

China Sports, Wuhan



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Bringing Wushu to the World

Wushu experts from a dozen countries and regions express the hope of establishing an international wushu organization in the foreseeable future.

Wen Li

AT the invitation of the Chinese Wushu Association, representatives from wushu organizations of 12 countries and regions attended China's 1984 National Wushu

Meet held in Wuhan October 27-November 5. On this occasion, the foreign guests were acquainted with the history of Chinese wushu and its development during the 35 years since the founding of New China. They were told that during

the past three decades and a half, more than 100 Chinese wushu groups had visited some 60 countries and regions and contributed to the promotion of understanding and friendship among nations. All were of the opinion that wushu is

its coach Selinger resigning. As pointed out by Selinger, who went specially to Hongkong to watch the super series tournament, it is hard for the American team to recover in the next few years.

The Japanese players seemed to have a dread of the Chinese team. However, with years of rigorous training behind them and being now reinforced by such promising young players as setter Kumi Nakada, they bid fair to make rapid progress in the years to come. Their 3-0 win over the US team in the Singapore event was a convincing proof of their prowess.

The South Korean sextette, whose lineup has remained unchanged since 1981, displayed excellent teamwork in its triumphant battles against Japan and the United States at the Hongkong tourney. But taken as a whole it has yet to improve its techniques considerably if it is to pose a threat to the Chinese team in the coming years.

So the prospects of China achieving another grand slam in the next four years look fairly bright. One must remember, however, that another two world powers, Cuba and the Soviet Union, were absent from the Hongkong and Singapore tourneys. These two teams are by no means inferior to Japan and the USA, and being young and physically strong they have a big future before them. When the Cuban team, nicknamed "black rubber" for its toughness, played with the Chinese team during their China tour last year, they gave their hosts a good scare before owning themselves beaten. As things stand, both the Soviet and Cuban teams are expected to make great strides in the near future. While the goal of another grand slam seems accessible to the Chinese, its realization calls for herculean efforts. As pointed out by former coach Yuan Weimin, now Vice-Minister in charge of the State Commission for Physical Culture and Sports, "The Chinese women's volleyball team can never sit back and relax." □

The article Bringing Wushu to the World deals with an international meeting that took place in Wuhan from 27 October to 5 November 1984 at the invitation of the Chinese Wushu Association.



today, more than 100,000 people practise Tai Chi Chuan. Since 1979, exhibitions have been held around April and May every year. Some years ago, the Siam Thaiket Association was formed at the initiative of our forerunners.

There are two purposes in bringing Chinese wushu to the world: Promoting the health of the world people and preserving the characteristics of Chinese wushu. I have watched martial contests in many countries and found some of them rather unmethodical and devoid of the characteristic features of Chinese wushu. I think in future contests there should be some regulations on the leg and fist forms. You can use your hands, your feet or your head for a blow but in any case there must be certain rules to follow and violation of rules should incur a deduction of points.



Robert Flint (Secretary-General of Svenska Wushu Forbundet)

Mr. Lin (referring to Louis Lin, Chairman of the Svenska Wushu Forbundet) who is sitting beside me went to Sweden in 1980 to

spread wushu. Since then the membership of our organization has grown to over 5,000. Just two days before we left for China, we had a national wushu competition which attracted a total audience of over 2,500. We never expected such a large turnout and had to deny entrance to many people.

In Sweden today we have two branches of wushu activities. One of them includes exhibitions of routines for fitness building and is taken care of by the gymnastics federation. The other branch, concerned with combative matches favoured by certain people, comes under a combat committee specially set up for the purpose. With the formation of a wushu organization, it will look after both branches of activities.

In our opinion, when we set up an international organization or conduct international competitions, we should give adequate thoughts to the circumstances in different countries. In Sweden, for instance, there is a law forbidding head blows in combats.



Dan Sita (Chairman of Technical Committee of the Italian Wushu Association)

The meeting here in Wuhan of wushu personages from various countries offers us a chance to know each other better.

Our Italian Wushu Association was affiliated to the Italian Olympic Committee on June 20 this year (1984).

People around the world have different ideas about wushu. Some refer to it as wushu while others talk about kungfu, and they can't tell the difference between the two. In promoting wushu worldwide, the main thing is to set up a unified world organization for wushu rather than kungfu. We are promoting the art not just in one country but in many countries. So must we work together and speak along the same lines. We must also work out rules that can be applied everywhere in the world.



Jurgen Palm (Executive Director of German Sports Federation)

Wushu is now in a critical stage of development. As most of the Olympic sports originated in Europe and the United States, it is only just and fair for us to present the world with an Oriental sport — or Chinese sport to be more precise.

Wushu is just making a start in Federal Germany, where 90 per cent of the people do not know much about it. Last fall we opened a special column on wushu in a major sports magazine. Meanwhile, wushu programmes were shown on TV. We hope to bring a Chinese wushu group to our country next year and to popularize the sport in European countries through our joint efforts.

It's now time for us to consider organizing an international wushu federation which will exercise unified leadership over activities in

The middle column on page 6 of the Chinese magazine China Sports (March 1985 issue) shows Master Dan Sita in Wuhan while signing a document about the abolition of the expression *Kung Fu* during the international meeting held from 27/10 to 05/11/1984. This occurred on demand of the Chinese Wushu Association as, in those years, that expression used to evoke violent films produced in Hong Kong.