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How Rampich the Icicle was finally revealed! In Malta with applause



The EYOWF 2011 Patron Lukáš Bauer (in the middle) with Milan Jirásek, the President of the Czech Olympic Committee and Roman Kumpošt, the Honorary President of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee

Lukáš Bauer: It is important to have fun and endurance in sports



The best Czech Cross Country skier and three-time medallist from the Winter Olympic Games, Lukáš Bauer, has become one of the eight Patrons of the 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011 in the Liberec Region. He knows how important top international competitions are for young athletes. His advice regarding possible failures: never give up and fight on!

Why did you decide to support the 2011 Festival in the Liberec Region?

I have taken part in the Olympic Games four times and I know what a wonderful sporting and social experience it is. At the beginning of my career, I had no opportunity to compete with European athletes. That is why I was glad to accept the offer to become the Patron of the Cross Country part of the Festival.

You have never taken part in EYOWF yourself?

I did not know of any Festival at all. When I was at the age of these young athletes, the Ski Association only sent a few athletes to races abroad. Looking back, I would have taken advantage of the opportunity, any competition on other than the national level is an excellent experience. You see new faces, you wonder how good this or that one is, what strategy he is going to use, etc. You have the chance to make new friends, see places. Sport is not only the performance, but also meeting people.

Can young Czech athletes be affected in the races by the pressure from home spectators?

It is definitely important to be able to race under pressure, I have experienced it myself. The World Championships in Sapporo in 2007 was quite relaxed for me, while in contrast, the Championships in Liberec in 2009 were really tough. You feel the expectations not only from the people sitting in front of TV, but directly along the track. They are rooting for you, showing they came only because of you and they are expecting a decent performance. You feel in the limelight, not mingled in the crowd as in Japan. Some people can become

stressed by competing in their home country, but if you are able to achieve a good result under these conditions, the sense of reward is greater and you appreciate it more.

Do you follow Cross Country talents at home or abroad?

I am more oriented on athletes under 23 years of age in the junior category. However, in my opinion, events like EYOWF are the peaks in the careers of athletes between 14 and 18 years of age. The path to top skiing is rough. Even I was not the type of athlete who would win all the time. I have always tried very hard to come back from behind. When I was 14, I did not even qualify for the national championship, I joined the national team as late as in my 20's. Everything needs time and it cannot be done without hard work. It is important, however, to have fun in sports and endure. You have to prepare yourself for the fact that there will be more losses than wins, but as result the victories will be even sweeter.

Are you ready to hand over the baton to your successor?

After long years of training and thanks to a good coach, I have reached a certain performance level and I do not intend to leave the top spots ☺ Whenever I have the opportunity, I am glad to help young talents, but whether I look forward to being replaced on the throne? No way! As long as I ski and take part in races, I want to be the best. My possible successor will have to face a tough fight.

Eight Patrons of the Festival

Eight top Czech athletes in winter disciplines have decided to support EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region. The official Patrons of each of the disciplines are: Lukáš Bauer (Cross Country Skiing), Pavel Churavý (Nordic Combined), Roman Koudelka (Ski Jumping), Michal Novotný (Snowboarding), Marek Schwarz (Ice Hockey), Tomáš Verner (Figure Skating), Veronika Vítková (Biatlon) and Šárka Záhrobská (in the photo – Alpine Skiing).



Roman Kumpošt elected to FIS Council

Roman Kumpošt, a long-time skiing official and at present the Honorary President of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee, has achieved a great diplomatic success. In the beginning of June, at a congress in Turkish Antalya, he was elected to the Council of the International Ski Federation (FIS). Roman Kumpošt replaced Milan Jirásek, who had decided not to run for the post again, in this highest body of the ski organisation. The FIS Council has at the same time chosen Roman Kumpošt to chair the Nordic Combined Committee.



