The Deutsche Hochschule für Körperkultur (German Higher School of Physical Education) in Leipzig has entered its 30th year of existence. In the speech he made on the occasion of the festivities marking the celebration of this anniversary, Mr Manfred Ewald, President of the NOC of the GDR and of the German Federation of Gymnastics and Sport, stressed the decisive part played by this organisation in the brilliant results obtained by East German athletes in international sport during the last few years.

Below we publish a description of this institution that plays such an essential part in the organisation of sport in the GDR.

Foundation

On 22nd October 1950 To start with, the 96 students with a teaching staff of 14, were housed in two small buildings, which were completed by a sports hall.

Aims

- Training of physical training teachers and teams of socialist officials, primarily for the Federation of Gymnastics and Sports of the GDR
- Constitution of a new team of specialists in the field of scientific research and related branches as applied to sport.
- Continuous courses for physical training teachers, coaches and administrators in all fields of socialist physical training.
- Continual research to ensure the scientific development of both sport and physical training and the pursuit of progress in the different branches of sports science.
- Friendly collaboration with the sports institutions of the USSR and other socialist countries, in the fields of teaching research and international scientific exchanges.
- Courses and refresher courses for foreign sports teaching personnel.
- Participation in the development of scientific, sports and cultural life in the region of Leipzig.

Students

2000 students from Leipzig and further afield are trained here each year. Refresher courses are also given to 600 park pants. Nearly 40% of those attending courses are women. Half of those registered come from regional branches of the DHfK situated in Berlin, Erfurt, Karl-Marx-Stadt, Dresden, Rostock, Lena, Magdeburg and Neubranzienburg.
Teaching staff
450 university lecturers and scientists provide the theoretical teaching at the DHfK

Graduates
In all, over 12,000 students have attended the courses in all branches and optional subjects given by the DHfK. 1521 coaches, athletes and scientists from 83 countries have been awarded diplomas in the different refresher courses.

Doctorates
The Teaching Doctorate ("Promotionsrecht") 3rd cycle was introduced in 1955. In 1965 came the "Habilitationsrecht" (State doctorate of teaching sciences). Since then, 450 diplomas have been awarded in the two categories, including 48 to foreigners.

Courses reserved for foreigners
The DHfK has arranged a special training programme for foreigners by founding in 1972 the Teaching Institute for Foreigners. The 17th edition of the International course for coaches was held in 1980. At the end of the theoretical courses, which lasted eight months, those taking part were fully qualified to take up the responsibilities as coaches. In addition, refresher courses are open to all already qualified foreign physical training teachers who wish to acquire additional knowledge in the scientific field. The courses last 16 months. Successful students are awarded diplomas in the specialities or branches they have studied. They can also follow a three-year course to obtain a teaching doctorate.

At the request of the NOC of the GDR, the DHfK also organises summer courses in different branches of sport for the IOC's Olympic Solidarity. The curriculum of these courses includes both theoretical and practical teaching of the different methods of coaching.
Facilities
14 sports installations, comprising in particular a gymnasium, a swimming pool, a diving pool, a fencing hall, a hall for sports gymnastics, wrestling, judo, boxing, weightlifting and multi-purpose halls, are spread over an area of some 40 acres. Three auditoriums with seating for one thousand persons, 15 private offices, many meeting halls and laboratories complete the facilities offered. Students and their teachers also have at their disposal a modern leisure area, provided with restaurants and comfortable lounges. Many students are boarders. 5% of the total amount of the scholarships awarded them is deducted to cover the cost of accommodation.
A winter sports training centre has been built at Schneckenstein (Vogtland).

Library
The library contains 91,000 books. It also subscribes regularly to 650 daily papers and periodicals all over the world.

Youth organisation
The Socialist Federation of East German Youth and the German Free Youth Association (FDJ) have their own installations in the DHfK, in particular a cabaret, “The Boomerang”, and a singing club.

University Sports Association
The 29 sections of the University Sports Association of the DHfK total nearly 3000 members.

Medal-winners
Many East German athletes who have attended courses at the DHfK are now coaches, scientists, physical training teachers or officials. 58 Olympic champions have studied or are studying there. At the present moment, 27 Olympic champions, who won titles at the Games of the XXIInd Olympiad in Moscow, are attending courses given at the DHfK-Leipzig.