

step out from the crowd, carve a path

EYOWF 2011 info

10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival 2011

EYOWF 2011 | Liberec



Ivo Gréger (right) with other members of the Organising Committee - Vanda Šulcová and Jiří Erben

Ivo Gréger: interview of the month

There are 207 medals at stake at Festival 2011

Although there is still about one and a half years left until the opening of the 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011 in the Liberec Region, the sport programme of this event has already been completed and approved by the European Olympic Committees. One of the programme's co-authors is an experienced international ski referee Ivo Gréger, the Festival's Sport Director.

We will be giving out a considerable amount of 207 medals at EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region. Boys will be competing in fifteen, girls in twelve disciplines. In addition to this, there are three mixed competitions on the programme: the 4 x 5km relay in Cross Country Skiing, the Parallel Slalom in Snowboarding and the Biathlon relay. There are, of course, boys' team disciplines in Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined. Unlike the previous Winter Festival in Szczyrk in Poland, Curling will not be included in the programme.

Will there be women's Ski Jumping which was part of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Liberec 2009, but not listed in the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver 2010? Unfortunately no. Women's Ski Jumping is in a difficult situation. To maintain the maximum EYOWF sport level it is necessary to obtain as many competitors from as many countries as possible. Little interest means the competition level is devalued. We have waited until the last moment for the FIS to decide, but it has, unfortunately, decided not to include women's Ski Jumping in the Festival programme.

Will the sports follow one after another so that fans will be able to see most of it? There are a number of disciplines and it is not

possible to see all the races. That is the way it goes at any big event including the Olympic Games. The venues, however, are not very far away from each other with regular transportation provided for. We tried to harmonise the sport programme so there will be the opportunity to see as many races as possible. What is more, the Figure Skating competitions, Ice Hockey and Ski Jumping races will take place in the evening.

Where will the winners be awarded? After each race, there will be a so-called "flower ceremony" at the venue. The medal ceremony will most probably take place every evening in the Olympic Village or on Dr. Edvard Beneš Square in the centre of Liberec, so as to allow the competitors from other sports to join in. This will create an unforgettable atmosphere for the winners of each race.

What is the current state of the venues, a year and a half prior to the EYOWF 2011 opening? Most of the venues in Liberec, Jablonec nad Nisou and Rejdice are basically ready right now, because there have been World Cups or FIS Nordic World Ski Championships recently. Each sport manager is working hard to ensure all the venues offer top-level facilities.

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An honorary board is emerging



Notable figures from Czech sport and political life will form the honorary board of EYOWF 2011. The board is chaired by Roman Kumpošt, an experienced ski official and diplomat, who has been asked to form the board. Among the first to accept membership are Milan Jirásek, President of the Czech Olympic Committee, and Stanislav Eichler (see photo), President of the Liberec Region. The honorary board will support the Festival in the social sphere and will help to ensure high prestige.

Girls will not jump



Among the women categories, the EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region programme will be without Ski Jumping. The organisers have waited until the last moment for statement of FIS. Latter, however, has decided not to include this discipline in the programme. Women's Ski Jumping was a part of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Liberec in 2009, but it is not included in the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver in 2010.

Festival at the fair

In September, the Liberec Tipsport Arena hosted an important sports fair Sport Live 2009. The 4th year of the fair also had an EYOWF 2011 information stand. Anyone interested had the opportunity to receive press info and merchandise about the upcoming Winter Festival in 2011. The Sport Live fair is attended by thousands of visitors from all over the Czech Republic every year and it has not been otherwise this year.



Quotation of the Month

"I believe many new talents will be discovered at EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region."

ULRICH WEHLING,
Race Director of the FIS Nordic
Combined Committee and a three-
time Olympic champion



we were there

Start with Imrich Bugár!

On Wednesday 9th September, Liberec Vesec was the site of the opening of the additional programme for schools vyCOOL se!. This will be accompanying two significant sporting events organised by the Liberec Region over the next year and a half, the IV Olympic Days for Children and Youth of the Czech Republic in 2010 (ODM) and a year later the 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011.



The programme was opened in the morning with games and races for students of elementary schools. 500 pupils participated in the event at the Vesec venue. The afternoon programme, which was open to the public, offered an attractive in-line skates show and an open in-line race. In the evening the symbolic kick-off with balls saw the participation of celebrities from public and sport life. The Liberec Region was represented by Vice-president Radek Cíkl, and Vice-presidents Josef Dovalil and František Dvořák for the Czech Olympic Committee. The chairman of the administrative board of the civic organisation EYOWF 2011 Petr Doležal and the honorary president of the organising

committee of EYOWF 2011 Roman Kumpošt were also present. A special guest participating in the kick-off was the former world champion in the Discus Imrich Bugár and a young Czech hopeful, the Junior World Champion in Biathlon Veronika Vítková as well as a silver medal Cross Country skier from EYOWF 2009 Jakub Gráf.



behind the scenes

Medal winners step out of the archives

In the beginning of August, the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee achieved a significant success. After more than six months of collecting data, a review of all the medal winners in each discipline over the past nine European Youth Olympic Winter Festivals has been mapped out.

No other host country for the Winter Festival in the past has as yet published a total medal overview, with not even the pages of the European Olympic Committees providing such information as a whole. Thanks to detailed and often genuine detective work involving ongoing communication with sports historians,

journalists and the participants themselves, or with the members of delegations at each event, a final medal review of all the countries and medals for the past nine Festivals was gradually collected.

"It was real detective work and I would like to thank all the people who helped us in any way. Above all, I would like to express my gratitude to Jan Hrdina of the Czech Olympic Committee for his major contribution. Also thanks to him we can now present the Czech public with another interesting aspect of sports history," Helena Bízová, Communication Manager, explains the task.



Among the participants of previous EYOWF editions were also Janica Kostelic, Yevgeni Plyushchenko and Marit Bjørgen

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EYOWF 2011 Liberec

enquiry

Will EYOWF 2011 be an asset to young athletes?



PAVEL CHURAVÝ
Czech number one in the Nordic Combined
"Most definitely. Young people need races to gain experience. For them the EYOWF is an ideal take-off ground."

IMRICH BUGÁR
World Champion in the Discus
"This sport festival surely makes sense. Young hopefuls can prepare for it over the long-run. This makes it much easier for them to enter the real Olympics or World Cups."



VERONIKA VÍTKOVÁ
Junior World Champion in the Biathlon
"I am a big fan of youth games. EYOWF 2005 in Switzerland was my first big competition where I experienced the real Olympic atmosphere. I believe that the festival in 2011 in the Liberec Region will bring beautiful memories to both the spectators and Czech sport."



Veronika Vítková and Jakub Gráf

JAKUB GRÁF
Silver Cross Country skier from EYOWF 2009
"I took part in EYOWF and can say that it was a very important start for me on the international sport scene. I gained experience and have lots of wonderful memories crowned by the medal success."

Number of the Month

75

Number of medals to be awarded to Ice Hockey players at EYOWF 2011 (gold, silver and bronze, each 25 medals).