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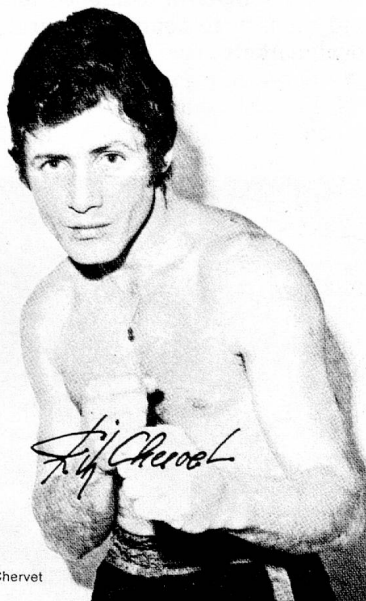
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SPORT



Fritz Chervet

FRITZ CHERVET

New European Flyweight Champion

On 3rd March last year, Fritz Chervet (29), one of the five professional boxers in Switzerland, fought the Italian Fernando Atzori, Olympic champion in Tokyo in 1964, for the European title at the Festhalle in Berne. Fritz Chervet had already met the Sardinian boxer in Berne four years ago, also in the European championship at flyweight. At that time, he was knocked out in the 14th round. During the return fight in March, Chervet, 36 years after the Genevan Maurice Dubois, once again achieved victory for Switzerland and became European champion by beating his opponent with a technical knock-out blow in the tenth round.

A few weeks after his victory, the new European champion received us at the boxing school of his trainer and manager, Charly Bühler, and he answered our questions with pleasing simplicity.

Could you tell us what made you go into boxing, and how long have you been doing it?

I started boxing in 1958, and it was actually my two elder brothers who were already in boxing who drew me in automatically.

What does this sport mean to you?

It has helped me much in my life and has formed me, so to speak.

Do you have an occupation apart from boxing? Is there any connection between your occupation and the sport you do? Does this mean certain sacrifices for you?

I am a cabinet maker, and a professional boxer since 1963. Until seven months ago, I still worked in my job as I can not live on boxing alone.

What are your hobbies and leisure occupations?

I have many hobbies and find time for them in spite of the daily training. For instance, I like to go for mountain walks and also play tennis. Sometimes I go fishing; it has a calming influence.

How do you consider sport in Switzerland generally?

I think sport in general is of a high standard in Switzerland. If sport here were financed by the State as in Eastern countries and could be done professionally, the Swiss would readily be in the same class.

Do you think that boxing is still an "unspoilt" sport or is it, too, marked by outside influences like for instance drugs?

In boxing too, it happens that drugs are taken. But I believe that someone who is seriously involved in sport, does not need them; on the contrary, he would only harm himself.

Are you happy with your career, or is there anything you think you may have missed?

Yes, in general I am happy with my career and should not have discontinued it even if I had not managed to get the European title.

You beat the Italian Atzori on 3rd March. The press confirmed that you were better prepared for the fight, both physically and mentally, than you were in 1967. Which, in your opinion, were the decisive phases and which tactics did you use?

I prepared intensively for the fight and knew also that Atzori did not live exactly responsibly and had difficulties with his weight. During the first ten

rounds I deliberately did not force anything, knowing that Atzori's condition was not suited to a relatively long fight. My assumption proved correct: the longer the fight, the more nervous he became.

Atzori maintained that he had to give in because you hit him unintentionally in the eye with your thumb.

The way professional boxing gloves are made this is quite impossible. His black eye was the result of an ordinary blow, which can happen.

Do you think Atzori will ask for a return fight?

He spoke of a return fight immediately after the fight, but I do not believe he will make the sacrifice on account of his overweight.

What does this victory mean to you? What results will the European title have for you, both in Switzerland and internationally?

I shall get more offers from abroad. At Swiss level, hardly anything will change.

What were the most important stages in your career? What do your future plans look like?

At the European Championships in 1961 I got the bronze medal, which naturally encouraged me. The fight against Atzori in 1967 was also an important moment in my career. I shall have to defend my title within six months.

Chervet's European title will no doubt give boxing in Switzerland great stimulus. Amateurs, professionals as well as organisers will profit from the situation which arose thanks to the success of Chervet and his manager Charly Bühler.



Xaver Kurmann, Lucerne, winner of the silver medal in the 4 km pursuit race

THE SWISS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN MUNICH

163 Swiss athletes represented Switzerland in the Bavarian capital. Unfortunately, they won neither gold nor bronze medals, but returned with three silver medals. Oarsmen, cyclists and fencers were able to go to the second step of the winner's rostrum.

The first medal went to the team Bachmann/Fischer for rowing. This two-some was formed shortly before the Olympic Games after the accident to Dubs. Bachmann deserves congratulations for adapting himself so quickly. For normally, the replacement of a team mate means a great strain.

The second medal was won by the cyclist Xaver Kurmann who had already brought home a medal from Mexico and thus proved his prowess. Many expected a gold medal, but unfortunately Kurmann met up with the Swedish champion Knudsen who was at the top of his form and did not give the Swiss representative a single chance.

The third medal went to our fencing team. It excelled itself by beating Mexico (15:1), Luxembourg (12:4), Rumania (9:4), then the Swiss beat France in the semi-finals 8:5, and in the finals they were beaten by the Hungarian champions 8:4. The latter were technically unbeatable. The Swiss were by far the youngest team which took part in the Games. The captain, Peter Lotscher, was the oldest at 31. François Suchansky is 23, Christian Kauter 25, Daniel Giger 23, and the youngest, Guy Évéquoz, is exactly 20. This gives an average of 24 years and a few months. It is the first time that a Swiss team managed to get through to the finals. Up to Munich, only Zapeli, Valeta, Fitting, Rufenacht and Meister managed to get a bronze medal at Olympic Games.



Fredy Bachmann and Heini Fischer, the successful oarsmen

In other events there were many defeats, but also some very good performances. In shooting, there was lack of precision at the last moment, and in the equestrian events there was no chance at all. Swimming and wrestling showed the negative results of the training camp at St. Moritz. The athletes showed lack of concentration right at the start. But let it be a consolation that other countries, much larger than Switzerland, had no silver medals at all.

It is hoped that there will be stronger athletes for the next Olympic Games and, who knows, possibly even some new stars.



Sapporo, 5th February, 1972: Swiss schoolgirl Marie-Therese Nadig lifted shoulder high by her supporters after her surprise win in the women's downhill event of the 1972 Winter Olympics.



The triumphant silver medallists in épée fencing