Sharing an experience

Over the course of EYOWF 2011, the Organising Committee will set up a specially designed seminar aimed at future organisers of sporting events. In the so called "observer programme", they will share the most important experience and knowledge gained over the course of the long-time preparations for the event with participants from all over Europe. „We took part in a similar seminar during the summer Festival 2009 in Tampere and it was very useful for us. Now, we are ready to share our experience and organisational know-how with others,“ Kateřina Nyčová, the Executive Director of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee, explains.



QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

„The praise we have been awarded so far in connection with the preparations for the EYOWF 2011 and the high standard of all the sporting venue and facilities has been a great satisfaction for us. I admit that the high expectations are sometimes a little bit frightening.“



KATEŘINA NYČOVÁ,
the Executive Director of the
EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee

Rampich the Icicle finally revealed!

WE WERE THERE

On 10th June, at a gala press conference in the Clarion Grandhotel Zlatý Lev in Liberec, the patrons Lukáš Bauer, Tomáš Verner, Roman Koudelka and Marek Schwarz christened the official mascot of the EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region – Rampich the Icicle. The author of the design is the graphic studio Listdesign from Liberec.



The EYOWF 2011 Patrons (from left): Tomáš Verner, Lukáš Bauer, Roman Koudelka and Marek Schwarz christening the mascot



The EYOWF 2011 mascot - Rampich the Icicle



All participants of press conference also took a picture with the mascot



Rampich the Icicle coming to his christening

RAMPICH'S COLUMN

I'm an icicle, a mascot by profession



So I've been just christened. I'm Rampich the Icicle and I've become the mascot of the 10th European Youth Winter Olympic Festival (EYOWF) 2011.

All the big shots coming to EYOWF 2011 can bet I'll thoroughly check them out. I'll be right behind them, I'll give them a hard time. I might break some cross country skier's pole or mess up their wax, the ice hockey players will get an own goal at the start, the downhill skiers will hit a gate or I'll wrap them in fog. Ski jumpers will have to

face the wind, the snowboarders will go through snowstorms, I might trip some figure skaters or twist their pirouettes, I'll darken the vision of the biathlonsists so they won't be able to hit the broad side of a barn. We will see how they will manage the obstacles, while I'll be standing behind a tree laughing my icy head off.

I promise I'll be a tricky and tough opponent and I can't wait for the competitions with everyone. And if anyone manages to successfully evade all of my traps and dirty tricks and win a medal, I guess I'll have to applaud appreciatively and maybe give them an icy hug as well. 'Cause that will be a real champion, who is not taken by surprise and who will one day emerge as a big shining star among the grown-ups.

So let's applaud all the sports and a big applause for me! And 'cause I'm cool, I have my own Facebook profile (named as Rampich Fundic) where you can chat with me any time.

Yours,
Rampich the Icicle

EYOWF 2011 info



Applause in Malta

Representatives of the 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011 in the Liberec Region - Kateřina Nyčová, the Executive Director and Martin Ditrich, Manager of the Public Benefit Corporation EYOWF 2011 – took part in a recent Seminar of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) in the Maltese capital La Valetta. The three-day event also included an official presentation of the current state of preparations for the 2011 Festival.

Kateřina Nyčová said: „The presentation lasted about 20 minutes. There were no questions from the audience, partly because we had already handed out folders to all the delegates with complete information, a special newsletter as well as the anti-stress ball with our logo on it ☺ We particularly appreciated the high praise we received from the President of the EOC, Patrick Hickey himself, and the Secretary General of the EOC Raffaele Pagnozzi. This proves that as far as the organisation is concerned, we are on the right track and we have to maintain the high standard we have set.“

During the remaining part of the seminar, members of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee focused on dealing with and finalising organisational and operational issues and making contacts with representatives of other National Olympic Committees.



From the EOC Meeting in Malta

NUMBER OF MONTH

3000

number of pupils and students participated in first part of the accompanying programme vyCOOL se!, which supports preparations for the EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region