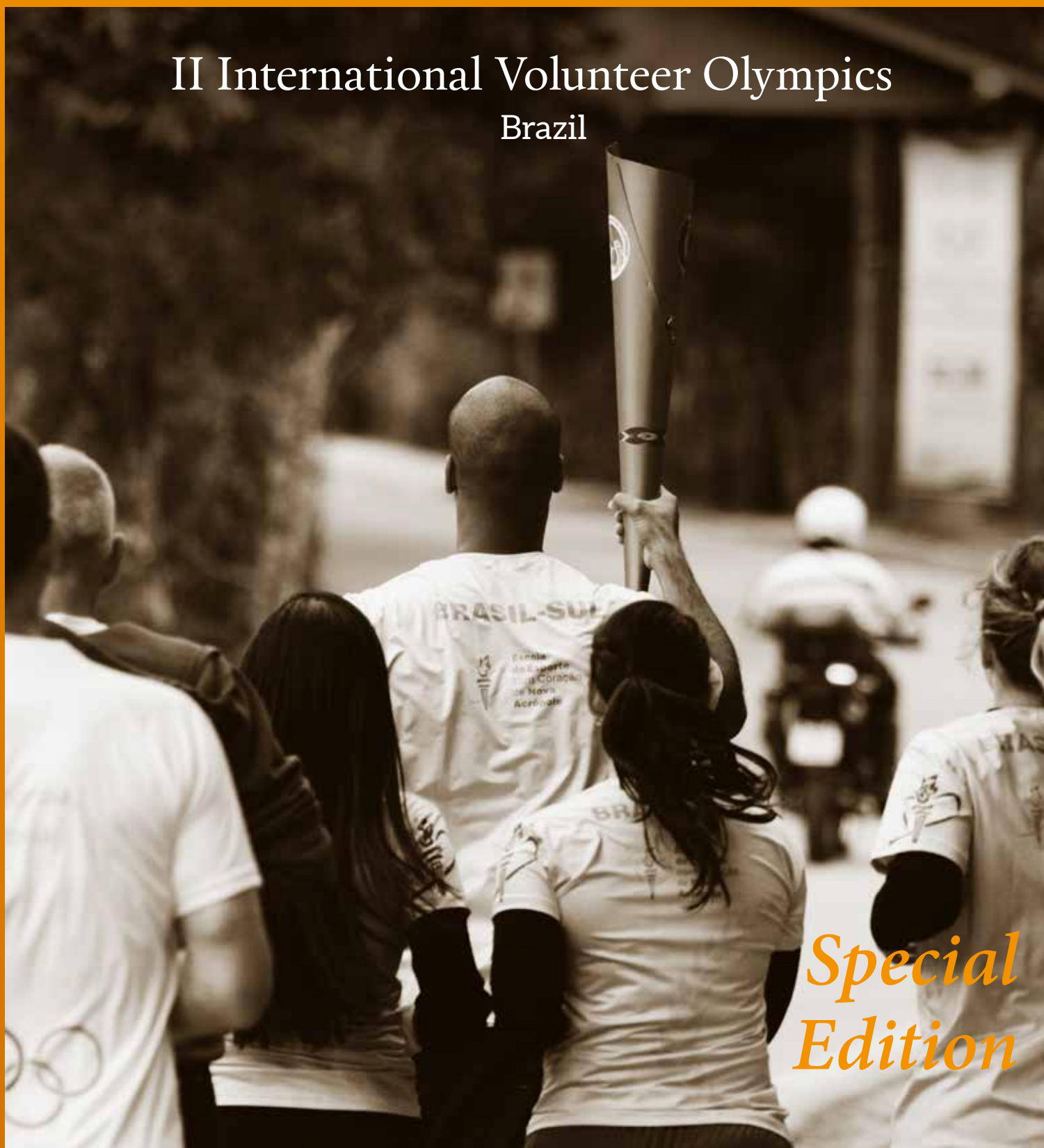


Magazine Nº 3 - December 2023



SPORT WITH A HEART

II International Volunteer Olympics
Brazil



*Special
Edition*

Summary

The background of the page is a photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a white shirt, holding a large, golden torch. The torch has the Olympic rings logo on it. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The man is looking towards the right of the frame. Another person's hand is visible at the bottom right, also holding the torch.

- 03 *Editorial*
- 05 *About the School of Sport with a Heart of New Acropolis*
- 06 *Heading to Olympia: the countries' preparation for the Games*
- 14 *Olympic Spirit today: II International Volunteer Olympics*
 - Authorities' interview*
 - Athletes' interview*
 - Judges' interview*
 - Volunteer's interview*
- 33 *Olympic Education: philosophical-sports education*
- 39 *On the wings of Niké: Article*
- 42 *Pentathlon of the Muses: winning poetry*
- 47 *Final message: for the heroes of the future*

Editorial

After nine intense days in Brazil, on the occasion of the celebration of the II International Volunteer Olympics of New Acropolis, and upon my return to Spain, I met with a childhood friend, a passionate athlete whom I hadn't seen in a long time. He asked me about the broken records in the II International Volunteer Olympics of New Acropolis, about the number of participants, number of events, numbers, numbers, numbers...

I explained to him that the concept of records in sports originated in the late 19th century, driven primarily by the interest it began to generate among newspaper readers. These records helped publicize the achievements and, in turn, attracted more advertising contracts for newspapers. From that moment, one of the worst "illnesses" started spreading throughout society, particularly in the sports world, with the distorted application of the idea of competitiveness, leading to a desire to win at any cost – regardless of the consequences.

As Kronos (chronological time) inevitably passed, this "illness" grew in the world of sports, becoming chronic. A kind of "record mania" combined with a "medal syndrome" resulted in "championitis" (that is, winning at any cost). The deceitful trap of

doping and the aftermath of grim and ignoble manipulations shattered human dignity, convincing individuals that "coming first is everything, since being second

place is to be the first one to lose" (famous and muddy words from a wrongly named coach, whose name I'd rather not recall).

The Latin origin of the term



“record” has its root in COR (heart), and the French origin of the term speaks of “recorder,” meaning to REMEMBER. Through a simple analogy, we understand that to remember is to “pass through the heart again,” a definition much closer to the Latin etymological origin of the word “competition”: COM PETIRE, to go together towards something. Surpassing and improving oneself, breaking limits aided by those participating alongside you, urging you to bring out the best in yourself. When these limits are surpassed using our natural strengths developed through willpower and sacrifice, that’s when a RECORD becomes a simple tool to verify improvement, a means in itself and not an end.

I told my dear friend that in these II International Olympics of New Acropolis, we strive to use sports for an ethical purpose that serves to enhance human beings, motivating us to be conscientious, useful, and happy citizens. Ultimately, better citizens.

I spoke to him about the harmonious union of Music (related to the Muses) and Gymnastics, the Platonic education, achieving true “miracles” in shaping human beings. Overcoming limits is something beautiful (from the Greek “kalos”) and is achieved in the forge of agonistic gymnastic trials. Spiritual goodness (from the Greek “agathos”) was fostered through music, singing, dance, poetry, and philosophy, the ultimate expression of Union and Brotherhood.

I told my dear friend that experiencing Peace and Fraternity

among human beings is possible through a genuine philosophy of practical sports, applied to everyday life. I said that the Olympic Spirit is about surpassing limits, not only physical but also emotional and mental. Breaking our barriers using Will as a tool:

Imagine for a moment an athlete preparing conscientiously for a 10,000-meter endurance race. Now, imagine that on the day of the race, he wakes up with an untimely illness that has drained their strength. The doctor advises him to stay in bed to recover because participating in the 10,000-meter race makes no sense in their current feverish state, as it’s impossible to finish among the top due to their condition... but our athlete, exercising physical, emotional, and mental effort and overcoming it, rises and participates in the 10,000-meter race, finishing in the last position with a time much longer than their “personal best.”

I asked my dear friend:

Do you think this athlete has been defeated? The answer is obvious: NO!

This, too, is the Olympic Spirit. This is also ARETÉ. Not only overcoming oneself in the fullness of physical, energetic, emotional, and mental strength but also knowing how to surpass oneself in the so-called “bad moments,” which are nothing but the true trials where we can truly overcome ourselves. There is nothing more beautiful than a human being nobly fighting against adversity. In this way, we show ourselves as “...human beings worthy of going to Olym-

pia...” as the principal Hellanodikos exhorted the athletes in Elis, before departing for Olympia, after a month of living and training together:

“IF THROUGH YOUR EFFORT AND WORK, YOU CONSIDER YOURSELVES WORTHY OF GOING TO OLYMPIA, IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN LAZY AND IGNOBLE...THEN GO TO THE STADIUM AND SHOW YOURSELVES AS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN CAPABLE OF OVERCOMING YOURSELVES!”



Francisco Iglesias

International Coordinator of the
School of Sport with a Heart of
New Acropolis

WHO WE ARE

The International School of Sport with a heart is a non-profit organization, which started its activities in Spain in October 2010.

It is present in nearly twenty countries, including Spain, Brazil, Canada, Paraguay, Bolivia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Germany, Colombia and Austria

The activity of the School of Sport with a Heart is based on three principles:

- 1) Awakening and channeling vocations**
- 2) Harnessing sports to develop values and virtues**
- 3) Utilizing sports to promote health and well-being**

The spirit of School of Sport is to train the body and mind. Our culture applies once again the concept that the Roman poet Juvenal brought from a long time ago "mens sana in corpore sano". However, the deep meaning of this famous quote remains to be understood: maintaining a balanced spirit within a healthy body.

And we also rescued the Olympic motto: "Citius, Altius, Fortius" (faster, higher, stronger), a phrase also adopted by Pierre de Coubertin after hearing it from his friend, the Dominican Henri Martin Didon, and which symbolizes the struggle of the human being to improve himself. We understand that the important thing is to be better, faster to fulfill our responsibilities, higher to elevate our feelings and thoughts and stronger to overcome weaknesses.

