

SELECTION OF FOUR TRANSLATED ARTICLES

Monday 8th October

Young Yacine's feat

Ouchy: An 11 year-old boy named Yacine carries his team to victory in a tchoukball match during the 27th Olympic Week.

Sanjanth aged 13, Lausanne

A victory for the white team against the blue team, by 2 to 1! A young player, Yacine, scored two goals for his team and showed a great sense of fair play in trying to help his fellow team-members score. His generosity during the game was a further sign of his promise and talent.

Tchoukball is a fairly controlled game with little physical danger. Body contact is not allowed and you can't get in the way of your opponent. Some people don't like it very much because they don't think it's physically demanding enough. Boys generally find matches a bit boring, but Yacine showed them all the extraordinary potential of the game with his magnificent actions. We asked him why he had chosen to try this sport: "I like all sports, whether it's football or tchoukball, I don't mind." And when asked whether he liked tchoukball, he replied: "Yes, I enjoyed it a lot, but I think it's a shame that you can't make body contact." Personally, we really enjoyed watching this match and the white team played a great game.

At the end of the match, the teams suggested a photo opportunity: 2 girls from the blues and 2 boys from the whites, just to show that the rivalry between the two teams was entirely friendly! Fair play comes out on top on the second day of the 27th Olympic Week!

Tuesday 9th October

Sailing free

Sailing is quite a complex sport - it's hard to remember exactly which rope does what! But there is nothing quite as relaxing as being on the water...

Toni aged 12 and Sabrina aged 13, Renens

Olympic Week offers a great variety of sports and even the chance to try sailing. For some, sailing is a way of escaping stress; for others, it is a path to adventure. For Jean-Claude Krieger, aged 67 and with 40 years of sailing experience behind him, it is a way of feeling free. He likes everything about sailing! He took up the sport at the age of 15 and completed his B-permit at St. Malo, France, a challenging place to begin because of its tides which can vary by 20m. Mr Krieger has taken part in many competitions and regattas on different yachts, including participating in the Bol d'Or six times.

He currently skippers on the ocean, frequently travelling to Corsica, the Antilles, Greece, Turkey and many other areas around the world. He has even survived a storm near Rhodes, in Greece, with winds blowing at more than 120 km/h.

Nicolas, aged 11, took part in one of the initiations to sailing. He was able to take the helm, that is to "drive" the boat for a while. He found that steering was quite a calming activity and said he felt good when on the water. He added that he would be coming back to try sailing again as soon as he could.

Wednesday 10th October

Cool & Clean, a way of life

The Cool & Clean stand presents the three Olympic values to kids through a variety of fun games.

Lucie aged 13 and Brigitte aged 15, Lausanne

“The Olympic values are essential values in everyday life. They help build confidence and that encourages self-respect and respect for others, part of the Olympic philosophy,” explain the monitors on this stand.

Cool & Clean presents the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect through a variety of games. In one of them, you have to run without causing a sheet of newspaper placed over your chest to fall. The only way of doing this is to run fast – if you don’t cheat! But one team is secretly given some sticky-tape for their newspaper. At the end of the game, the trick is revealed... reactions vary, with some participants being shocked and others not really caring. As for the “cheats”, they either laugh or are a bit embarrassed. It’s a game which makes everyone realise the importance of respect for others and for the rules of the game.

Friendship is strongly present too. One of the monitors told us about two girls who came from Aargau and who didn’t speak a word of French. All the monitors had to do was to translate the rules for them and in minutes the two girls were straight into the game: “When we watched the kids playing, there was no way anyone could have guessed that there were two of them who didn’t speak the same language as the others.”

The stand has been really popular. We spoke to a number of participants in Olympic Week who had visited it: “I came because I wanted to find out what was under this big thing” said 9-year-old Elisa, “the big thing” in question being the very visible Cool & Clean igloo tent! “It was the name of the stand which made me want to come”, added Jennifer, aged 11. “I wanted to see how they explained the three Olympic values. I’ve discovered what excellence means,” concluded Aline (15).

We have also discovered and understood the Olympic values through the activities on offer on this stand and the spirit of solidarity that can be found there.

Thursday 11th October

Rock-climbing, a crazy attraction

At the foot of the “rock-face”, some like climbing and others don’t. Explanations follow...

Emilie and Justine aged 12, Lutry

The climbing wall can be found between the Olympic fountain and the lake. On this Thursday morning, it’s a bit grey and cold. There don’t seem to be a lot of people around.

As we reached the stand, we spoke to the volunteers to find out why they had chosen rock-climbing rather than another activity. “I’d already worked on this stand and enjoyed it. There’s a great ambiance between the staff and the volunteers. And I’ve got a view on the lake, I’m happy!” And when asked what they liked about climbing: “The feelings you get as you climb up or as you abseil down are not feelings you experience every day! I enjoy it because I’m a guide and because it involves courage, confidence, movement and teamwork.”

Not all the staff present rock climb: “No, because I do another sport,” answered Caroline, “I dance, actually.” Afterwards, we talked with the kids who had come to participate in the activity to find out what had brought them there. Their answers varied: “It’s not something I get to do every day”, said one. “I

really like climbing and then abseiling down," said another. "I don't like heights much, but I pushed myself to do it anyway," exclaimed another boy proudly. "It was an adventure", exclaimed the last.

And to round off the picture, we spoke to some kids who hadn't gone rock-climbing. There were lots of different answers too: "I'm afraid of heights", "I didn't have the time" or "I just didn't feel like it".

Which just goes to show that you can't please everyone...
