RENATO KOVAČIĆ

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

4th of September, 1964

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Koprivnica, Croatia



Ivana Babić



Borna Petanjek

SWIMMING



NIKOLA OBROVAC

(50 M BREASTSTROKE, 100 M BREASTSTROKE)

DATE OF BIRTH:

18th of June, 1998

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



SVEN ARNAR SAEMUNDSSON

(400 M FREESTYLE, 800 M FREESTYLE, 200 M INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY)

DATE OF BIRTH:

19th of July, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



EMA ŠARAR

(100 M BACKSTROKE, 50M BACKSTROKE, 50 M FREESTYLE)

DATE OF BIRTH:

22nd of December, 1998

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Sisak, Croatia



DOMAGOJ ZAJEC

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

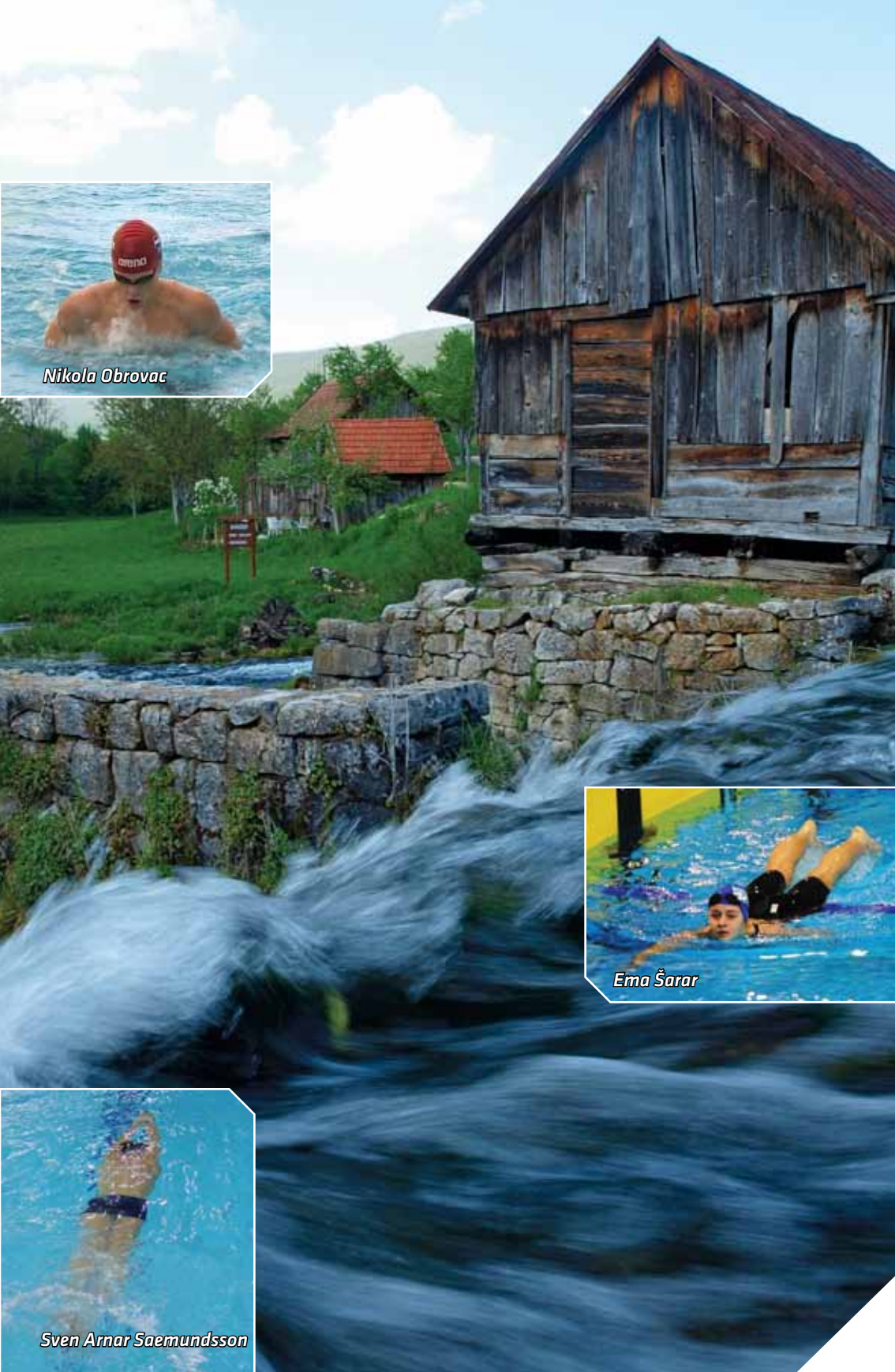
13th of July, 1980

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



Nikola Obrovac



Ema Šarar



Sven Arnar Saemundsson

TABLE TENNIS



TOMISLAV PUCAR

(MEN'S SINGLES, TEAM COMPETITION)