As the philosopher Aristotle would say: "The most beautiful and the strongest are not crowned at the Olympic Games, but those who know how to compete. Also in life, the one who acts righteously is the one who gets the prize." That's why everyone who participates in the School of Sport with a Heart is a volunteer and the Olympic Fire appears in our logo as a universal symbol of Union.

How to reach us:

E-mail: snesporte@nova-acropole.org.br

Instagram: [@escuela.deporte.corazon](https://www.instagram.com/escuela.deporte.corazon)

YouTube: Escuela del Deporte con Corazón Internacional

Website: <https://www.escueladeldeporteconcorazon.com>

Heading to Olympia:

The countries' preparation for the Games



SPAIN



The preparation really started one year before, at our XXI National Games in August 2022, by selecting the national team with the medalist athletes who were qualified to represent Spain.

With a lot of excitement, we built this team with members of different spanish branches and we made two campings in Barcelona so the athletes could play together, specially for football and volleyball. To strengthen bonds and to remember that UNITY was always present in everyone's heart.

These athletes' national meetings allowed an unforgettable sportive coexistence, where the olympic spirit, this inner fire and the enthusiasm for the preparation were present at all times. Volleyball, archery, track and field, table tennis, swimming, football 7 and chess were played.

And to complete the coexistence, a very useful workshop about Self-massage and Preventing Injuries was taught by Estela García from Seraphis Institute,

and I gave a lecture called To be a Philosopher-Athlete.

As an interesting fact, I can tell that the lyrics performed in the Pentathlon of the Muses in the music category were composed by athletes of different branches, and that the Spirit of Victory was always their inspiration.

Besides that, I should thank the team captain for his great work, Juan Mari Iglesias, and José Edo for his support, because both worked to assure the dedication and generosity of all spanish acropolitans, so the dream



could become true without any setbacks.

Just before our trip to the Modulo Sao Jorge, Juana Mari wrote these words to all of the athletes:

“In fact, Olympia is a state of consciousness...

In every training session we participate, when we strive to overcome ourselves and give our best, we are already in Olympia... and when in our daily life, each one of us faces our trials and challenges with attitude of seeking the Beauty and Goodness, we are in Olympia as well, because the Fire is in our hearts, it is the Enthusiasm Strength that enlightens us and the Inner Security that, no matter what happens, we have the Force of the Fire to overcome all challenges that life present to us.

And like the warmth of the Fire that not only warms us, but spreads with the light of every one, once we meet other people,



our warmth will reach them, and if they are idealists and share this dream, they will join us and will be able to live it as well...

If each one of us became better and more beautiful, inevitably, the world would be better and beautiful, this is how it works... This is the Magic of the Olympic Spirit!

This is also our dream to the future: that the way of living sports with the heart, with philosophy, as a tool of knowledge and brotherhood, that we can live now, will be an opportunity to all in the future.

This was the dream of the New Acropolis' founder, the dream of Pierre de Coubertin and our dream.

We are making history!

"I can, I can" is our motto, and with it we will reach the goal that we set."

Truly, a better world is possible and we are making this a reality. We will keep working with this spirit and we will reach victory, because we have already taken the first step towards the fight.

Ana Gálvez

National Coordinator of the School of Sports with a Heart of New Acropolis of Spain

BRAZIL

South



The II International Volunteering Olympics of New Acropolis was a demonstration of the teachings from the great Masters of Wisdom that the human defines itself through Philosophy as a conscience searching realization. How we can learn from Marcus Aurelius, philosopher-emperor, "nobody will be able to stop you

from living according the reason of your nature, and nothing will happen to you that violates the reason of the universal nature", what was saw was men and women imbued of conviction, assertiveness and effort in order to arrive at the end of their training journeys and their offers during the games. Brazil has a strength that sprouts from its lush nature, including the human one, from the different ages and sports modalities, and from different birthplaces and philosophical maturity. Moreover, the Olympic bond that unites everyone has been built during the preparation that clearly demonstrated this joint human force, appearing to everyone as one.

One great challenge certainly was the physical distances to the team sports. Volleyball, football, and the pentathlon of the muses have been enhanced through virtual meetings and training sessions involving selected individuals along with groups formed in the primary branches, receiving increased attention from experienced participants. The learning is constant and strengthens the evolutionary sense of these human nuclei. Master DSG, in the first edition of the International Volunteering Olympics, taught us that everyone who participates in this Olympic adventure is victorious for facing the fight, the battle, constantly.

Of course we could not miss some of our messes - they would really make us laugh! For being something new for the major

part, the modalities from the Pentathlon of the Muses, introducing new modalities into the Pentathlon of the Muses, particularly Theater and Dance, brought about amusing moments. However, achieving the level of training, rehearsal, and expression expected, with the necessary reverence, proved to be quite challenging. Fortunately, everyone's dedication and accumulated experience allowed for redemption. With the guidance, patience, and love of the muses, we navigate through these experiences. As a monitor from Paraná state, my heart feels warmed by the journey.

I also want to highlight the emergence of new workshops in various states, such as Archery, Javelin, and Discus throwing. These workshops are attracting new philosopher-athletes, nurturing their talents and passions. Like sprouts growing into leafy branches, they contribute to the flourishing tradition of sports philosophy, enriching our collective journey.

Magayver, the monitor from Minas Gerais state, stated, 'Keeping focus for one day is easy if compared to keeping focus for months. This sentiment underscores the deeper sense of effort, discipline, and generosity that arises from such sustained focus. The Olympic experience extended beyond the festivities of the II International Volunteering Olympics; it permeated every training session, every effort to overcome challenges, and every aspect of preparation. It was evi-

dent in the meticulous financial planning for event participation, in maintaining the rhythm of philosophical studies amidst training, in post-training reflections, in competition readiness, in equipment procurement, and in logistical arrangements for athletes from diverse countries.”

Monik, the monitor from Bahia, reflected on the challenges faced during training: “It was all so challenging, maintaining con-



sistency in individual training, despite illness, adverse weather, and other obstacles. Each athlete gave their best and surpassed themselves. They overcame age-old beliefs, low self-esteem, lack of confidence, difficulties in co-existence, and impatience with results. By joining forces, we achieved what seemed impossible, prompting us to believe that every human being deserves the opportunity to live like this.”

Sofia, the monitor from Rio Grande do Sul and a national senate member, emphasized the rigorous preparation leading up

to the Olympics: “The preparation for the Olympics was built on immense effort and overcoming, always infused with a spirit of joy and unity. Each participant trained in their respective city and school, with different workshops offered in every branch, covering various modalities such as athletics, archery, swimming, and volleyball. These workshops aimed to awaken individual talents and foster personal growth, enabling each athlete to deliver their best per-

formance.”

The monitors from Brazil-South unanimously acknowledged the significance of holistic preparation, particularly the philosophical aspect: “The physical, psychological, and moral preparation was crucial, but it was the philosophical preparation, imparted through the Syllabus classes, that truly equipped philosopher-athletes with the Olympic ideals. This internal fortitude enabled them to face their challenges with resilience and find victory within themselves.”

Anderson, the state monitor from Santa Catarina, highlighted



the unique nature of the athletes’ preparation: “The athletes’ preparation for the II International Volunteering Olympics in Santa Catarina was truly special. It extended beyond physical training to encompass ideological formation, bridging theory with practice. We arrived at Olympia ready to offer our best, embodying the spirit of Arete.”

Magayver, also a member of the National Senate, contemplated the symbolic significance of the Olympic flame: “The Olympic flame represents an incredible moment of generosity, purification, and mystique. It prompts us to pause and reflect on the deeper meaning of our endeavors. While its origin may be mundane, the flame symbolizes an ideal that transcends the physical realm. As bearers of this flame, we have a duty to perceive its sacredness and express it in our daily lives.

“Reflecting on the outset of our journey to the II International Volunteering Olympics, we recall a time when our ranks were more numerous, following national and regional qualifiers. However, as we progressed, some faltered, succumbing to the weight of challenges or encountering unforeseen obstacles that diverted their path. Each of us understands the trials endured – the pains, efforts, sickness, internal struggles, and external conflicts. We have gleaned invaluable lessons before, during, and after each battle. Yet, unde-

Photo Session



tered, we press forward with renewed vigor, drawing strength from our setbacks and rising even stronger, guided by the wisdom of our Masters. Our collective experiences are cherished, stored within the Golden Chest of memories. Perhaps one day, we will reunite at Olympia, even faster, higher and stronger, in the Wing of the Solar Symbol.

Ricardo Vela often shared how he paused his studies to ponder the subject of class based on the words of JAL or DSG. Similarly, I find myself now contemplating the images before me, illuminated by the physical fire of the lamp and the figurative fire emanating from their resolute gazes. Their teachings on Will, Intelligence, Love, and Energy, manifested in laws, shapes, and wisdom, were transformative during the months of preparation. It was an experience both witnessed and lived. The vision of the sublime, coupled with the generosity and moral strength of the Acropolitans, culminated in yet another remarkable event, crafted by individuals giving their utmost. "The legacy of our Olympics shines like a beacon, a testament to our human resilience, embodied in the bonds of camaraderie forged through the Victory over oneself," remarks Fabiola, São Paulo monitor. "These are experiences that nourish the soul and reaffirm our dedication to safeguarding the Olympic Flame within our hearts," adds Sofia.

Until 2026, in Spain! Forever, in our hearts!

Luciana Castro

Head of the Brazilian-South
Delegation

BRAZIL

North



Each volunteer made his registration in the modalities of interest and prepared as best they could. There was no targeted preparation for each of the modalities. Some activities such as chess, football, ballet, were already part of the lives of the "athletes". Marcelo Caldeira, for example, has been training tennis regularly since he was a child and registered in weight throwing. Without ever throwing, he learned the throwing movement with the timely support of Yara from Brazil South before the second throw of the test and won silver.

