

The calculation of time

from Guy Sahri ©

Olympic Games are for all Athletes, old or in becoming, one strong moment which allows sometimes birth of certain sporting vocations. Sport, carrying hope and frustrations, immense joys and sometimes unbearable distresses, makes nevertheless vibrate our small planet in this vast universe, in particular fifteen days space, time of Olympic Games.

Fifteen days of « *sporting* » madness during which best world's Athletes' of world in a whole series of sports of most various met.

More than today and tomorrow to vibrate in front of his television, radio or Web by looking at swimming, football, handball, marathon, athletics while passing by boxing or even of oar with BMX. Olympic Games revive tradition every four years with Olympic Charter complying with « *rules which govern them in a sporting spirit for glory of sport and honor of our teams* » defined by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Thus at' one which been able to discover in demonstration « *Wushu* » that some would like to see introduced as a new Olympic discipline. In this context, we can nevertheless wonder why certain sports such as Karate or even better Rugby XV or XIII do not appear in Games. Claims in latter's the favor would be completely legitimate, in my opinion...

Roll on 2012 and Olympic Games in London, while hoping to see delegations being able to compete with great nations such as China, United States, United Kingdom or Russia.

Surely it is the dream of all in sport-lovers and especially those who consent to this interview at the Annual Training Course of Professors 2008, with impressive « *Juan Pedro Del Shotokan* » national as Dominique Valera calls him so well who is not other than Jean Pierre Lavorato, 9th Dan Federal Expert FFKDA, National Responsible for Commission of Graduation CSGDE and Dominique Charré, National Technical Director of Fédération Française de Karaté et Disciplines Associées – FFKDA.

Guy Sahri: In the world opinion, Beijing Games are a great success. Do you think that in 4 years England will be able to organize Olympic Games of 2012 as beautiful and moving as Athens and as imposing as China?

Jean Pierre Lavorato:

Not, I do not think... England can do something very well but China set the bar very high and I do not believe that it will be tomorrow we will see also spectacular Olympic Games. They really put package... (Laughters)

Dominique Charré:

*Such beautiful and moving Olympic Games, there is no reason that there is a particular difference since London and Athens are 2 European capitals. Even if one of them is more Mediterranean and other more Anglo-Saxon, in fact cultures are not so different from each other. By taking again term of Jean Pierre Lavorato as « *spectacular* » as Beijing, I would say yes and not, but it is not inevitably very serious...*

Personally I went to Beijing 3 years before the Olympic Games on Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse, et des Sports behalf on mission which prepared young Champions. I saw that one does not manage 1,300 billion Chinese as one manages population of European Union which is 495,1 million inhabitants and it will be thus less imposing. In Beijing preparation of Olympic Games was made by

millions of volunteers and there will not be such a considerable number to prepare Olympic Games in London. Moreover they will be less imposing. I do not think that London can do the same in excessiveness. In Beijing crowd of participants was very impressive. Now Opening Ceremony of Beijing was so imposing that on television one realized, at times, there were virtual and no real images. I think that in London we will have more sincere Olympic Games, within human size, which is not bad either...

« 6 billion dollars instead of 4 billion initially... »

Guy Sahri: Do you believe in more sincere, more different Olympic Games?

Dominique Charré:

I do not think that it will be different insofar as we will have for Opening Ceremony, for example, more music since England is nevertheless country of music « Rock ». Mainly city already organized Olympic Games in 1908 (Shepherd's Bush) and 1948 (Richmond). But their organizations and their unfoldings are not comparable to those taking shape for 2012...

Indeed, these two editions were held in the west of British capital, and only had given rise to caused small infrastructures, which reflected the least extent of event. For Olympic Games in 2012, context is different: more important infrastructures were already or will be built, and were integrated into a broader approach of urban development. Proof is colossal budget allocated to Olympic project: a cost of 18 billion dollars for only 15 days of competition! But if cost is very high, it is because it also included many investments which are not directly related to the organization of Olympic Games. Thus, operational budget properly related to the organization of Olympic Games – safety, infrastructures, installations, maintenance – is « only » 6 billion dollars instead of 4 billion initially provided. Government, among others alia, forgot to include Value Added Tax – VAT!

