

Sports in Greece

A brief presentation

by

Andreas Christofakis

Panagiota Emmanouilidi

Jordan Forbes

Stefania Tourkodimitri

Rhodes, 21/1/2016



Bulgaria, Svisthov , SOU Nikolay Katranov,

21-27 February 2016



I. The history of athletics

Ancient times : The Olympic Games

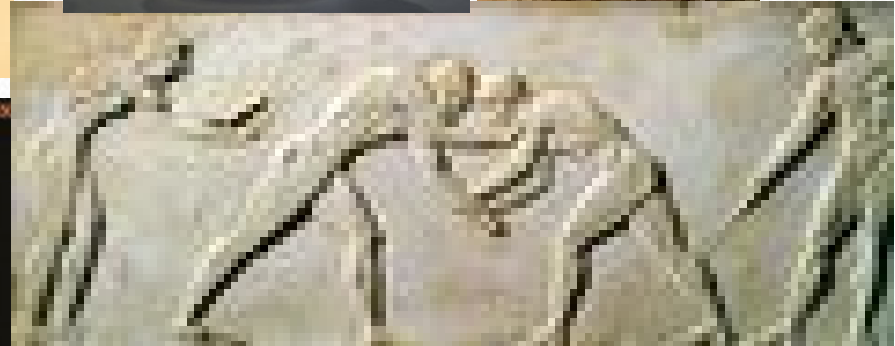
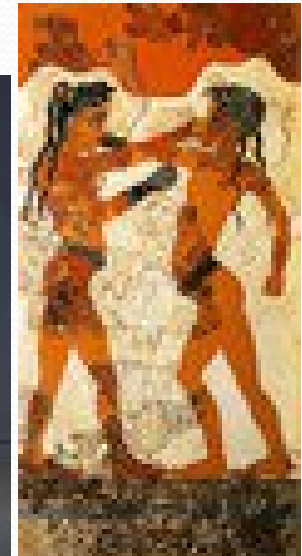


- The first **Olympics** dated from 776 BC.
- The games were held every four (4) years in **Olympia**, in western Peloponnese, in the beautiful valley of the Alpheios river.
- During the celebration of the games, an Olympic Truce was enacted so that athletes could travel from their countries to the place where the games were held in safety.
- The prizes for the victors were olive leaf wreaths or crowns.



Some of the events

- **Foot -race**
- **Horse Races**
- **Discus**
- **Jumping**
- **Pentathlon**
- **Wrestling**
- **Boxing**



Athletics in Antiquity in Rhodes



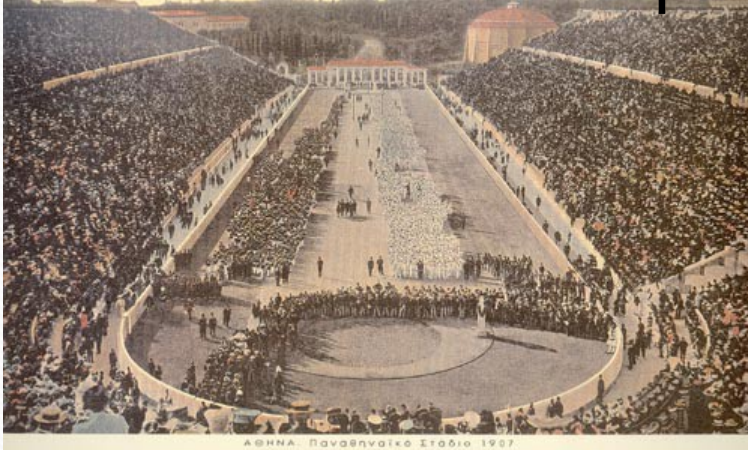
- In the ancient acropolis of Rhodes there are ruins of the **ancient stadium of Rhodes**. The original surviving parts include the “Sphendone” (rounded end with turning post), the “Proedries” (the place where officials used to be seated) and some of the lower seats in the auditorium. What is remarkable is that the starting mechanism for the athletes has been preserved as well!

Modern era:

The revival of the Olympic games (19

9

th century). The first contemporary Olympic Games took place in **1896** in Athens, in the **Panathenaic Stadium**, where an audience of 30,000 people attended the event watching athletes from 14 countries from all over the world competing.



The Olympic Games

of 2004 in Athens

- 2004 marked the return of the games to the city where they began.
- Athens 2004 marked the first time since the 1996 Summer Olympics when all countries with a National Olympic Committee were in attendance.
- 10,625 athletes competed, some 600 more than expected, accompanied by 5,501 team officials from 201 countries. There were 301 medal events in 28 different sports.



TM ©

ATHENS 2004





**II. Reaching the
top in sports**
**The Greek athletic
teams have been
mostly
distinguished in
basketball and
football.**

The most famous teams ever

National football team in 2004



National basketball team in 2005



National football team in 2004

- Greece is one of only nine national teams to have been crowned UEFA European Champions, which makes them one of the most successful teams in the history of the competition.
- The UEFA Euro 2004 marked a high point in Greece's football history when the team was crowned European champion.



National basketball team in 2005



- The **Greek National Basketball team** is the representative for Greece in international men's basketball competitions, organized and run by the Hellenic Basketball Federation. Traditionally, Greece is considered among the world's top basketball powers.
- At Eurobasket 2005 held in Belgrade the young team of Greece, under the guidance of Panagiotis Giannakis finished 1st among 16 teams.



Well-known athletes



- Nikoleta Kyriakopoulou
- Pyrros Dimas
- Nikolaos "Nikos" Kaklamanakis
- Paraskevi ("Voula") Patoulidou



Pyrros Dimas



- **Pyrros Dimas, weightlifter,** is widely considered as one of the greatest weightlifters of all time, having been three times Olympic Gold Medalist and three times World Champion.

Nikos Kaklamanakis

Nikolaos "Nikos" Kaklamanakis is the Gold-medal winner who lit the Olympic torch in the opening ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. One of the most popular athletes in Greece, Nikolaos Kaklamanakis is a **three-time Mistral class windsurfing world champion** and a **gold medalist at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Sailing**.

He won silver in the event at the 2003 World Championships in Cádiz Spain behind Przemek Miarczyński of Poland.

In the 2000 Summer Olympics he took the 6th place, while in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens Kaklamanakis took the silver medal behind Gal Fridman of Israel. Four years later, in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games he finished 8th in the RS:X Men Sailing Race.



Nikoleta Kyriakopoulou

- **Nikoleta Kyriakopoulou** is a pole vaulter who won the bronze medal at the World Championship in Beijing in 2015 setting five Greek records (indoor and outdoor) by raising the bar to 4,83 meters. She became the first Greek athlete to win the IAAF Diamond League.
- Her first success in a major event was in 2012, when she won the bronze medal at the European Championships in Helsinki. She also won the 2009 Mediterranean Games with a Games record of 4.50 meters.



Voula Patoulidou



- **Paraskevi ("Voula") Patoulidou** a prolific athlete, throughout her athletics career competed in the 100 metres, 100 metres hurdles and in the long jump events. Patoulidou became a Greek sporting legend in 1992, when she was the surprise winner of the Women's 100 m hurdles race at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. This success made her the first Greek woman ever to reach a track final in the Olympic Games, a great feat in its own right.



Sources

- <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/>
- <http://olympics.ime.gr/>
- <http://odysseus.culture.gr/a/1/11/ea110.html>
- <http://www.hoc.gr/en> (Hellenic Olympic Committee)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Games