The expectation of those who attended the first edition was to meet again the people and relive the philosophical experience with the particularity of sports as pedagogical facilitator. Others who signed up, had some obstacles and were unable to participate. Those who went for the first time noticed the difference of the sport with applied philosophy. The event allowed

us to think about the possible experience of the spirit of unity applied in everyday life, how was the proofs at the Games and with the presence of different countries and individuals with different cultures and limitations.

The challenge was, is and always will be the understanding and application of philosophy in all factors of life.



Roberto Barrense

National Coordinator of the School of
Sports with a Heart of New Acropolis
of Brazil - North

ISRAEL



The theater

In the theater, we experienced the symbolism of the Phoenix. We prepared an artistic piece and presented it in our mini-Olympic games in Israel in front of everyone. After we performed, we realized that it was necessary to make significant changes. This was not an easy moment - was everything we prepared in vain? Will we meet the deadline? what should we do?! After that we gathered - we remembered the essence of the theater section. We built a new, correct, and more accurate form. We learned not to disassemble from dismantling - because sometimes it leads to newer forms.

Volleyball team

When the process is right - then the result is also right. We held a training match for the volleyball team against players who were not flying to Brazil at the Mini Olympic Games. After the game, one of the actresses shared that she left with a bad feeling - that

she was not being seen. We understood that we needed to go through a process. We held volleyball training on the beach - we strengthened our trust in each other, we invited people we didn't know to join, and young friends joined the training.

From the inner work, we influenced the outside - both on young members of Acropolis and on people who don't know us.

Dima - one of the people who



joined the training said, "It's a different volleyball game than what I know, the main thing here is the people and not the result."

We arrived in Brazil internally prepared - and we won :)

Archery Group

We started the targeted prepara-

tions about a year ago. First, we got a picture of the archers who intend to travel to the games in Brazil. When we saw that it was a large group, about 10 participants, we built a training program, which was integrated into our annual training program, but was nevertheless aimed at participating in the competition.

Some important principles we worked with:

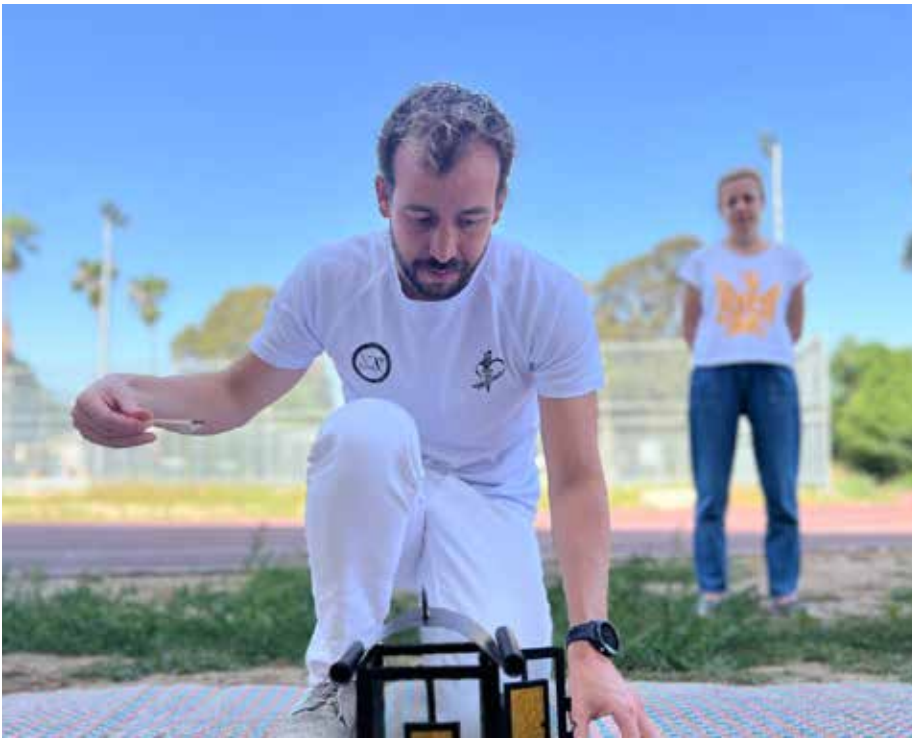
Everyone trained for the competition, whether it was certain that they would participate in the competition, those who pas-



sed the preliminary games, and those who did not pass. Based on the principle that we are all in the team and there are also bench players, Fortuna can surprise and demand its own, you never know. It helped to maintain unity in the intentions.

We put emphasis on personal responsibility in preparation/participation in training. The monthly training was defined as group training, but it was strongly recommended to everyone to find opportunities for additional training during the month, which some of the trainees did.

Our space in our center in the city of Pardes Hana was open by appointment for a team member for personal training and some of us took this opportunity. Some of us trained in clubs located throughout the country. The team



members showed perseverance and determination in preparing for the games.

Last and most important - we put emphasis on maintaining the group orientation towards unity. To belong to the competition, even if not an actual competitor. To maintain the Olympic recognition, for the team. Remember that the real victory is a victory over our ego, over separation, and the tendency to perceive material reality. At every opportunity we remembered the three Olympic principles and they were an internal compass for us.

In the days of the Olympic Games, we were a wonderful team. We prepared for the competition together with our brothers from the other countries. We shared beautiful moments together - the camaraderie in training, the moments of magic and mystery of the ceremonial gestures we initiated on the day of the competition. We made ties of heart

with the archers and the archers we competed with proved that we deserve to be called - athletes.

Thanks to Nike!

Or Shafir

National Coordinator of the School of Sports with a Heart of the New Acropolis of Israel

CZECH REPUBLIC

6 athletes from the Czech Republic were preparing for the Olympics.

The planning, distribution of disciplines and responsibilities of

individual participants took place at the Prague headquarters.

Because they were from 4 cities, the joint preparation took place at several sports camps in the countryside at the national seat at Horní Světlá.



Although there is no professional sports ground at Horní Světlá, the athletes showed a great ability to improvise. Instead of throwing balls they used a large stone. Instead of a ping pong table they placed a wooden board on two pedestals. Instead of a gym they used a mattress and a forest.

Preparation was also done for the musical disciplines, where the most attention was paid to theater.

Aleš Gabriel

National Coordinator of the School of Sports with a Heart of the New Acropolis of Czech Republic

BOLIVIA

Our preparation was a big task that we made holding hands with the national director, searching to make it a very enriching experience. The organization of every detail was challenging, but, with patience, vision and the experience of our directors, we delegated the tasks needed for the preparation of all athletes.



Finding available time schedules for the training sessions, especially in group modalities, was a hard and interesting challenge, once we are all active members with our respective classes, supports and responsibilities inside and out of the school. After many tries, we were able to make satisfactory training plans.

We made many lectures about many themes also in the classroom as in the sports field.

Physical preparation to train the select modalities

Exercises to increase the lung capacity

Nutrition

Olympic Spirit

The challenge was set from the beginning: as we improve our physical abilities, this would imply improving our mental part, cultivating an attentive, brave and persevering combat spirit,

in summary, a strong, useful and happy soul. A soul that could try the joy of effort!

The expectations were always very high, because we were going to Brazil, where the things, for tradition, are huge. We have the great opportunity of sharing our work with our brothers from other corners of our earth and experience the idea of universal brotherhood by the Olympic Games, which without doubt fulfill our hearts.

Something funny: a small group lapse (it is so present in my memory, hard to forget). We were already in the last training sessions in our city and in a friendly match of volleyball versus another invited team, we all noted that this team had a player with excellent technique, didn't make mistakes serving, she had exceptional serve and spectacular attack. To the point that, during the game, several of

us exchanged glances thinking the same thing, until one of our athletes finally said in a low voice and glanced at this player.

"Buddy, don't you want to go to Brazil with us?"

It was at this moment that all who listened to it started to laugh, because it was more than a question, it seemed like a desperate request...

Wilder Alaca

National Coordinator of the School of Sports with a Heart of the New Acropolis of Bolivia

OLYMPIC SPIRIT TODAY

II INTERNATIONAL OLYMPICS



Authorities' interview

Luzia Helena de Oliveira Echenique

National Director of the New Acropolis of Brazil - South

What were the reasons for hosting the 2nd International Volunteer Olympics?

It's the same motivation that characterizes Being Acropolitan. To take advantage of the opportunity and use the facilities that have been built precisely so that we can deliver the best conditions we have and carry out activities that express the immense philosophical value present in our actions - be they cultural, social, dedicated to the environment or sporting, as was the case here. The development of philosophy requires many practical exercises such as courtesy and coexistence, and the challenge is precisely to put this into practice; to experience living these values. An experience like this can be unique in the life of an idealist, in the sense of awakening their deepest fraternal forces. And that's what we did: prioritize this opportunity and need that New Acropolis had, offering everyone a philosophical experience, in this case a gathering of philosophers dedicated to the ideal of action and victory over oneself. We are aware that this only happens when we confront our passivity, in whatever form it takes: fear, laziness, indifference, vanity.

What we did was seize the opportunity and deliver. Everyone gave their best, and that's how we participated in an ideal of fraternity: everyone gave their all - their best, their most lively and active part - whether they were hosts, organizers, teachers, judges or athletes.

And whenever the opportunity arises, we'll seize it again, because that's how we understand the call to do something good, beautiful, fair and true.

What was it like to host the 2nd International Volunteer Olympics, which, as well as members of New Acropolis, included the participation of athletes from the local city, São Francisco Xavier?