DATE OF BIRTH:

26th of January, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Pula, Croatia



LEA RAKOVAC

(WOMEN'S SINGLES, TEAM COMPETITION)

DATE OF BIRTH:

3rd of March, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



NEVEN KARKOVIĆ

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

10th of June, 1971

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Trbovlje, Slovenia





IVANA BABIĆ
(-55 KG)

DATE OF BIRTH:
26th of August,
1997
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Split, Croatia



MATEJA JELIĆ
(-63 KG)

DATE OF BIRTH:
23rd of December,
1997
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Knin, Croatia



DRAGAN PINJUH
(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:
22nd of January, 1974
PLACE OF BIRTH:
Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina



Ivana Babić i Mateja Jelić

TENNIS



NINO SERDARUŠIĆ

(MEN'S SINGLES)

DATE OF BIRTH:

13th of December, 1996

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



TOMISLAV SERDARUŠIĆ

(COACH)

DATE OF BIRTH:

19th of April, 1991

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Zagreb, Croatia



Nino Serdarušić





2005 was a great year for Danijela - she has won a gold medal at the European Athletics Junior Championships in Kaunas (LTU), a silver medal at the World Youth Championships in Marrakech (MAR) and a gold medal at the European Youth Olympic Festival in Lignano (ITA). In 2006, she has won another gold medal at the World Junior Championships, 9th place at the Senior European Championships and achieved the 23rd best senior result in the World (11th best in Europe and the best junior result in the World). By the end of the year, she broke a 32 years old Croatian National Record (50.78). In 2007, she has won a gold medal in 400m at the European Junior Championships in Hengelo (NED), a gold medal at the European Cup (200m and 400m) and a silver medal at the Universiade in Bangkok (TAI), as addition to the title of the fastest European junior athlete in 400m. At this moment, she is in the top-ten junior 400m runners of all-time.



Danijela
Grgić

**Young Ambassador
at the Second
Summer Youth
Olympic Games
Nanjing 2014**

Three years in a row, Croatian Olympic Committee proclaimed Danijela the greatest hope of Croatian sports and presented her in 2007 with the Dražen Petrović award, intended for talented young athletes and teams in both types of competitions for outstanding sports performance and sports development. The Republic of Croatia presented her also with the State Award for Sports "Franjo Bučar" for winning the title of world champion, for promotion of athletics and for the impact on the international development of sports.

Danijela Grgić is a student at the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Zagreb, and today she is sharing her extraordinary international sports experience, athletic skills and knowledge of kinesiology in the school of young hopes in athletics. She accepted the role of the Ambassador at the Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014 with open heart, believing in the values of the global Olympic family she is a part of, as well as many other top athletes.

Danijela's message to all the young athletes, participants of this extraordinary world sports event is:

"This is your time to compete and shine. I wish you all the best at this youthful celebration of multiculturalism, solidarity and fair play. Welcome to the Olympic family!"



COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Schedule	14	15	16	17	19	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	
Opening/Closing Ceremony																
Diving																
Swimming																
Archery																
Athletics																
Badminton																
3-3 Basketball																
Boxing																
Canoeing																
Cycling																
Equestrian																
Fencing																
Football																
Golf																
Artistic Gymnastics																
Rhythmic Gymnastics																
Handball																
Hockey																
Judo																
Modern Pentathlon																
Rowing																
Rugby																
Sailing																
Shooting																
Table Tennis																
Taekwondo																
Tennis																
Triathlon																
Beach Volleyball																
Weightlifting																
Wrestling																







Culture and Education Programme

The vision of Culture and Education Programme for Nanjing 2014 is “celebrate the youth” with the mission of building a unique cultural and educational platform via new technologies to provide fantastic and memorable YOG experience for audiences, inspire wide participation, spread the Olympic spirit, enhance the city’s influence and leave positive legacy for the city.