Establishment of Olympic site was decided in Stratford. 10 km from center, in south bordered on new economic center of Docklands, these East suburb of district (Borough) of Newham, mainly industrial, suffered decline of its economic activities; it is a zone which lost many jobs. Another advantage is hub of Stratford must be integrated into Thames Gateway, urban development plan aiming at developing « corridor of the Thames », about fifty kms between capital and estuary of river. For Olympic Games, mayor of London, Mr. Boris Johnson wants to create a new International Airport in this area in order to unblock Heathrow and Gatwick. According to definitions English Capital extends, either on 1.600 km², or on 13.000 km², and according to definitions counts, 7,5 million inhabitants (Greater London), or ultimately 14 million. This difference in definition is related to fact that Greater London was surrounded with a green belt. However since 1947, urbanization extended well beyond this green belt, gain borders of South-East of England. Particularity of London compared to a city like Paris, is that urbanization is discontinuous, diluted and not very dense contrary to Beijing where residents of modest districts were constrained to move further and further far from center, beyond many ring roads. Official figures give 15.000 moved specifically for Olympic Games. ONG speak rather about 1,5 million evictions since modernization of city. There, as on many other topics, reliable figures are impossible to obtain. Finally Olympic Games in London will be less revolutionary, but more imposing...

« Karate has already proved its credentials... »

Guy Sahri: Five sports not Olympics – Roller, Squash, Golf, Karate and Rugby with VII – were examined with « 33 criteria » for admission by Commission of Olympic program at time of its study. On these five sports, members of CIO retained two of them: Squash and Karate. Knowing that for a few months CIO has observed national and international Competitions official and even

regional in whole world. What would be necessary it moreover for Karate for finally returning in Olympia?

Jean Pierre Lavorato:

I believe that Karate goes well and that one will not need large thing moreover... I think that other Federations which will vote for Karate do not want too to see us returning because we are likely to make medals and to make shade thereafter. « 33 criteria » of evaluation will not pass by Karate itself. Karate already made its letters of nobility if I then to express me thus. It is rather what surrounds Olympics groupings and its « financial mane »; there are political aspects on level which escape to us completely... One can make many things for Karate and mainly an enormous effort on side of lobbying, marketing. It will be a considerable aspect being to give which we were in pole position in 2005 in Singapore...

In spite of that there are disciplines which arrive very quickly as Roller which is nevertheless sails very about it and which returns success of difficult Karate. Now to know if there will be agreements, bilateral interests of shares and other of certain countries so that our discipline is born finally, that remains a stake to be conquered quickly because one deserves « finally » to be recognized! However everyone knows it well I remain a traditionalist pure and hard in heart and that of anything broadmindedness of our practice does not prevent. One has to gain while becoming Olympic!

Dominique Charré:

With my opinion it is a question which does not remain very complicated to be Olympic. In theory 3 essential points are needed. I am explained in relation so that Jean Pierre Lavorato quotes. There are people in whole world who do not know sport. It is necessary that it is a sport which does not give place to frequent wounds. A sport where it occurs something and thus a sport which is not dangerous...

In first point, today one attends Nationals, Internationals competitions of Karate even local which are arbitrated by Referees where one sees on a blue side two flags (AO) which rise and other side one gives point to red flag (AKA). I could quote full with examples where we have a central Referee who gives a decision. And there we see Arbitrator rising of table – who are in general in shrinking of carpet – to come in middle of tatami and to reverse decision. For a televiewer, it is completely incomprehensible!

Second point, 30 years ago one returned in distance and one left distance. Now one sees engagements where one can make seizures, to remain a few seconds one against other by making attempts at sweepings which are in general not very pretty. That they is very dangerous since, if attempt at sweeping is badly made, they are ruptures of types, ligaments crossed with knees, distortions' and I pass from there; as well as other physiological traumatismes which, according to situation given can be serious for adversary. Finally it is completely inconceivable for an authority of International Olympic Committee – IOC that a sport is traumatizing!

And there I return at best point. With last European Championship Senior 2008 there A were more finales gained on engagements where winner gained by sanction of adversary than by blows carried which have were actually entered...

Guy Sahri: So that everyone can understand well, that do you hear by sanction of the adversary?

Jean Pierre Lavorato:

Touch face for example...

Dominique Charré:

Just like said Jean Pierre Lavorato. I am thus penalized on key. My adversary gains a sanction. Finally nobody carries true blows, nobody does not make really valid technique perfectly controlled like Gyaku-tsuki, Mawashi-geri Chudan, Kizami-tsuki etc. Thus finally entered points are not points

considered as valid techniques in Karate. It is rather necessary to have an arbitration where points are entered. Often Referees tend more to explain it « why » point if it is valid or not. It is not good and it is worth can be better combat which finish to 8/7 or to 2/0 only on sanctions. It is much more alive for televiewer and comprehension of public.

Summarizing a sport on these 3 points, one can say as well as a « sport » can pass very well on television and thereby become Olympic...

« Responsible in charge on a large scale... »

Guy Sahri: With your opinion « *quarrels internal* » world of Karate makes they it obstacle at its entry within Olympic Games, have wouldn't some considerable concessions there to make of share and others?