It was an action of great dedication on the part of many acropolitans from Brazil. Specifically for these Olympics, we first began with a series of necessary renovations to the headquarters of the São Jorge Module, in order to be able to welcome those who came from long journeys to the Acropolitan place: a quiet, cozy, comfortable and clean place, with a cheerful, elevated atmosphere, conducive to good philosophical conversations, and to find adequate facilities to relax after exercises, training, classes, and to take a good rest. We were able to offer a good meal, the result of the dedication of many Acropolitans in preparing it with attention, care and affection. And to share in the beauty of this place, which is beautiful in its own right. The Acropolitans took many days off from their jobs so that we could organize ourselves together, and the teams worked hard to be effective and to do their work with great attention, and to experience what teamwork can really be like.

As for the athletes from the city of São Francisco Xavier, who were our special guests, it was an opportunity for us to get to know them better and introduce ourselves. They also took the opportunity to get to know the School of Sports with a Heart of New Acropolis - which struck them right from the start, because they could see the difference. That's what they said - "there's something different here". Yes, the big difference between understanding Olympic, moral and philosophical values, such as being courteous, or dignifying oneself through an experience of team games, and being able to live the experience, learning that in order to act with our inner strengths, such as dignity, for example, it is necessary to choose attitudes that can constitute a moral and philosophical experience for everyone. And they weren't afraid of difference, because, yes, we are very afraid of what we don't know. These are the things we can't learn on our own, we need to be taught, we need each other a lot. We need

men and women to guide us in philosophical education and to prepare us, with intelligent, logical and intense steps, to live with others and with ourselves. And at that moment we had that condition, we were with our Acropolitan brothers, with our Masters, Acropolitans who live these teachings, and they saw that they had the experience in their hands, and they treated that opportunity as a rich opportunity to make known the human exercise of courtesy, coexistence and concord.

What practical results can we expect from those who took part in the 2nd International Volunteer Olympics?

Francisco Iglesias

International Coordinator of the School of Sports with a Heart of New Acropolis

There were 8 uninterrupted days of Music and Gymnastics, each in its splendor. Apollo appeared resplendent through the mysterious morning mists. The cold and mysterious nights, with fragrant aromas of the lush vegetation that surrounded us, held a hidden enigma that only Kairos, the present time, knew how to decipher. Aion, the eternal time, was gradually taking over our consciences. No one was sure of the chronological moment we were experiencing; Kronos was defeated.

Inside the magical enclosure of the MSJ, the overall happiness of eternal youth was everywhere you looked. We almost didn't sleep, but no one wanted to sleep. The Muses succeeded in the prowess of the muscle, the victorious flame over itself, throwing the javelin, or running like the wind, delighted in the evenings reciting Pindar or allowing themselves to be inspired by Terpsichore or Thalia.

Union and fraternity reigned; good order and respect for the rules constituted a real archetype at the present and a model for the future. One of the playing fields quickly became a concert room or dancing room, always ready for the sporting competition the next morning. It was the miracle of silent and effective volunteering. All the preparations were made without noise, without delays, without flaws. While the vast majority enjoyed the Magic of the Muses, others, silently and hardworking, prepared everything that

As this is a practical experience, what remains is a great treasure that we all take with us and will always carry with us - I believe that the developments are already present in each of the next experiences, as they will undoubtedly carry these precious seeds of the Art of Living, which Philosophy and Philosophical Education through Sports can bring.

was necessary so that the following day there would be no lack of support and logistics for the smooth running of the event. And on the next day, the roles reversed, since everyone participated in everything. The small "city of the future" that is the MSJ participates in the effort of honoring the sky and earth, Olympia and Olympus, making us live in the present what should have been, in ancient times, the magical atmosphere of Olympia...

Infinite thanks to everyone who made it possible that hundreds of human beings could engrave with Fire, in our souls, those words that inspire us in everyday life. "I AM AN ATHLETE: ARETÊ!!"

Words that held a simple and powerful secret to life. A secret that we discovered in these magical days at the MSJ in Brazil. Living in the present the Strength of the Olympic Flame who stopped wars and sowed Peace and Fraternity in the ancient world is not a theoretical and utopian dream... It is possible every time that there are human beings who have the Value of living it daily in their lives.

DO NOT STOP US, THE FUTURE DOES NOT WAIT.

Nelson Todt

Vice President of the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee

What is the importance of events like the International Volunteer Olympics nowadays?

There are different reasons for the realization of events of this nature. The first is always the possibility of meeting people where we have the opportunity to know each other and have the chance to get together in order to strengthen bonds of mutual esteem and re-affirm our intention to follow this path together. On the other hand, considering the sporting side of the event, it is equally important to consider the moments when we put ourselves to the test and defy ourselves to overcome, not necessarily our adversaries, but our own limits. And, in another dimension, I would say that the International Volunteer Olympics renew our hope of a better world, and this is determining in days of so many uncertainties and skepticism in relation to the idea of humanity.

What was the impact or legacy that the II International Volunteer Olympics had or may have on the sports movement?

To some extent, the II International Volunteer Olympics come to represent a beacon that will always remind us of our connection with the old Olympia and with Pierre de Coubertin's Olympism ideals. This event, in its complexity and representativity, creates the expectation of expanding the Olympic spirit. We know that this is desirable and possible for other people too.

I will allow myself to quote the French historian Ernest Lavisse when he referred to the Olympic Games in Coubertin's times: "There, where men may want to live together under the same laws, with the same feelings and the same passions, your existence is legitimate, august, sacred and inviolable. You, young ones, will form tomorrow's opinion".

How was the experience of participating, during these 8 days of event, in the II International Volunteer Olympics? What were the most memorable moments?

A true immersion in the world of the Old Olympia... many asked me, what Pierre de Coubertin would think of these Olympics. I dare to use one of his texts which, in my perception, suits the question: "Would this company I have been running then have reached its peak? Far from that; and I have no doubt to affirm that, according to my point of view, only the basis of the structure was finished. Whoever studies the old Games will realize its deep meaning was due to two main elements: beauty and reverence. If the modern Games will come to exert the influence that I desire for them, they must, in turn, show beauty and inspire reverence - a beauty and a reverence that infinitely surpass anything done until now in the most important sports competitions of our time. The greatness and dignity of the parades and attitudes, the impressive splendor of the ceremonies, the presence of all the arts, the popular emotion and feeling of generosity, all of them must, in some way, work together. This cannot be achieved with a single Olympic, not even with three or four; it will be necessary, at least, a quarter of a century. But when someone desires to create or recreate institutions of such magnitude, the first requirement is not to be in a hurry".

Doesn't it give you the feeling that Coubertin was with us at the Saint George Modulus? Well, I myself had this opportunity and I feel that, in that specific place, my belief in a better world was renewed, based on the vivid experience of respect, excellence and friendship.

There were several moments when my soul was deeply touched, something in a dimension of intense beauty and at the same time familiar to me... I highlight, above all, the affectionate way and the generous treatment shared by all those who were present in each and every moment of the event.

The pentathlon of the muses had sublime moments which I will recall for a long time, and it won't be different from the lecture of our dear Paco Iglesias with our "priestess" ... when we all found ourselves touched by the sensitivity of our interlocutors. I cannot fail to highlight the strong feeling of seeing the Olympic flag fluttering in truly Olympic soil, a new Olympia!

Marcos André da Rosa

Sub-mayor of São Francisco Xavier

How did the town receive the II International Volunteer Olympics and what was its impact?

It was an event of great relevance to promote many sports modalities and interact with the community. The impact left was the motivation of the people who were present and the Olympic spirit, which certainly was imprinted in our minds.

What consequences can we expect of the interaction between the athletes and the local people in general?

After the Olympics, many people are now engaged in practising other sports which we didn't even imagine seeing here, and those who participated and could feel the Olympic spirit are looking forward to

the next opportunity.

How was the experience of participating in the II International Volunteer Olympics? What were the most memorable moments?

I was so happy and satisfied with the event, especially for being able to offer our support, and see the result of this work, and the engagement of the people. The opening and closing ceremonies and winning a gold medal with our volleyball team were certainly memorable moments.

Athletes' interview

1. What motivated you to participate in the II International Volunteer Olympics?

Ariela Rezende (Brazil - South)

The Love for the Olympic Spirit was what motivated me. Knowing that it is possible to live in an event, the feeling of Unity between several countries, surrounded by generosity, love, beauty and fighting spirit, was what motivated my soul wanting to participate. Each training session represented one step in direction to the internal overcoming and transformation, in order to be able to deliver my best during the games.

Eva Fleig (Austria)

More than 12 years ago I had this dream to participate at the Olympic Games in Rio 2016. So I dropped out of my studies, moved back home, founded a beach volleyball club, initiated a training facility and started to practice.

In autumn 2022 I heard in school about the International Volunteer Olympics in Brazil – my (olympic) fire lit high up and I promised myself I was going to participate no matter what. And I started to practice. My life



Photos Session



changed already before the Games. I lived the life of an athlete again – being on track again. What a wonderful feeling!

Martin Salvatierra (Bolivia)

It is a great opportunity to assess oneself, learn from each other and, above all, to fraternize. The latter always seemed to me to be very linked to sports.

Luiz Gustavo (Brazil - North)

The motivation was seeing the possibility of taking part in a New Acropolis International Event and knowing that people from different countries would be taking part as well. After registering, I decided that I should train and prepare for the event. So I started training for volleyball, went back to the gym, swam and reactivated my sports life.



Araci Jazmín Martin Salinas (Paraguay)

To participate in this Event gave me the opportunity to set goals and achieve them in such a great event as the International Olympics, was a great motivation. As well as observing for the first time an Acropolitan Olympics environment.

Leo Beltrán (Spain)

My higher motivation came from the Olympic motto, CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS and COMUNIS. This motto reminds me that we can always go further and jump higher, and this relies only on ourselves. The team partners also helped us during the preparation and we mutually supported each other in order to get better individually.