The Culture & Education Programme will concentrate on the five themes defined by the IOC: Olympism, Skills Development, Well-Being and Healthy Lifestyle, Social Responsibility and Expression. A series of activities will be carried out before, during and after the Games by reaching out to the following client groups: the athletes, team officials, non-athlete participants, local youth, volunteers, youth associations, athletes’ parents, etc.

1. Youth Festival

Before the Games, Nanjing 2014 Youth Culture Festival is held annually. Various kinds of activities are carried out including YOG feature works exhibition, the cultural and artistic performances by outstanding societies at home and abroad, thematic forums, the International Youth Summer Camp and mass cultural and sports activities to create YOG atmosphere.

Before the Opening Ceremony, a welcome session, grand and joyful party, will be held for the village residents, at which you as the real host of the Youth Olympic Village can participate in face painting, balloon craft, finding friends games, drawing lots and other activities so that you will be able to quickly acquaint with



each other and look forward to the next 12-day fantastic event.

Performances by domestic and overseas youth associations, hip-hop, opera, martial arts ... The “Pump it up” party will be held at the YOV Square. This is a great opportunity for you to improve skills and communication competence through the on-site interaction.

The entire city of Nanjing will be

engaged in the celebration for Nanjing 2014. Art exhibitions, cultural performances, Sports Initiation, Meet with Young Ambassadors or Athlete Role Models and other cultural and educational activities will be held at the squares, in surrounding areas of competition venues, in communities, at schools and other areas.



2. Boost Your Skills

Want to chat with champions? This is the opportunity! During the Games-time, a number of champions and Athlete Role Models will come to interact face to face with you! There will not only be impromptu interviews and Q&A, but also opportunity for you to get their signature, or even taste food and play games with them.

At the YOG exhibitions, the torch, medals, mascots, slogans, stamps and pins related to the YOG will be presented before you. You can also exchange pins and other articles on the site with other participants.

The MBS somatosensory system will create for you a quiet environment; dynamic music, singing and dancing will fully relax your body and spirit, release your pressure and enable you to have a sound sleep.

Have you viewed the popular documentary A Bite of China? What do you know about nutrition and the cuisine culture of different countries? At the YOV, you can learn nutritional cooking by doing it yourself, gain knowledge on nutrition and health, make exchanges on cuisine culture and share the fruits of your efforts.

If you are concerned about career

development, the “Balance Your Act” and “Act on Your Time” programmes will present you how the best athletes make good use of time through reasonable arrangements every day and achieve balance between sport and learning.

The IOC “safe sport” booth will provide important information on healthy body image and anti-sexual harassment. The booth and lecture of the international organisations will raise the awareness of the youth and understanding of global issues. Come and join us!

3. World Culture Village

The bustling cabins scattered in the YOY will allow you to fully experience exoticism without even going outside the Village. A variety of games, music and dance will promote exchange and communication between the young people from all over the world!

Those who decorate the cabins will be from local schools of Nanjing. As a passionate young citizen, are you ready? You are welcome to join the School-NOC Twinning Programme with other countries or regions and grow up with the YOG. Come to the playground, walk in the sunshine, embrace the nature, and share with us your ideas, images, painting works, fingerprints and growth diaries.

4. Discover Nanjing

Outdoor training will be conducted in Nanjing Laoshan National Forest Park, enabling you to release the youthful vigour and engage in interactive games in nature.

Join the Ancient City Wall Exploration and the ancient history will be right in front of you! While getting an idea of the history of the

city wall, you can make antique bricks yourselves, press handprints on the wall tiles, and also make the time-honoured Chinese kites.

Green and low-carbon lifestyle has been a trend and environmental protection is an eternal theme. The Xing Zhi Experiential Learning Base will lead you to fully experience the application of environmental protection concept in agriculture.



Come and make your contribution to environmental protection!

5. New Media Practice

As a new generation of the 21st century, we are all familiar with the new media. Technologies have facilitated the communication between people and the dissemination of information. If you like to record and share what is happening around, we warmly invite you to showcase your works on the official website of Nanjing 2014. In the Digital Centre of the YOY, you can also share your YOG experience with the youth of the world.

Come and experience the wonderful culture and education programme! We are looking forward to your participation! For more information, please refer to the CEP Plan for Nanjing 2014.



