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MARATHON IN EIGHT IS REMARKABLE SPORTS AND SOCIAL EVENT

Eight is a happily chosen solution as a boat, internationally acknowledged mean and is widespread throughout the world; and it is shown on marathon as a craft suitable for a river on a 36 kilometers rail.

In this sport, rowers are fighting against the nature in themselves, against the nature around them and against the rivals. It is not a failure to finish up the last in marathon, because many other achievements have been accomplished. In other sports people tend to hurt rival, humiliate or there are some measures determined by technology, results, profit and various made up obstacles or conditions; or those are professional disciplines which involve business.

When you enter „the eight“ your „I“ ends, and you become „we“. You become a character from Greek myths. You are a part of eight people and they are a part of you. You are a part of the whole, one rhythm, one trance, one organism. Your organism is rowing its way to the utter limits of human and biological possibilities, to the shock, to the border of consciousness; but luckily for us, the organism is reacting protectively and separately for each of us, so the value of the performance is absolute for different values of individuals.

Each paddle pull is one impact, one subjective success. And the next one, then the next one, a row of paddle pulls, a row of achievements which are developing persistence, obligation, pleasure with learning.

You cannot simulate a shorter pull, delay, shallow, pull; inappositely delay in a unit of time with lesser paddle pulling, because it can all be seen... and that is betrayal, fraud, giving up, shame. Out of the eight, you have become a

caste, because for different reasons no one can enter your team. You take care of each other not to be late; you take care of your diet, health, school and work, condition, training and appearance, all up to your private secrets. You belong to one group, club, city, idea and nation. And because of that, in a numerically small club where everyone breathes the same, it led up to that, that 32 people were killed, murdered or disappeared in a Homeland war. But in eight, as in any other collective sports too, there are individuals who cannot endure all the strain, that's why it is necessarily to be careful, to intervene, because of his health. The chain breaks at its weakest link.

The eight is universally, internationally acknowledged sports floating vessel. The fastest one ran by the human hand amongst the other floating vessels. Royal discipline with highest reaches and the most appreciated among the rowers. It is the most humane amongst the collective sports.

Ivan Štimac, Glas Slavonije, July 6, 2006.