Jean Pierre Lavorato:

(Laughters)... Ohhh yes! That goes up on long dates and one will not make the lawsuit of anyone, nor to quote of names but that goes up at time of problem between International Traditional Karate Federation – ITKF and old World Union Karate Organization – WUKO lately named World Karate Federation – WKF. That was a true policy of « sap », not between two Federations themselves but between interposed characters and on a world level one paid « broken pots of them »!

They was nevertheless them responsible on a large scale which were made a savage fight during years and with repercussion in fact practice of whole world have summers « turkeys of the joke »! I estimate that at a certain level Karate with other intrinsic values to have two characters also influencing in international politics – leaders of Federations – finally representing a source of interests which is clean for them and not common defense of a discipline like Karate. Each thing in their place all the same!

Dominique Charré:

An obstacle, not. There is much Federation which is registered with Olympic program and which does not have a total representation of all their activities. For example if one takes Winter Olympics with ski, there is many forms of practices as in particular Traditional Ski which are not with program of Olympic Games and which have a program of competition very quite elaborate. If one takes sports like Canoe-Cayak, there are many shapes of Canoe-Cayak which exist within Fédération Française Canoe-kayak – FFCK and that one does not see with Olympic Games.

One can also travel by Canoe-Cayak of sea, descent in river, not to confuse with slalom which is another test. Some are more traditional than others and which, however, are not with Olympic program. That does not prevent that they are registered with Olympic Games. Richness of Karate precisely comes with a « Traditional » panel of activities known as, a very important personal research like « Sportsman » contrary to others practice known as sporting. It is what brings to Karate an exceptional substance and that will not change only one is with Olympic Games or not, to preserve all the facets of our activity...

« A strong structure near young people... »

Guy Sahri: In a few weeks 19th World Championships 2008 in Japan in Tokyo will take place. Think that Team France will find place of better world nation of Karate?

Dominique Charré:

My answer will be simple, it is not... Even if I do not want to be pessimistic or that I want to carry bad luck for this Team France of Karate which is exactly as Olympic Team France which went Beijing has. There is a team which is young, which does not have many competitions with Athletes who are very

brilliant and very determined. It was seen that Olympic Team France with Beijing with gained many medals is a total general of 40 medals, but not much of Gold medals. Why? Quite simply because those are young people who are not completely with maturity and which in 4 years, in London they will be better. Report which one can make today it is that this generation which went to Olympic Games was not ready!

In Karate it is similar, one has young people who are very good, which will go up in power with, without any doubt, of medals, but not much of Gold medals. However, we know pertinently well that in future these young people will be with signal level... It is much more realistic of saying than we are preparing a generation of adults which will go for World Championships in Tokyo, that of saying that we are ready since more 1 year. That made 5 or 6 years that we follow this collective in all fields of physiological and psychological preparations. It is a point important to underline...

Jean Pierre Lavorato:

Like says it very well Dominique Charré, that will be difficult, our Team France east in rebuilding with departure of former candidates like Alex Biamonti, Yann Baillon, Laurence Fischer, Myriam Szkudlarek, Seydina Baldé, David Felix, Gilles Cherdieu, Nathalie Leroy... It is a whole time which from goes away!

In parallel, it is true that these last years one remained in a kind of « mobility » and that does not have was always obvious to keep our world crown. Being former high level candidate, you as well as know it us, that asks changing of quality, for will on both sides and not only to take high level Athletes here or there without any training specific to support... Athletes yes, but not of Athletes who finally are for saying that they make figuration for beauty of gesture. That requires a strong structure near young people, an agreement trustful in all fields of psychological, sophrology, nutritional preparations and of physical conditioning inter alia.

As in any Federation there are hollows of vagueness, sometimes it inherent in full with things, moment came there will be can be a reorganization to make to members National Director Technical, it is not with me to decide some. Certainly within framework of 19th World Championships in Tokyo we will make medals, but fact of taking again our world crown encourages in us a very great « warlike » motivation more than ever within Team France since we remain in good step for moment and especially that us « old hand » one leads them to maximum... It is normal, one is nevertheless « Cocorico », one defends our fatherland, our colors with arm body, our combatants, it is logical... (Laughters)

« Them a quality of work is owed... »

Guy Sahri: You have just directed National Training course of Professors with your Federal Expert companions. Which are the principal axes for you to be defined in Karate and more particularly for this Olympique expiry?

Jean Pierre Lavorato:

As regards French Karate since I am Federal Expert within Fédération Française de Karaté et Disciplines Associées – FFKDA one needs a return to Karate-do, Karaté known as Traditional. I do not even know why one calls that « Traditional » Karate. Tradition it was already at time of Aikido, the Judo, and Kendo. Now one has the impression that one leaves in other dimensions...