Lea Rakovac



Maja Borić

Olympic hopes of Croatian sports



Ana Konjuh



Brigita i Barbara Matić



Matija Gregurić



Dominik Perković

Believing that a young athlete, already in the early stages of sports excellence and maturation, deserves full, adequate and effective support, the Croatian Olympic Committee decided, among other things, to monitor and reward the best, promising ones – since 1995 the COC does it through the annual selection of the Greatest Hope of Croatian Sports.

Since 2007, the selection of talented young athletes – the ones that will achieve excellent sport results like Dražen Petrović once did, is held every year. This award bears the name of Dražen Petrović, the legendary



Borna Ćorić



Ivan Čapan

OLYMPIC HOPES OF CROATIAN SPORTS

Croatian basketball player, bronze medalist at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984 and two silver medals - from Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992. His monument is one of the few in the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, and in 2002, he was posthumously enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

This prestigious award was presented - at their younger age - to the Olympic winners and winners at the major world competitions, our sports stars: Blanka Vlasić, Janica Kostelić, Sandra Perković, Sanja Jovanović, Duje Draganja, Ivana Brkljačić, Martina Zubčić, Tamara Boroš, Šime Fantela, Danijela Grgić - who is also the young ambassador of the COC's Croatian Youth Olympic Delegation in Nanjing and Ivan Horvat, the participant of the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010 and the youngest Croatian Olympian at the London Olympics in 2012.

In 2012, Ivan won the first place in the European ranking and second place in the world junior ranking in pole vault, and a year later he set the Croatian senior record in the same discipline, both outdoor (5.62 m) and indoor (5.60m).

Today eighteen-year-old judoka Brigita Matić was proclaimed - after winning the golden medal at the European Cadet Championships in 2012 at the age of 16 - the greatest hope of Croatian sports. The next year, 2013, she won bronze medals at the Cadet European Championships in Tallinn and the World Junior Championships in Ljubljana, in the category up to 78 kilograms.

This year, just like the table tennis player Lea Rakovac, she is representing Croatia at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing. Lea has won four bronze and one silver medals at the Cadet European Championships in 2010 and 2011, and her journey to Nanjing is additionally decorated with another bronze medal from the World Junior Championships in Rabat in 2013.

Dominik Perković, sailor in the class Laser 4.7, born in 1999, is the winner of silver medal at the European



Donna Vekić



Ante Krišto

Championships (in the category up to 16 years) in Balaton in 2013 and fourth in the global competition.

Seventeen-year-old tennis player Ana Konjuh ended the last year, 2013, as the first junior in the world, the most successful female athlete of younger age groups and the greatest Croatian sports hope. However, she also started the year 2013 with excellence – by winning a double crown (in Girls' Doubles with Carol Zhao and in Girls' Singles) at the Junior Grand Slam tournament - the Australian Open, and she confirmed her success in September by winning the second Junior Grand Slam tournament - the U.S. Open.

In 2013, Matija Gregurić – at the age of only 17 – won the title of the World Junior Champion in hammer throw.

Tennis player Borna Ćorić was born in 1996. In September 2013, he won the Junior Grand Slam tournament - the U.S. Open and, besides winning the four ITF Futures, the same year he



Mihael Vukić

managed to win the first place in the International Tennis Federation junior rankings.

Seventeen-year-old Maja Borić is the Croatian senior champion and finalist of the junior European and World championships in 3 m synchronized springboard.

Ante Krišto, born in 1997, is the winner of a silver medal at the European Junior shooting Championships in Finland in 2012, in the discipline 10 m Air Pistol.

Due to their excellent performance, the title of Croatian Olympic hope was also awarded to: tennis player Donna Vekić, swimmer Mihael Vukić, Brigita Matić's older sister, judoka Barbara Matić, who has won two bronze medals (in Girls' 63 kg and in the competition of 12 mixed teams) at the First Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010 and Ivan Čapan, who has won – also at the First Youth Olympic Games - a gold medal in 50m breaststroke.

Olympic medals of Croatian athletes

From performances within the teams of the contemporary states up to the independence of the Republic of Croatia in 1991 and first performance at the Olympics under the own flag in 1992, there are 143 Croatian athletes who have won 45 Olympic medals, 15 gold, 20 silver and 10 bronze medals, all at the Summer Olympics. The medals from Winter Olympics started coming yet with the appearance of the excellent Kostelić siblings, Janica and Ivica.

