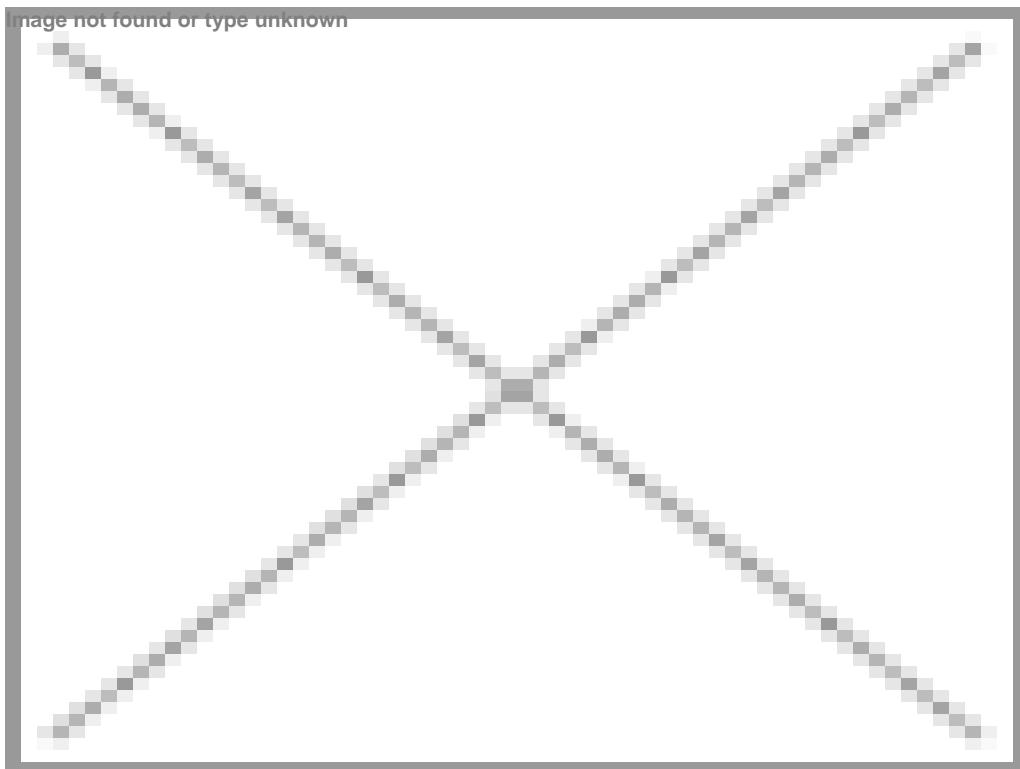04 SEP 2020

GOLDEN MEMORIES: ZSUZSANNA VÖRÖS (HUN) ON THE DAY SHE JOINED THE PANTHEON AT ATHENS 2004

Hungary has an enviable heritage in the men's Olympic Modern Pentathlon. Twenty-one medals, eight of them gold – and all but one of them already accumulated by the time a Hungarian woman travelled to the home of the Olympic movement aiming to join the pantheon.

Zsuzsanna Voros didn't just join the pantheon, she carved her name on the ancient stone with a truly unforgettable display of athleticism at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

After Stephanie Cook of Great Britain four years earlier, Voros (HUN) became the second member of an exclusive club by winning her gold medal. She also joined Janos Martinek, Andras Balczo, Ferenc Torok and Ferenc Nemeth as Hungarian individual Olympic champions.

So how did she do it, and how did it feel? Voros (HUN) takes up the story …

Q: Athens 2004 was the second time women had competed at the Olympic Games. Had you seen a big improvement in standards in those years?

A: The development among women competitors was absolutely significant. The possibility of participating in the Olympics had a great positive effect on attracting many female athletes and also to keep them in this sport.

The high attendance of female competitors during the World Cups and World Championships held between the first and second Olympics back up that statement. There was a World Cup where three groups needed to be started instead of the usual two.

Q: Before Athens you had won the World Championships gold medal in 2003 and 2004. When it came to the Olympic Games did you feel confident about winning gold?

A: In the year of 2004, besides the Olympics I participated in 11 international championships, in which I managed to finish on the podium 10 times. One of them was a silver and the rest were gold. Therefore, I came to the Olympics rather confident. The Olympics is a special competition for every competitor where anything can happen. But my confidence was in the right place.