I say it and I rather often repeat it within our discipline we must do a deep work with respect to professors very quickly! During my displacements here in Europe and abroad I notice that many professors are satisfied to give courses and that pains me more especially as our discipline is marvelous. For lack of information these problems will nothing but do accumulate if we do not do anything and thereafter the world level drops in quality very quickly, in the space of a few months... If

professors give « foot to the clamp » in our Schools, Universities, Dojos, Clubs, Academies etc, it will be conceived that it have there practice which come to be involved and which want to learn. Then a quality of work is owed. A professor who does not involve himself, which conceives its work like a vulgar business, does not do what it is necessary, it misleads these pupils...

If this professor involves himself, seeks itself, questions themselves, takes part in training courses, various exchanges between styles and competitions of all levels, it gives by its work desire for transmitting what it acquired. There is no shame to have dropped during a few years training courses, competitions etc, quite to the contrary it is all with their honor! Each one evolves/moves in best way than it can. But one should not especially release taken. That requires reflexion and to carry out a research deepened on oneself. A certain revival some share, a desire for giving. Pupils will feel that quickly, they will progress in contact with professors. Automatically two parts will be justified.

But if people does not want « to have evil » that proves that is « big » trouble. Trouble of professor, it is that which does not transmit any more to its pupils a « faith » which is lost, because at end of day Karate is an extraordinary discipline and I think it of all levels! It is case for training of National Teams which will increase in technical quality and so on... Practice will have different levels and that will facilitate work for everyone. It will be a « top level » which will be guaranteed and much easier to reach for elite and remainder. On arrival it is a chain with many links, a complement where everyone will be found there with logic certain...

Dominique Charré:

How more precisely to improve part of Karate in France, it is thanks to a rich Federation of 200.000 licensees with if one looks at well, few Technical experts and yet much of Clubs and Associations. We are improving since a certain number of years framing in Clubs as well as professors. There are two principal axes which will be fixed for next years. First axis, it is quality of formation by providing that they lie within the scope of a continuous training which one will create for them so that they have a better teaching and technical approach for progression of their pupils, that they are opened with several forms of Disciplines and styles... Second axis, a continuous training for people who want to improve their ranks and, consequently, their technical level with respect of ideas of each one and which one implements an aspect of program which is not badly included/understood. We want really to make this program with « service » of professors in Clubs so that they feel that we want to help them to control their knowledge, fact that they teach. From there will be a better characteristic of our Art and thereafter a better detection for our young Athletes. If the pupils are well trained at base, obviously detection within framework of future Team France will be made feel on the best level. I am sad to see that there is certain laxism on behalf of certain countries, of which I would not quote name where one sees Athletes who are not even « helped » supported physiologically and psychologically by their Federation for competitions whatever they are. Assistance in preparation of Athletes and detection in Championships is an important complement for successes for High Level. For moment we have 3 National Poles, and I of it am very content, contrary to other countries which have many National Poles. To have many Technical experts would be not easily realizable at logistic level and I think that with few Poles one controls manpower well better.

With regard to Karate on a world level, one imperatively needs a good sporting regulation in international and world competitions by asking to Referees a dimension where one must let play be held. A sport which must be much less in one spirit of sanction compared to whole of Karate.

« To be with listening of others... »

Guy Sahri: « *Citius, Altius, Fortius* » (Faster, Higher, Stronger) currency of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Father of Olympic ideal. What inspires these words to you?

Dominique Charré:

(Laughters)... It is currency of Olympic Games. Three words one beside others inspires fact to me that we are in the approach for Games. On several occasions I was likely to go to Olympic Games as a person in charge for Olympic Team France. I can guarantee that image that I will retain of this extraordinary festival of sport, it is not inevitably sprinter at Stage of athletics, it is not inevitably Gold medal of great champion, it to you is more the life at Olympique village... One realizes that there are enormously people who carry colors of their country. Everyone wears « track » while passing by that of Finland, of Canada, of Colombia, of South Africa, of Brazil, of Marshall Islands, of Australia, of Iran, of India, of USA, of Italy. One notices with turning of a corner of street somebody which is involved. It is a marathonian who is universally known, one sees in middle of street a team of American swimming synchronized more to repeat epic which will make in Olympique swimming pool, one sees Cubans' boxers warming up and to still involve itself still and under arcades and finally I say myself it is most beautiful gathering of Youth of World...

Jean Pierre Lavorato:

That returns so that we say Dominique Charré and me before, it is necessary to still work still and. To practice to progress. Who known as to progress, it is to go up higher. Who known as to go up higher, it is to have a certain success for oneself. It is about first combat, combat against oneself. It is a constant of human condition through humility and respect of others. Currency of Baron Pierre de Coubertin joined spirit of Budo, to work, remain humble, to be with listening of others. Obviously to be with listening of others is not only to listen to them and promise « magic » gifts to them, but to accompany them on « way by the empty hand ». This immutable quest to which we all aspire, that is to go « Faster, Higher, Stronger »...