Today, in twenty-four years of Croatian independence and recognition of the Croatian Olympic Committee by the IOC in January 1992, the Croatian athletes have won 34 medals, 23





Blanka Vlašić



Men's Rowing Eight Team



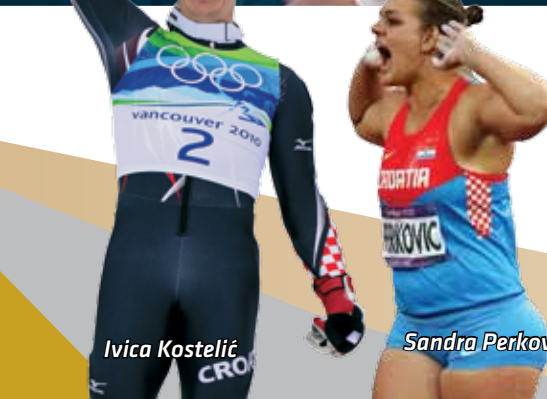
Ljubičić & Ančić



Duje Draganija



Goran Ivanišević



Ivica Kostelić



Sandra Perković

at the Summer Olympics and 11 at the Winter Olympics, 10 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze medals.

In more recent Olympic history, since 1992, Croatian sports got adorned with 10 gold medals, seven individual and three as team, brought by: alpine skier Janica Kostelić (4), discus thrower Sandra Perković, weightlifter Nikolaj Pešalov, Giovanni Cernogoraz in trap, two Croatian national handball teams; the first one from Atlanta 1996 - Patrik Čavar, Valner Franković, Slavko Goluža, Bruno Gudelj, Vladimir Jelčić, Božidar Jović, Nenad Kljaić, Venio Lortser, Valter Matošević, Zoran Mikulić, Alvaro Načinović, Goran Perkovic, Iztok Puc, Zlatko Saračević, Irfan Smajlagić and Vladimir Šujster, and the second one from Athens 2004 - Ivano Balić, Davor Dominiković, Mirza



Janica Kostelić

Džomba, Slavko Goluža, Nikša Kaleb, Blaženko Lacković, Venio Losert, Valter Matošević, Petar Metličić, Vlado Šola, Denis Špoljarić, Goran Šprem, Igor Vori, Drago Vuković and Vedran Zrnić and, finally, Croatian national water polo team from London 2012 - Josip Pavić, Damir Burić, Miho Bošković, Nikša Dobud, Maro Joković, Petar Muslim, Ivan Buljubašić, Andro Bušlje, Sandro Sukno, Samir Barač, Igor Hinić, Paulo Obradović and Frano Vićan.

From 13 silver Olympic medals, two from Team competition, the largest number, four of them, were won by the alpine skier Ivica Kostelić (4), his sister, also alpine skier, Janica Kostelić (2) one by the athlete Blanka Vlašić in high jump, gymnast Filip Ude in the pommel horse discipline, quadruple scull team - David Šain, Martin Sinko-



National Basketball Team



Filip Ude

Blanka Vlašić

CROATIAN OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

vić, Damir Martin and Valent Sinković, swimmer Duje Draganja, Croatian national basketball team - Vladan Alanović, Franjo Arapović, Danko Cvjetičanin, Alan Gregov, Arijan Komazec, Toni Kukoč, Aramis Naglič, Velimir Perasović, Dražen Petrović, Dino Rađa, Žan Tabak and Stojko Vranković and national water polo team - Maro Balić, Perica Bukić, Damir Glavan, Igor Hinić, Vjekoslav Kobeščak, Joško Krecković, Ognjen Kržić, Dubravko Šimenc, Siniša Školneković, Ratko Štritof, Tino Vegar, Renato Vrbičić and, Zdeslav Vrdoljak and coxless pair team Siniša and Nikša Skelin.

11 bronze medals were brought by Goran Ivanišević in Singles' and in pair with Goran Prpić, men's rowing eight team from Sydney 2000 - Igor Boraska, Tihomir Franković, Krešimir Čuljak, Igor Francetić, Branimir Vujević, Tomislav Smoljenović, Nikša Skelin, Siniša Skelin and coxwain Silvijo Petriško, weightlifter Nikolaj Pešalov, tennis players Mario Ančić and Ivan



Nikolaj Pešalov

Ljubičić in pair, Snježana Pejčić in shooting, taekwondo athletes Martina Zubčić, Sandra Šarić and Lucija Zani-nović, biathlete Jakov Fak, national handball team in London 2012 - Mirko Alilović, Venio Losert, Manuel Štrlek, Ivan Ninčević, Ivan Čupić, Zlatko Horvat, Igor Vori, Jakov Gojun, Drago Vuković, Blaženko Lacković, Domagoj Duvnjak, Ivano Balić, Marko Kopljar, Denis Buntić and Damir Bičanić.

