

Refik Berbić Brico – A living legend of handball

I was born in Derventa on the 30.10.1950. I started in the theater, but the House of Culture was across the playground, and friends brought me to train handball. So I started to play very early, to train and to play for Derventa team. After the success of Derventa school and handball, I managed to get an offer from “Krivaja” and I came to Zavidovici. I continued and ended career in Zavidovici.

Most of the players came from different sides, there were a lot of players. The team has been selected and the quality made. All positions were set again, the new team was created and for a short time it had success. We were four times second in Yugoslavia. We did not have any fortune, and we had bad luck because we are from a small town. We had no influence in the handball union, and they were all against us. We did not have a hotel to host guests. During this period, we have achieved culmination because it was the strongest handball league in the world, our player has won the Olympics, later he did it again (Đoko Lavrnić). Then the handball club Metaloplastika came to the fore, and before that Borac as European champion, this was a period of strongest league in the world. We made it and we marked the Yugoslav handball and we had primacy in the world (as national team).

There was the desire and the will to succeed, the city supported us and gave the resources, the city lived for handball, finance came from Krivaja company. Director Đoko Blagojević gave free hands and open account to the greatest coach Vlado Štenc so he could bring the players he wanted, so many of us came to Krivaja team.

We could have achieved more but it is our misfortune. In Zavidovici there was not only handball, in the House of Culture were all kinds of art, music, painting... Now everything is neglected, no values, success is not measured, many complain for those times when the investments, resources and commitment of many factors were given to everything, so the successes had to come.

This city liked handball, there are lots of traces and results. Many players represented us throughout the world, as Milenko, Đoko, Zec (Mrkonja) and many others who were born here who deserve to be praised and I thank them. The message to young people is that kids go to training, to give the maximum, to achieve the best results, so that we keep continuity of the Krivaja club, the city and a lot of luck in the future work.