Kirill (Russia Central)

Chance to meet brothers and sisters from other countries, playing and training together, living together.

Ricardo Lopes Aires Costa (São Francisco Xavier, São Paulo - Brazil)

The possibility of playing in an international event and being in touch with athletes of other places, cultures, languages and experiences, as well as knowing the New Acropolis essence.

2. What were the main achievements that you will take away of this event?

Ariela Rezende (Brazil South)

I achieved a conviction that a world lined with Love and Union is real and exists. This is the great objective of the disciple athlete, to build a reality of humanity.

I learned from watching countless philosopher athletes and lived in person during the proofs, Moral of Victory is an internal decision and not an achievement of something external. The decision to win is in our hands, and



is a choice of fighting our psychological voices that invite us to surrender and give up.

Eva Fleig (Austria)

“To the games we arrive like a nation and leave like Humanity.” I read this line during the preparation and thought “That sounds kind of nice”. It was in Brazil where I understood what Pierre de Coubertin really meant by that. At the opening ceremony we marched in orderly ranks. After this week we were one big, colorful, singing, happy team with swapped clothes and gifted with souvenirs from different countries around the world. Arm in arm, connected with the olympic spirit and the incredible experiences saved in our hearts to bring back home.

Martin Salvatierra (Bolivia)

Having done my best despite some obstacles I had, such as a minor injury, or at least having always tried to do my best. Then, to be able to share the joy of those who achieved victories in different disciplines, regardless of whether they were or not from my own country, because what mattered was being able to glimpse these people as sparks from Niké and Hermes Agonius.

Luiz Gustavo (Brazil - North)

The greatest achievement was understanding an idea, understanding Fraternity, the highest I have ever been able to live and understand. A great development of feelings, effort and will.

Romina (Spain)

Another achievement that I keep in my heart is not related to the athletic competitions, but to the effort of so many good people who, coordinated as a symphonic orchestra, made every detail possible. And every one of these details, made with so much love, was converted in a sound that embellished the entire work even more. To have the historical opportunity to witness this, and to participate in it somehow, I also consider an achievement.

Kirill (Russia - Zona Central)

Making many friends and getting models of being an athlete-philosopher. Emotional experience of ceremonies, competing and brotherhood.

Cilso Aparecido Ferreira de Souza (São Francisco Xavier, São Paulo - Brazil)

My main achievement is inspiration. For a long time I didn't feel inspired; I participated in the athletics proofs, which for me was exciting. I didn't know how far I could get, but after discovering the result, I can say that my achievement was the contagious emotions of all of those who were present!

Ricardo Lopes Aires Costa (São Francisco Xavier, São Paulo - Brazil)

Winning the gold was an intense dream that was unbelievable until now. But it was the fruit of believing and

trusting in people, in their potentials, in the best of each one...

3. What does it mean to be an athlete to you?

Ariela Rezende (Brazil South)

To be an athlete is to use the struggle to overcome yourself as a way of intuiting that this is the way to express your generous soul. To be an athlete is to give.

Eva Fleig (Austria)

To keep the level of consciousness and Areté high! To keep the balance in life between tension and relaxation. To fight and to fight well! Never, never, never give up! Get up and keep on going! Everyday is a good day to start again!

Being an athlete means someone who feels and lives this Olympic Spirit in every day life (even with less adrenaline in the blood), with the attitude of a peaceful warrior to conquer yourself and further to become who you are.

Martin Salvatierra (Bolivia)

It's a term that I'm broadening more and more, because initially for me an athlete implied discipline, correct effort and a willingness to play fair. Now I could say that, as etymologically translated, it would be the one who fights, the one who gives their best beyond the result. Although nowadays there are sports professionals, in reality I could say that it's even more important that these virtues are also reflected in personal life, in the family and in society, among others.

Luiz Gustavo (Brazil North)

Being an athlete is an awareness of will, of overcoming, of wanting to surpass myself. It's an awareness of will in action. And of course it's not unrelated to love and wisdom, because the athlete is also aware of his teammates and opponents, wanting everyone to grow; nor is it unrelated to intelligence in seeking to act in the most humane way, to act for duty, for the whole.

Frantisek Hastik (Czech Republic)

One quote I heard during the games which deeply touched me was (approximately): "The athlete never gives up; he only sometimes temporarily retreats." It made me realize that even if I sometimes fail, the fight is not over. Often, I can gather experience and immediately try again. If that is not possible, I can keep improving myself and return to the battle when the opportunity arises again. No one is successful in everything in their life, but athlete is a person who does keeps on going through both victory and defeat.

David (Israel)

I don't really feel like an athlete. I feel like a philosophy student practicing sports. And this means, among other things, the practice of:

- Persistence
- Consistency



Photos Session





- Faith in my human abilities
 - The pursuit of excellence
 - Always be in a state of learning and self-improvement.
- Receive and inspire

Araci Jazmín Martin Salinas (Paraguay)

Being an athlete means striving to develop physical, technical and mental skills, overcoming fears, overcoming the obstacles that one puts oneself in front of the arrival of a goal, overcoming laziness and procrastination. Who instead of seeing rivalry with his opponent sees only an opportunity to improve himself.

Bárbara Pujol (Spain)

Being an athlete, or even better, being a Disciple Athlete, means to me to maintain an inner drive that provides the fuel to confront life with courage, sacrifice, and effort, but also with generosity, kindness, and love.

In the end, try to be a woman torch, being an athlete is to keep this fire of eternal youth alive and burning brightly.

Kirill (Russia - Central)

Getting to know myself, widening my physical and spiritual borders.

Ricardo Lopes Aires Costa (São Francisco Xavier, São Paulo - Brazil)

It is to overcome your own limits, to sacrifice yourself. It is being flexible, wanting to do your best.

4. How does participating in these Olympics reflect on your daily life?

Ariela Rezende (Brazil South)

Having lived a reality of generosity, of love, fight, bravery, courage and beauty, brings to my daily life a new reference of what is real from what is not, and of how I want to choose to live. It reflects in the daily conviction that union and humanity between people is possible and is worth fighting for it daily.

Eva Fleig (Austria)

I am a beach volleyball coach back home in Austria for children and adults.

"Using sport as a tool to achieve bigger goals and for developing each of the four aspects of our 'bodies' (that form the human personality) so that they express the best of their abilities and allow the harmonious development of the human being as a whole" (Sara Fantin) gives me a new perspective how I am going to plan trainings.

Martin Salvatierra (Bolivia)

I try to honor the teachings and, above all, remember the words of Professor Paco, who encouraged us to continue with a high conscience as in Olympia, just as in the days when we were living the Olympics, and not to let ourselves be overwhelmed by the continuous siren songs that tell us it's not possible. On the more practical side,

after a few weeks of rest, to continue training in search of ever better perfection and beauty.

Luiz Gustavo (Brazil North)

Taking part in the games was definitely a highlight in my life so far. Through it I experienced the greatest idea of all, which was Fraternity. And now I'm more aware of who I am, what the purpose and meaning of life are. We already knew, but the event made our awareness expand after living it. And now it makes more sense.



Frantisek Hastik (Czech Republic)

It gives me a sense of company. When I sometimes feel alone, I remember that there are many other athletes all over the world. When the alarm clock rings in the morning and my body wants to continue sleeping, I remember that somewhere in Israel there is a swimmer making his way to his morning exercise by doing small steps. Once I remember that these athletes are all doing their best, I realize: Why shouldn't I do the same?

Romina (Spain)

Exercises my generosity, my effort capacity, my discipline and my humbleness, besides many other things. The inner learning from taking the body to an uncomfortable state and, in some cases, to extreme effort, is very interesting to me. It is a source of experiences that have helped me objectively understand myself and facilitate my growth.

Leo Beltrán (Spain)

Since I participated in the II International Volunteer Olympics, I have changed my perspective a little bit in my daily life. I avoid falling into the mental routine of the week and save some time every day for my inner work, something that we encourage during the competition, by going directly to a class.

Cilso Aparecido Ferreira de Souza (São Francisco Xavier, São Paulo - Brazil)

Every day I wake up inspired to strive for improvement and give my best, whether in sports or in life.



Deois

Brazil - South

II International Volunteer Olympics

Olimpiónida

1. What is your history with sports? What does sports mean to you?

Sports have always been part of my education. My parents were sportists and so were my grandparents. My father was a handball athlete and mother a running and table tennis athlete. They are my first inspirations. When I was a child I trained in many sports training centers: swimming, football, tennis, table tennis, martial arts, with clear intention of developing my qualities. When I was 12 years old I discovered the running atelier called Polynikes at New Acropolis and this way my athletics training started. I have in high esteem my instructors and carry with me the teachings of each one of them. Sports are a vocation.

2. What does it mean to you to be the “Olympiad”?

Every 4 years the Olympiad of the Olympic Games is elected. It is a responsibility, not as a burden, on the contrary. The Olympiad to me represents the dream of victory of all athletes no matter their nationality, gender, social status, beliefs. It means that they can count with my efforts to deserve to participate in the next Olympic Games. I learnt that the Olympiad carry the flame and do the olympic run. We must remember the fire each time a proof of the daily Olympics seems too big. If life gives us this proof we can overcome it, believe it.

3. What are your main goals as an athlete?

I will be 36 years old. My goal is to be at a high level for the next International Volunteer Olympics. I have personal goals and situations that I did not integrate yet and that I will work with the trainers to get better. Also, I want to understand even more how to bring the teachings of sports philosophy to life. I believe that Sports as cultivation of values is useful to society. To me it doesn't make any sense to train only to gain medals, the medals represent an achievement, but not a goal. Age is not an obstacle, we are all winners when we overcome ourselves.

Photos Session



Judges Interview

Francisco Romero Moyano

Spain

In August 2023, I had the opportunity to participate as a referee in the 2nd Volunteering Olympics promoted by the School of Sports of the International Organization New Acropolis and organized by the volunteers of this organization in Brazil South.