National Water Polo Team



London 2012

LONDON 2012

Croatian Olympians through the history



Milan Neralić Đurđica Bjedov

The first Olympic medal won by a Croat, but at that time under the Austro-Hungarian flag, was a bronze medal won by Milan Neralić in fencing (foil) at the Olympics in Paris in 1900.

The first Olympic medal won at the Olympics - up to the time of Croatian independence - was a silver medal won by the football players at the London Olympics in 1948. There were eight Croats among the players.

The first Croatian female athlete who has won an Olympic medal was a swimmer Đurđica Bjedov - at the Mexico Olympics 1968 she has won both gold and silver medal. The first Olympic medal won by a Women's team was a silver medal won by



Janica Kostelić

the handball team and bronze medal won by the basketball team, both at the Moscow Olympics 1980.

The first individual Olympic medal in the history of Croatian sports since the Croatian independence was a bronze medal won by Goran Ivanišević in Barcelona. However, Ivanišević is the first Croatian flag-bearer at the Summer Olympics, while the ice skater Tomislav Čižmešija was the Croatian flag-bearer at the Winter Olympics in Albertville the same year as Ivanišević, only a few months earlier.

The first Olympic gold medal in team sports was the one won by the Croatian handball team in Atlanta in 1996 - thanks to them, the Cro-



Ivica Kostelić

atian national anthem was played for the first time at the Olympics. The first Olympic gold medal in the individual competition was the one won by the weightlifter Nikolai Pešalov in Sydney in 2000.

The first gold medal in the history of performances at Winter Olympics is the one won by Janica Kostelić in Salt Lake City in 2002 who, with six Olympic medals (four gold and two silver) is Croatia's most successful Olympian and athlete of all time. The first Croatian medal ever in the men's competition at Winter Olympics is the one won by Ivica Kostelić in Turin in 2006 who is, besides the legendary canoeist Matija Ljubek, the only Croatian athlete with four Olympic medals.



Matija Ljubek



Croatian tangible and intangible heritage

For many, Croatia is truly an irresistible place in the Mediterranean whose streets, metaphorically speaking, descend into the interior of a rich millennial history. Its cities are treasures of museums, galleries, churches, historic buildings and world heritage sights revealing to the visitors some ancient times, battles, events and myths as well as persons that represent a timeless Croatian fact. Therefore, it is not surprising that, for example for Zadar, back in 1964, admiring the city, one of the world's most famous directors Alfred Hitchcock said: "Sunset in Zadar is the most beautiful in the world and much nicer than the one in Key West in Florida".



CROATIAN HERITAGE

No wonder the fact that the UNESCO's list of world intangible heritage comprises - as a common value of the civilization to which we belong - the Old Town of Dubrovnik, Diocletian Palace and Medieval Split, Cathedral of St. James in Šibenik, the historical core of Trogir, early Christian Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč, Starigradsko field and National Park Plitvice Lakes.

Croatia was one of the first countries that ratified the UNESCO's Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, aware that the intangible heritage, just like the tangible, is woven into the identity of the region and people, merged with the environment, alive in its diversity.

Today Croatia has the highest number of phenomena inscribed on the list of intangible heritage in Europe. Some of them, like the "a capella" singing that leaves no one indifferent,



represents an distinguishing part of Croatia's identity. Perhaps the folk phenomenon "ojkanje" singing is less known however, it is the only mark of Croatian culture inscribed on the list of endangered heritage of humanity, preserved thanks to the residents of the Dalmatian hinterland who have nurtured and promoted the folk traditions of their villages in a time when it was not a part of the modern trends. On the representative UNESCO's list, another folk rarity is inscribed - the two-part singing and playing in the Istrian scale (characteristic for Istria and the Croatian littoral).

The list also includes "bečarac" - popular genre of music in eastern Croatia, deeply rooted in the cultures of Slavonia, Baranja and Srijem, full of humor and improvisation and, finally, "nijemo kolo" - silent circle dance of the Dalmatian hinterland, which highlights the extraordinary dance skills. Defining feature of the silent circle dance is that it is performed exclusively without music, although

Lace from the island of Pag



vocal or instrumental performances may precede or follow the dance.

