

# YUGOSLAVIA

This tragic country in the Balkans never ceases to surprise me, nor does Borislav Pelevic's ability to promote in his country in spite of all the political and economic difficulties. In fact, the president of Yukick is an incurable optimist. The Kosovo war, which caused his 1999 WAKO World Championship promotion to be cancelled, has not stopped Pelevic's tireless efforts in promoting. Actually, Yugoslavia is still one of the best organized, most active countries in WAKO, a real pillar in the Balkans for our organization. Yugoslavia participated with very strong teams in the three world championships last year in Portugal, Italy and Kirgizstan, plus it organized several international Pro events, the Mediterranean Championships in Montenegro, Pelevic's birthplace, and last but not least, a few months ago a Yugoslavia-Hungary challenge which was attended by 7,000 people, an unthinkable turnout in the rest of Europe. We'll start with the Full Contact Mediterranean Championship in Podgorica and Budva held from June 1-5 of this year. Admittedly, only 40 athletes repre-



sending 6 nations were present. Unfortunately, the knowledge of bad blood between Montenegro and Yugoslavia didn't help the event and no one wants to find himself mixed up in a conflict while there purely for a sports event. Hence, the light participation in the competition, however, it was partially successful since during the qualifications in Podgorica, there were 1500 spectators. Even more people would have attended the finals in Budva, had it not been for the limited capacity of the "Slovenska Plaza", one of the most prestigious hotels in the area. The finals were broadcast by all major local and Yugoslavian TV stations. The tournament was held without incident and run very smoothly.

These are the results:

## MEN

### 51 kg.

1. Sinisa Markovich Yugoslavia
2. Veldin Heliolic Bosnia & Herzegovina

### 54 kg.

1. Milos Anic Yugoslavia
2. Ile Risteovski Macedonia
3. Emir Fazic Bosnia & Herzegovina

### 57 kg.

1. Miodrag Krstic Yugoslavia
2. Ognjen Smrkic Rep. of Serbia
3. Aleksandar Peterevski Macedonia



Borislav Pelevic, Yukick President.



### 81 kg.

1. Slobodan Marinkovic Yugoslavia
2. Giovanni Laterza Italy
3. Milan Rabrenovic Macedonia
4. Ivan Slavov Bulgaria

### + 91 kg.

1. Ljubisa Ilic Yugoslavia
2. Borce Andov Bulgaria

## WOMEN

### 56 kg.

1. Goranka Blagojevic Yugoslavia
2. Sanja Samardzic Bosnia & Herzegovina

### 60 kg.

1. Galina Ivanova Bulgaria
2. Marija Ristovic Yugoslavia

### 65 kg.

1. Tanja Vujic Yugoslavia
2. Cvetanka Bojeva Bulgaria

### 60 kg.

1. Nikola Mladenovic Yugoslavia
2. Donato Verrastro Italy
3. Jasmin Osmanspahic Macedonia
4. Sasa Trninic Rep. of Serbia

### 63.5 kg.

1. Biagio Tralli Italy
2. Nenad Celap Yugoslavia

### 67 kg.

1. Aleksandar Stojkoviski Macedonia
2. Nedeljko Pajic Rep. of Serbia
3. Muhamed Orozovic Bosnia & Herzegovina
4. Nebojsa Denic Yugoslavia

### 71 kg.

1. Ilia Spasov Bulgaria
2. Branko Tasic Yugoslavia
3. Vesto Dukic Rep. of Serbia
4. Aleksandar Atanasovski Macedonia

### 75 kg.

1. Srdan Mihajlovic Yugoslavia
2. Danijoli Ivanov Bulgaria
3. Dimitrij Jovanovic Rep. of Serbia

last June. He fought against the world champion, Anuar Ibraev, and unfortunately Ilic was K.O.ed. But Ivan Strugar, the present low-kick 75 kg world champion, brought honor to the flag beating, on points, the well-known Croatian Ivica Cukusic in a beautiful match. It was held in Podgorica, Montenegro's capital, on March 31, 2000 in front of 7000 people.

As already mentioned, Yugoslavia promoted a friendly dual competition against a strong Hungarian team in Koncarevo, near Jogodina, on July 7, again before a crowd of 7000! The final result saw Yugoslavia win 7-2, thus confirming the strength of its kickboxing school.

In conclusion, in Batocina there was a match for the Balkans title between the Yugoslav Nebojsa Milicivcic and Bulgaria's Ivan Slavov in the 81.4 kg low-kick category. The match ended in the fifth round when the Yugoslav, thanks to a nice series of combinations, rocked his rival to the point where he could no longer continue fighting.

As for its activity in the professional sector, Yugoslavia sent to Kirgizstan young Ljubisa Ilic, the heavyweight winner of the Mediterranean Championships,



The Yugoslavian Team.