As a sports enthusiast, considering it an educational element for youth and an essential activity for keeping physical, mental, and spiritual health at any age, I was excited about the idea of traveling from my beloved Spain to mysterious Brazil. A land I knew from very positive references shared by many of its people in my hometown, both through their words and actions.

And truly, I am thankful to life for giving me the courage and curiosity to wish to discover what is now a wonderful mystery for me. The energy of that land was tangible from the moment I arrived. The joint pain in my frail body disappeared almost magically, replaced by the special vigour I felt throughout my entire being. I recalled the

words of some of my Brazilian friends who enthusiastically explained that their land holds a special energy, which is invigorating and makes you more energetic. I suppose that's why they are so joyful and never stop laughing and dancing (Just a joke... or not entirely!).

It could also have been due to the uniqueness of the place where the Olympics were held. The town of Sao Francisco Xavier, in the State of Sao Paulo, is surrounded by beautiful green hills of lush nature. The trees – there were only trees, no bushes like in Spain – were of astonishing variety and number. Just as you stepped off the clear paths, you found yourself immersed in winding trails among these wonderful trees. Amidst them, large plants with huge flowers hosted tiny hummingbirds flitting without a care. Yes, hummingbirds! Incredible!

The headquarters of Brazil South, the San Jorge module, are impressive. Mostly built by volunteers, it is a complex where

a large number of people, approximately 500, can live, reside, and engage in all sorts of activities. Their pool, athletics track, dining hall, activity rooms, the accommodations – everything was simple yet truly welcoming. Efficient and beautiful, devoid of any luxury. A beautiful theatre in the classic Greek-Roman style, surrounded by handmade statues of ancient Gods in whose honour the Olympics were held... And held again.

Honestly, it was an exceptional place for both its natural surroundings and its facilities. One genuinely felt invigorated there. But what really made us feel in a way that one may seldom feel in life was the attitude of all the volunteers and athletes, how they lived and behaved during these Olympics, honouring that sacred and ancient Olympic fire to which we all devoted ourselves.

In the Volunteer Olympics, as taught in the schools, one does not compete to defeat others; one competes to overcome oneself, and to recognize the feeling of brotherhood with all the other human beings who suffer and strive with honour, with sportsmanship, side by side with them in all the trials. Everything to thank life for being alive, for making us human beings capable of doing so many wonderful things with Love, Will, and Intelligence when our hearts and



souls are encouraged.

Each and every participant – athletes, referees, either being Olympic athletes or volunteers – performed various tasks. Athletes were supposed to assist the volunteers in collecting meals, serving them, washing dishes, cleaning facilities, and together we set up the necessary elements for the tests, picked them up, and so on... Nobody wanted to miss the vitality of the Brazilian Land!

The support volunteers, in specially, who welcomed hundreds of people from various countries as if they were their own siblings, regardless of their language, habits, or ways of being. They just wanted to take care of us, to make us feel at home so we could enjoy the most important aspect of that gathering: the Olympic Spirit. They did it so well and masterfully that, at the end of the Olympics, many athletes wanted to offer as a gift their gold, silver, and bronze medals to those volunteers who cooked, cleaned, guided, cared, organized the games, with little rest and working tirelessly – a true example of the noblest and most diligent Olympic Spirit.

And the athletes... What can I say about them? Running, swimming, throwing, jumping, playing, as if they were one. Excellence was admired by everyone; the effort, though unimportant when shown in medals, received the greatest praises, such was the admiration for their pursuit of pushing their own limits. As an athlete invited by the local team said, in these Olympics, you were congratulated more



for losing than for winning... But, of course, as long as you fought to reach the end.

All this made tears and emotions easily find their way out in face of such acts of heroism and effort. As the days went by, the trials became tougher, as many athletes performed multiple tests, with their qualifying, semi-finals, and finals. Some of them came to the end of the day defeated, with bandages covering their legs and arms, but all of them, with no exception, had a special sparkle in their eyes. They had given all they could give, they had done their best and they knew it, and there was nothing more important than that – their own recognition, their own pride in themselves and in those who had defeated them, for they had lost to the best, and thus they embraced the winners at the finishing line and congratulated them wholeheartedly.

It was incredible to observe how they kept pushing their own limits, how many of them cried with joy and excitement, upon discovering that they had beaten their personal records

without winning a medal, without even qualifying for a final.

Everything was HEROIC, FRATERNAL... HUMAN.

With all that has been said so far, you can have an idea (although minimal, because these things can only be truly understood when experienced) of the way all the volunteers felt as the days and nights went by.

In the evenings, honouring the Classical Olympics, the volunteers and athletes prepared for the Artistic Olympics. Beautiful dances, theatrical performances, choirs, songs, miming, and a thousand other things moved us in so many distinct ways... With those beautiful songs, tales of heroes and virtue, going to bed was difficult as we stayed chatting with each other until late into the night.

There came a point when time flowed differently. We no longer noticed time as we usually do in our daily lives. Everyday problems were put aside for the moment. We didn't want to disturb the influence these Olympics had on our beings - not for anything in the world. We would worry about everyday

matters later, but for then we just wanted to go on enjoying the brotherhood that united us, to realize how much we longed for acts of love and overcoming in our lives, to make us feel great, powerful like the great heroes of the past. We understood we could be like them if we strived for that because such state of being exists.

But, as everything in life must come to an end, and as the Director of the International Sports School, Paco Iglesias, very wisely mentioned, things end when they must end; otherwise, it wouldn't be natural, and we would get tired of them, and it wouldn't be a mystical, profound experience, where we learned more about ourselves and the mystery of life than in many years of everyday life, without challenges, without honor, without brotherhood, nor effort, at least not with the intensity we experienced there.

When came the day to say goodbye, you couldn't tell the volunteers' original countries.



Their shirts, which had distinguished them when they first arrived, were exchanged between them, and we were no more from different countries but from only one, one mankind, with its thousands of flags.

We bid farewell with tears in our eyes and pain and longing in our hearts. Friendships strengthened once again in the face of profound experiences, others reunited for the first time. We all felt that we had lived something magnificent, atavistic, mysterious, so as to call something that deeply moved me.

These Olympics were, once again, an example that humanity can be better than it is. Human beings can aspire to much more than what we typically achieve today. Happiness, inner peace, pride in oneself and in others which unite us, both internally and with the mysteries of life, is a path that was demonstrated once again in these Olympics. We can draw out the best in every human being, their excellence, their divine part, as the great masters of humanity have said and still say.

As a referee, I wholeheartedly believe that it is the only possible path that can make human civilizations better, by means of the excellence and example of the most hardworking and generous ones among us, and encouraging our youth to emulate their virtue.

I thank, from the bottom of my heart, my brothers and sisters in Brazil for welcoming me wholeheartedly, especially Sara and Ricardo, and all my other

fellow referees.

Thanks to Ana Gálvez and Paco Iglesias for allowing me to participate once again as a referee, now that I can no longer compete. It is an honour to help make Magic happen one more time.

Thanks to life for giving me the opportunity to have met Masters who taught me the Olympic Spirit.

Volunteer Interview

Pedro Guimarães

New Acropolis Rio de Janeiro - RJ

For me, offering myself to volunteer during the II International Olympic Games, was the greatest fraternity experience that I had in all my years as a philosopher and volunteer. Being together with people who had the same goal, the Olympic Ideal, and having the opportunity of doing this in your life is an experience that I recommend to every Human Being; doing something beyond one's personal issues or aspirations and experiencing something superior that broadens your conscience, in other words, practising generosity.

Waléria Peruzzo

New Acropolis Florianópolis - SC

They were days and nights of Full Life. Challenges, limitations of every kind, resistances... there were countless dense realities of life that appeared to make me reaffirm the choice I had made: the one of searching what was higher, stronger and faster inside me. And united, heart to heart, we made it. They were glorious days, days of Hope. When my time comes to leave this world, in my suitcase I will carry a medal forged in the sacred flame of the hearts of each one of those who fought there. To serve those who prove themselves in this way is to serve God. I can say: I lived and Served in Olympia.

Alessandro Pires

New Acropolis Salvador- BA

For almost two weeks we were in a special place called Olympia. We all moved there during the International Volunteer Olympics, held at the Saint George Module, in São Paulo, in July 2023. The job of giving support to the event was an offer of Love, which we did with all our hearts. With Will and Intelligence, we were able to overcome many challenges: always searching for Union and good companionship in order to better Serve. We were all winners at the end of that great, strong and beautiful journey. I wish I could come back to Olympia, to the Áltis, the sacred woods that, for some time, was shaped in Brazilian lands.




Photos Session



OLYMPIC EDUCATION

PHILOSOPHICAL-SPORTS EDUCATION



Summary
of classes
from the
perspective of
philosopher-
athletes.

MORAL OF VICTORY IN A DISCIPLE ATHLETE

As philosophers in the classical way, when we refer to moral, we are talking about a way of living life. Therefore, the Disciple Athlete chooses as a way of life to summon Nike, Victory, to the races: track, swimming, chess, in every shot thrown and even in team games where the feeling of unity is evident. Wherever he goes, he carries and devotes his intentions to this goddess, to this Idea.

Above all, the Disciple Athlete summons Nike to the trials of life, the real Olympics that represent our daily lives. Therefore, his Moral of Victory is his attitude and decree to decide to win.

As philosopher-athletes, what do we choose, to win or to be won in the face of our own inner battles?

Choosing to beat oneself is characteristic of a philosopher athlete who cultivates a morality of Victory. But it's not enough just to choose to win, we have to go through the trials, the battlefield that will take us to a state in which everything inside us will be completely stirred up. Our main difficulties will come to the surface, such as the fear of the unknown, of failing, the desire to give up and so many others.