The Intangible heritage of Croatian coastal towns dates back a couple of centuries – the Festivity of St. Blaise, patron of Dubrovnik, is a ritual that takes place for already 10 centuries. The Procession Za Križen (“following the cross”) inscribed on the list because of its unique ritual, an important part of religious and cultural identity of inhabitants of the island of Hvar, is held continuously since the 16th century.

Gingerbread craft, characteristic for the region of Croatian Zagorje, is the most vital of all the protected intangible customs, and the products of this craft are most wanted and appreciated. The UNESCO’s list is additionally enriched by the creative wooden toys from Croatian Zagorje and lacemaking, especially from the region of Mediterranean Croatia, the



Map of Europe

island of Pag, Hvar or from the City of Lepoglava.

The lace from the island of Pag, made by needle, has become a special feature of the island of Pag and souvenir that adorns the homes of many tourists around the world. Another distinctive feature comes from the island of Hvar, where the Benedictine monastery makes lace from the agave leaves that makes it not only special, but also different from many other laces made by Croatian women.



Zadar

Croatia, interesting in its multiple diversity, is extremely rich not only in islands, lakes, rivers, national parks and nature reserves and – quite surprising for a Mediterranean country – in mountains. The highest mountain is Dinarica (1831 m), but all the Croatian mountains are an equally excellent intersection of sports-recreational adventurism and beautiful views.

Today Croatia has 4,284,889 inhabitants, described as friendly, open, kind people of great knowledge and ideas. From the European point of view, Croatia is a destination that - besides the cultural, economic and historical sites - has an outstanding sports position in the World’s Olympic milieu.





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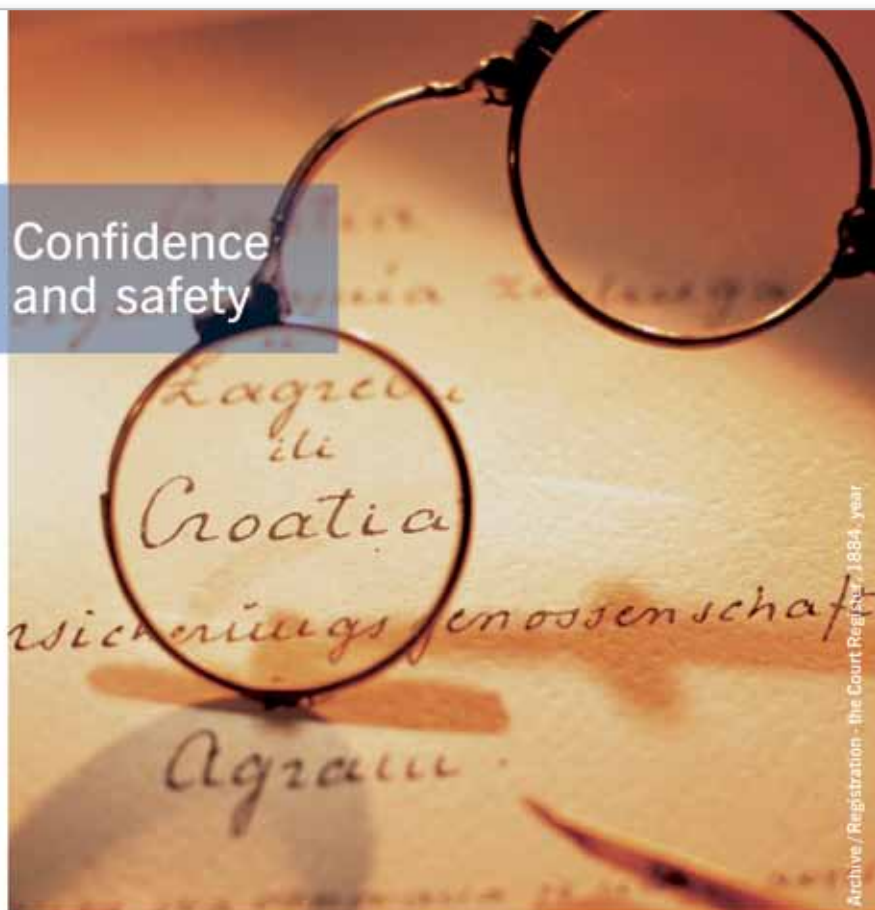
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