

S P O R T S

FOURTH WINTER OLYMPIAD

From February 6th for ten days the eyes of the whole world of sports were directed towards Garmisch-Partenkirchen, where the competitors in the fourth winter Olympiad fought their battles for the first places and the glory of their national colours. The countries of the Danube Valley sent their representatives to this great international meeting, and relatively speaking made a pretty good display. Not all of them, however, had equal chances. The reason lies in the geographical position and other natural causes. We must remember that training in winter sports depends primarily upon cold weather and snow. Now in the capricious and changeable climate of the Danube Valley we cannot count with any certainty on suitable conditions, except where the hills are high enough to ensure the devotees of winter sports an unbroken training of at least two months. Among the countries of the Danube Valley Hungary is decidedly flat in character, the highest hill being scarcely 3500 feet, while the altitude of the rest varies between 500 and 600 metres. In these circumstances the chances of training in winter sports are at the mercy of the weather, and only about 15 or 20 opportunities of sport present themselves in a year. The alternative, training abroad, is out of the question because of the economic crisis.

The rest of the Danube countries are in a much more favourable position. Austria had always her high mountains. With the acquisition of the Hungarian territories, Slovakia and Ruthenia, Transylvania, and Croatia, Dalmatia and Bosnia, Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia respectively obtained excellent new possibilities for winter sports.

It is therefore all the more surprising that Austria alone was able to take a higher place than Hungary on the lists of the final results, besides these two countries, Czecho-Slovakia was the only one of the Danube States to appear on the final lists of points, and she came after Hungary. The comparatively good work of the Hungarian competitors, especially the fine play exhibited by the ice-hockey team against France, which was commented on by the press of other countries, allows us to hope that Hungary will do better still at the next international meeting.

The order of priority of the nations which competed in the final ties of the Fourth winter Olympiad is as follows:

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| 1. Norway | 9. Canada |
| 2. Germany | 10. Hungary |
| 3. Sweden | 11. Czecho-Slovakia |
| 4. Finland | 12. Belgium |
| 5. U. S. A. | 13. Holland and France |
| 6. Austria | 14. Japan and Italy |
| 7. Great Britain | 15. Poland |
| 8. Switzerland | |

SWIMMING

Ernest Hoffmann, one of the best theoretical and practical authorities on German swimming, every year compiles and publishes in the periodical "Swimmer" a list of the world's best swimmers in order of rank. He has just done so now, and the Hungarian swimmers occupy a prominent place on his list.

Among the world's ten best swimmers Francis Csik holds the third place in 100 metre races with 57.8 seconds. Fick and Yusa alone precede him with 56.6 and 57.2 seconds respectively.

Csik is eighth and Lengyel ninth in the 200 m. races with 2mins. 14.4 secs and 2 mins. 14.6 secs. respectively. Four American and three Japanese swimmers head them. Medica leads with a world record of 2 mins. 07.2 secs. which he established in a 25 yard swimming-pool. The Hungarians follow the next European on the list, Heibl (2 mins. 14.7 secs.).

In the 400 m. races Lengyel's record did not reach the standard. In the 1500 m. race Lengyel was given the ninth place with 20 mins. 28 secs. and Taris only comes after him with 20 mins 28.2 secs.

Hungary appears only once in other than free-style swimming: Csik's record of 1 min. 14 secs in the 100 m. breast-stroke race secures him the seventh place among the world's best swimmers.

If we take only the European results we see that Hungary occupies a leading place almost everywhere.

In the 100 m. races Csik is first, in 200 m. races he is first and Lengyel second, while in the 400 m. races Lengyel is second and Gróf eighth (5 mins. 02.4 secs.).

Lengyel is first in the 1500 m. race and Csik fourth in the 100 m. breast-stroke. The 1935 Hungarian record for 100 m. back-stroke and 400 m. breast-stroke swimming is the fourteenth best result.

FENCING

The great meeting between the Italian and the Hungarian fencers took place in San Remo. The tournament ended this time in a victory for the Italians, who beat the Hungarian team by 2:1. The two nations are constantly competing with one other for the hegemony, and as a rule the Hungarians win, as their series of Olympic victories show. This time, however, they were beaten in San Remo.

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