The Moral of Victory is in the consecrated space, dedicated to the actions of struggle, within full time. That's why it's so important to set out to experience sporting events, which have the

pedagogical purpose of teaching us to fight and to choose Victory, which takes us to the very top of ourselves.

The first steps to developing the Moral of Victory:

1. Remember: we are human beings who fight.

2. Germinate in the consciousness that the meaning of the struggle is internal, with oneself.

3. To never give up trying to overcome the fear of self (of failure, of the unknown, of the uncontrollable that is in each one of us).

4. Not to seek the battle in its entirety, but to savor the triumph found in the small victories. Rhythm and perseverance won't let us give up the fight.

5. Perceiving the voice of giving up, which comes in the most subtle ways and invites us to abandon the trials.

6. Never give up the fight. It is in the face of our fears that we can choose to give our latent powers a chance and awaken the philosopher within us.

And after the fight, what is the attitude of a Disciple Athlete?

After the confrontation, after the fight, we should analyze and reflect:

- In the end, did I win or was I defeated?

What was born after my battle?

Moral of Victory is our behavior of deciding to win.

And winning is what? Getting on the podium? Or being touched by the Wings of Victory?

What we do in life echoes in eternity.

By Ariela Rezende, summary of the class taught by Professor Luzia Helena.


Hermes y Kairós

The point is that the ancient Greeks, with their symbolic technology (for lack of a better word), were able to handle subtle energies, which had beneficial effects on how people experienced life. And they also did this in the stadiums dedicated to the games, which were sacred. And how did they do it? At the entrance to the stadiums, through which the athletes would pass (usually a portal), there would be a statue of the god Hermes on one side and a statue of the god Kairos on the other. Paco said that the statues were made of marble (or some other noble stone that I can't remember), and joked that the statues at our games were made of cardboard. However, he said that it didn't really matter and that our relationship with these symbols was more important.

Kairos is one of the three gods of the Greek pantheon related to time. There was Aion, eternal time; Kronos, chronological time, hours, days, years; and Kairos, the present moment, linked to opportunity. When the athletes passed the statue of Kairos, if they looked at it, they would see the figure of a man with winged feet and who had a large tuft of hair on the front of his head and no hair on the back. It is said that this is so because Kairos is very fast, and when it comes towards us, we have the chance to grab it from the front (by the hair), but if

it passes us by a little bit, we can't grab it anymore, because it has no hair at the back. That's Kairos, the opportunity.

"forget your personalities [your egos], they will die! But Arete's gestures will remain. Understand that you are one big team!". In short, finding this, living this, is the opportunity that the athlete has, that presents itself throughout his days, and that he is reminded of when he enters the stadium, when he sees Kairos.



By Carlo Flores, summary of the class taught by Professor Francisco Iglesias

Prayer to Nike

Nike, the goddess of Victory, is also a messenger goddess who brings the verdict to Olympia. This is one of the symbols she carries on her wings, which also illuminates the awakening of the wings of each one of us, as well as representing the fact that she cannot be held permanently. Victory has her freedom, she touches us, but moves on. That's why it's up to us to constantly search for Nike and reflect on our experiences with each conquest.

Prayer is a way of connecting with the sacred, an impulse from the heart to give thanks for the inspiration that the divinities emanate in us. In order to unite with Niké beyond experiences, two philosopher-athletes have come together to integrate a prayer in admiration of the goddess.

In this prayer, we are invited to think on which victory every human carries in their heart. After all, Nike, the goddess of victory, always invites us to the heights. And within the Olympic ideal, high, *Altius*, doesn't just refer to raising our physical body to the maximum, but to seeing everything from the highest point of consciousness.

It is necessary to fight with valor, there is no victory without battles. And what is your battle? Every day we can learn a little more if we know which sha-

dow to light; we become better and better and so we take steps towards Nike. But to be together with the goddess we need to make sacrifices, act generously to give our best and also generate to give from the heart. We remember permanent education for permanent evolution. If we don't let go of something, we have no room to learn something new.

A woman in a white classical-style dress with a laurel wreath, holding a flaming torch. The background is a blurred natural setting.

By Kisa Taho, summary of the class taught by Professor Sara Fantin

Pierre de Coubertin's Olympic spirit

During his lesson, Professor Nelson showed some inspiring videos of professional athletes in moments of extreme effort and dedication.

Everyone was asked to sum up in one word what they felt when they saw these images, and the main words were: overcoming, effort, courage, passion, faith, strength, generosity. He then led us to understand that, in some way, all of this does reflect the Olympic Spirit, but that we need to know where it comes from and what care we need to take with it.

Pathos, a Greek word that is extremely difficult to translate but is related to passion among other things; and this passion can be considered a mental state that helps us to overcome and transcend ourselves. However, there is a paradox, since it is also associated with some characteristics of humans, which is a taste for excess and moderation.

Pierre de Coubertin believed that the ethics of Olympic sport could be expanded into our lives through moral values that would guide our relationships not only in the field of sport, but in all dimensions of our lives.

The Olympic Spirit only really exists when it is lived out at all times, every day.

For Pierre de Coubertin, the essential thing is not just to win, but to have fought well. It's understanding that what matters in life is not triumph, but the effort put into it, and that Olympism

is not a philosophy for a few elite athletes, it's for everyone. It's not just for a short period of time when the games take place, but for when the athletes return home to the Olympics of their lives.



By Melissa Lamber, summary of the class taught by Professor Nelson Todt



Mysticism in our Olympic Games

What does the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games invite you to, if not elevation and heightening of consciousness? Yes, the ceremony asks you to open your heart and reach for something greater within you.

Align your physical with Order, your pranic with Rhythm, your emotional with Music.

It is with uniform, march and hymn that you will access Higher Ideas.

Let go of your personality and go towards Unity.

And so the hours go by, with this peculiar clock of a new time, a Sacred time, that of the Olympics.

As the hours pass, take your steps, O Mystic.

Come, Goodwill, and enter hand in hand with Effectiveness.

What is Goodwill if not something that comes from the bottom of your heart?

What is Efficiency, if not something that allows you to do good things?

You live like a fantasy if you walk around with Goodwill but no Effectiveness.

You live like a machine if you walk with Efficiency but without Goodwill.

And when time ceases, this peculiar time, just move on and don't cry for the end.

Just as it began, with Order, Rhythm and Music, so it ended. It's time to encapsulate the experiences and keep them in your heart.

And while the hours go by, with this clock, now of a common time, just keep your footsteps, O Mystic, for the Olympics lives in you.

By Natália Bortolás, summary of the class taught by Professor Or Shafir

Photos Session



ON THE WINGS OF NIKÉ

Article



We experienced many victories during the 2nd International Volunteer Olympics. Among the highlights of this event, there was a very special and significant one for all the philosophers-athletes, which was receiving a tutelary deity, a kind of protective guardian of this philosophical idea that Sport with heart is, and of all those who, by its means, become better human beings, guarded by the wings of Niké, the Goddess of Victory.

But what does it mean, from a philosophical point of view, to relate to a patron deity? We need to remember some philosophical concepts to clarify this meaning. Perhaps the first one is the meaning of sacred, as talking about deities implies relating to the sacred. In other words, the connection with the spiritual world, with eternity, with mystery... a relationship that people of all times have established, because it is a human need to relate to the transcendent, to something that raises us beyond our daily material existence, bringing profound meaning to human life.

The deities are therefore these beings, forces, a kind of bridge between the divine world and the human world. They represent spiritual principles, the forces of nature, the great Ideas, such as Love, Justice and Victory. In this sense, the gods symbolize models of conduct, like lofty inspirations which have motivated men and women at all times in history to move towards goodness, beauty, justice and the truth. That's why ancient cultures worshipped a diversity of gods in their pantheons, because they

understood that each of them represented this primordial force that dwells within each one of us. And to make these forces present in human life, myths exist, encompassing the ideals of human conduct through symbolic narratives that establish this communication with the divine, helping humanity to understand the meaning of existence and how to position themselves in life.

When investigating the origin and mythological significance of the Goddess Niké, one

finds in Greek mythology, through the great poet Hesiod in his *Theogony* - a work in which he describes the origin of the world and the gods - that Estinge (an Oceanid) and her children Zelus (the spirit of commitment), Cratos (the spirit of power), Bia (the spirit of strength) and Niké (the spirit of victory) were Zeus allies when he was at war with the Titans.

The goddess Niké is frequently mentioned in various works of Greek mythology and appears in different stories, sym-



bolisms and attributions. In the works of Homer, the epic poems "Iliad" and "Odyssey", Niké is mentioned on several occasions. She is portrayed as the goddess who brings victory to heroes and warriors, as an important element in the narrative of the Trojan War.

When the Greeks won their battles, they erected statues to honor the Goddess. Among the best-known representations was the famous statue of the winged goddess in a triumphant pose, as if she were landing on a ship, in the sanctuary of Niké of Samothrace. Pausanias in his work "Description of Greece" describes the beauty and importance of this statue and mentions that it was worshipped and honored by the pilgrims who visited the sanctuary, and is now immortalized in the Louvre Museum in France.

To this day, **Niké's main symbolisms are the victorious spirit, the drive to overcome, the capacity for human triumph, strength, courage and determination**, and she is represented on the medals of today's champions of the Olympic Games. Some of the main symbols and elements that make up her representation and amplify the inspiration that the goddess brings us are:

- Wings: goddess messenger, she brings the verdict to Olympus - abode of the Gods - announcing those who have come closest to the spirit of Victory. She is able to move quickly, fleetingly, in the sense that no one possesses victory, but rather participa-



tes in this state of consciousness.

- Crown and laurels: Award given to winners, representing triumph, honor and glory.

- Palm branch: symbol of victory, peace and eternal life.

- Represented in the hands of the goddess Pallas Athena (wise goddess of war), it symbolizes that victory is associated with wisdom, and fair and intelligent action.

- In the hands of Zeus, the great ruler of Olympus, it symbolizes that victory is associated with spiritual power, with acting in accordance with the Law.

Pausanias refers to the existence of a temple dedicated to Niké on the Acropolis of Athens, known as the Temple of Niké Apteros (Niké without Wings). The author mentions that the temple was erected to commemorate the

Athenians' victory at the Battle of Marathon, which brings with it a legend full of the spirit of victory associated with one of the most iconic athletics events worth recalling. The story goes that in the Battle of Marathon, which took place in 490 BC, Greek forces faced Persian forces on the Plain of Marathon, near Athens. According to legend, a Greek messenger called Phidippides was sent from Athens to Sparta to ask for military help against the Persians. Phidippides ran approximately 240 kilometers (149 miles) in two days to reach Sparta and then returned to Athens with the Spartans' reply. After the Battle of Marathon, where the Greeks emerged victorious, Phidippides was sent once again to run from Marathon to Athens, a distance of about 40 kilometers (25 miles), to announce the victory. He is said to have exclaimed "nenikekamen!" (which means "Niké was with us" in Greek) before collapsing dead of exhaustion.

This heroic spirit, so beautifully represented by Phidi-

ppides, is latent in the heart of every human being, because deep INSIDE we yearn to access this tremendous force of life, of victory, which propels all beings towards their finishing line. What would be humanity's great victory? When we all return to heavenly Olympus. When our consciousness once again gathers around this point of Unity. Getting there represents the saga of humanity, the marathon of life that each of us must run. There will be times of great trials, discouragement, pain and forgetfulness. But Niké will always remain aloft, generously extending her hands, calling us to continue our race, showing us the way with the trail of her flight. "There is no victory without struggle", teach the Masters of all times. So we remember again the meaning of our struggle and continue training, now FASTER to overcome the seduction of instincts and strengthen our moral muscles. They are the steps that allow us to reach HIGHER parts of our consciousness and we see the light of Niké again, directing

us towards a path of wisdom, of just and generous actions. We remember that we want to be STRONGER and we want to be victorious, not just for ourselves, but for all those who are still asleep in ignorance. We are athlete disciples, we want to be brave! We want to act from our hearts, from our true identity, as athlete disciples committed to beauty and goodness, because then Niké will remain with us and we will always remember: the battle is already won, you just have to fight.

Thank you, Niké, for showing yourself to us, athlete disciples.



Sara Fantin

National Coordinator of the School of Sports with a Heart of New Acropolis of Brazil - South

PENTATHLON OF THE MUSES

Winning poetry



*“The flags are
fluttering in the wind
Olympia is a
challenge to me”*

TO LIVE IN OLIMPIA

“The flags are fluttering in the wind
Olympia is a challenge to me”

Once again the Olympic anthem resounds!
It is the call of the bugle for the athletes that starts resounding in
every city.

A tickle, an emotion, the enthusiasm moves us,
it is a mixture of joy and inner tension,
a halo of mystery the soul intuits and feels ...



Olympia is already here ...
We feel the righteous look of the invisible gods
And we ask the mythical heroes to lead our soul in this fight...

The trials start and, in every training moment, Olympia is already present.
Week after week, there we are, persistent under the sun
Silencing the tyrannical voices of body and mind
“today I won’t go” “today I can’t”

From the effort appear the muscle pain, the cramps, the injuries, the tiredness,
the sting of the times and the minimum marks,
and the deceiving games of the mind one day whispering:
“you have no rival”, “you are going to win”
And the next day the fear of not getting there ...



Body and soul battling against vanity and the tyranny of the
mind,
the frustration and fear that each one faces in silence and wins ...
because in spite of the insistent voices, week after week,
under the sun, there we are, “present”.
Those are the challenges and the trials of the athlete who wants to
be able to “defeat” himself
Those challenges that once defeated bring to the soul the intimate
and permanent Victory!



When the Olympic Spirit prevails,
beyond body and mind,
the soul rejoices and shines!

Magic is born from effort
It is the Magic of the soul being victoriously reborn after every
overcome trial.

Magic comes from all united
The example of the athlete that strives together with us,
his will and value increase our own.

United we are even stronger,
It is the magic of sharing efforts, working side by side,
to have a partner by your side, for each other,
To know that the gods put you
at the trials you must face,
and to watch our partners put up a fight
overcoming their own limitations
inspire us to go on and on.

Is there a better reward than the final and fraternal hug,
fruit of the shared effort,
of overcoming ourselves together
with the perspiration on the skin
and the heart beating strongly,
together in a warm embrace

we know for sure
that together we conquered the goal
because we are united on the same Ideal.

Happy and strengthened by these living experiences,
we are already prepared to celebrate the great day!

The Games start!
In honour of the Gods and warrior heroes





Because they gave them to us.
We fight for them, we win for them.

We form in silence. The fire arrives.

Our body stands tall
and our spirit ignites,
our gaze lights up

because before us appears Wisdom, the flame,
to warm the Heart of those who suffer,
to give us and Ideal to live for,

to teach that dreams are made day by day,
and with effort and tenacity they are finally fulfilled!

Around the stadium we parade
a festival of flags fluttering in the wind
different countries, different colors,
but the same emotion, the same oath.
To keep the Peace, to stay United.

The Trials start! May the best win!!
Never mind the field of competition,
be it volleyball, archery, races, swimming,
throwing, chess or jumping,
everyone knows what he is offering and give themselves to it with ardour!

Every trial propels us to give our best.
To live sport with nobility and with heart
Heart as in goodness
Nobility as in dignity
Sport as in action

And with them seek Beauty and Truth
and in that search to find
our own inner strength.

Today we are all in Olympia,
Fortunate athletes
we are all siblings here

and we breathe Fraternity and Concord
because we live in Olympia
our best human feelings

¡Thanks, Olympia, for coming down to earth once again!

¡Olympic Gods!

This is the athletes offering:
That our own inner growth
that we conquered in Olympia
is reflected in a new and better world.
And when the trials that life brings arrive
remember we have been in Olympia
and we won.

May there where someone is in need, find us at his side
and may say about us
“Here I have a human being with a fire on in his heart”.

Juana Maris
Spanish athlete



Photos Session



FINAL MESSAGE: FOR THE HEROES OF THE FUTURE



Once again, we stand in Olympia, enveloped by the sheer grace of its eternal moments. Words falter in the face of such splendor... From this lofty, radiant summit, we acknowledge the ancestral fire binding us to our hearts and the mythical roots of history. It fortifies the flame of hope for the long-awaited reunion: contemporary heroes converging with those of antiquity in this realm free from the shackles of time. Here stood Hercules, Leonidas of Rhodes, Milo of Croton, Kyniska of Sparta, Ageas of Argos, and each of us who poured our essence into these Games. In Olympia, we encounter not only the heroes of yore but also those of the future, for in this timeless abode, past, present, and future coalesce into one. Mysteries are meant not to be articulated but experienced. The universal brotherhood remains enigmatic, yet Olympia allows us a glimpse of this notion. The sacred Fire's ring beckons all towards unity amidst a tapestry of colors and banners, composing the grand tapestry of the human family.

In the time of Kronos, it is said that we were together for seven days, but in the sacred hours of Olympia, we existed in a different time. During the 2nd International Volunteering Olympics, we lived through many beautiful, intense, and profound experiences. Agony and ecstasy, Kairós and Aion, Victory and struggles, brotherhood, and love... a list without end could be made of these enriching encounters, undoubtedly leaving an indelible mark on the souls of all participants. Yet, the best definition is

offered by the memories we hold dear from those moments—memories that cannot be forgotten or explained (for does fraternal love—or any form of love—need explanation or understanding, or is it lived?)—and when we gaze into each other's eyes again, we may share the same sentiment... we were in Olympia.

This is the magic of the Acropolis volunteer spirit that made this entire dream possible. Like everything we undertake in Nova Acropolis, the 2nd International Olympic Games were pure Volunteerism. Many hands contributed their beating hearts with love, will, intelligence, and boundless joy in serving. An energy that made us feel united with the Whole and everyone around the same flame. We realized, even more clearly, how the language of the soul can transcend any barrier and perceive this unique experience that is Concord. Perhaps, our greatest goal as philosopher-athletes... And truly, we feel that we have come a bit closer to this heart-to-heart communication, and in this way, the School of Sport has fulfilled its purpose of bringing us closer to our hearts, reinforcing our eternal bonds of unity. This is our true Victory.

We express our gratitude to each volunteer who poured their heart and heroism into making this dream possible, and above all, we extend our deepest thanks to those who dreamt this dream before all of us and have kept this flame burning since forever, illuminating and propelling our flights towards 'swifter, higher, stronger,' united by the great

Olympics of Life.

Until we meet again, in Olympia!



Ricardo Vela y
Sara Fantin

National Coordinators of the School of Sports with a Heart of New Acropolis of Brazil - South

EDITORIAL STAFF

The *Sport with a Heart* magazine is promoted by a group of people committed to the education of human beings.

It is carried out completely altruistically by members of:

New Acropolis International Organization

School of Sport with a Heart

Brazilian Pierre de Coubertin Committee

And collaborators from different cultural, scientific and social areas around the world.

Direction: Francisco Iglesias

Coordination: Sara Fantin

Coordination Assistant: Melissa Lamber

Design and diagramming: Tiago Arruda

Translation: Alana Cardoso, Gabriel Jubé, Jáder Freitas, Lucas Oliveira, Maria Dora Waechter, Pietro Lunelli, Taissa Demolin

Text review: Silvana Dias, Esmeralda Merino e Alfredo Aguilar



School
of Sport
with a Heart
of New
Acropolis



NUEVA ACRÓPOLIS
ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL



COMITÉ BRASILEIRO
PIERRE DE COUBERTIN