



Did You know that

Estonians are sport fanatics?

Estonians believe that sport is good, and great athletes always draw much public attention in these parts. Yes, both special sport stars and special sport events are held in esteem in Estonia!

Tiesitkö, että virolaiset ovat urheiluhulluja?

Virolaiset uskovat, että urheilu on hyvää ja suuret urheilijat saavat julkisuudessa suurta huomiota. Kyllä, Virossa osataan arvostaa sekä erityisiä urheilijoita että eri urheilulajeja!

Знаете ли вы, что эстонцы — фанаты спорта?

Эстонцы верят во всеилие спорта и выдающихся спортсменов сопровождает здесь почтение и уважение. Да, в Эстонии умеют ценить как звезд спорта, так и звездные виды спорта!

Kas teadsid, et eestlased on spordihullud?

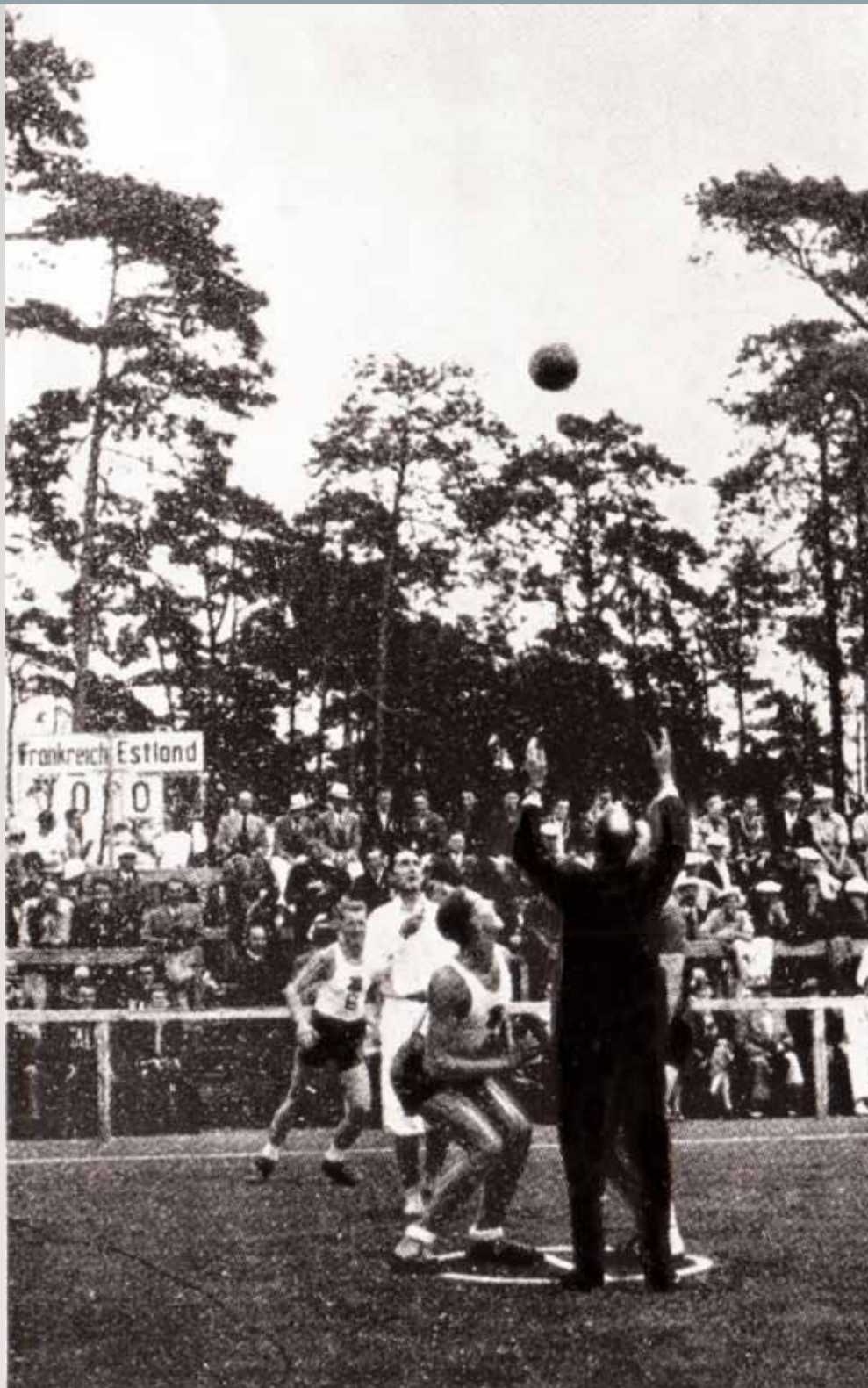
Eestlased usuvad, et sport on hea ja suuri sportlasi saadab siinmail ikka avalikkuse suur tähelepanu. Jah, Eestis osatakse lugu pidada nii erilistest sporditähedest kui ka erilistest spordialadest!



Georg Lurich 1876 - 1920

Georg Lurich - 5 men with one finger!

The professional strongman Georg Lurich (1876–1920) was the first Estonian to achieve success in the sporting arena. Well known the world over and enjoying the status of a legend in Estonia to this day, Lurich was delighted to complement his performances with various stunts. The photograph shows Lurich's heroic stunt, lifting up five men with one finger!



Estonians won the first basketball match in the Olympic History

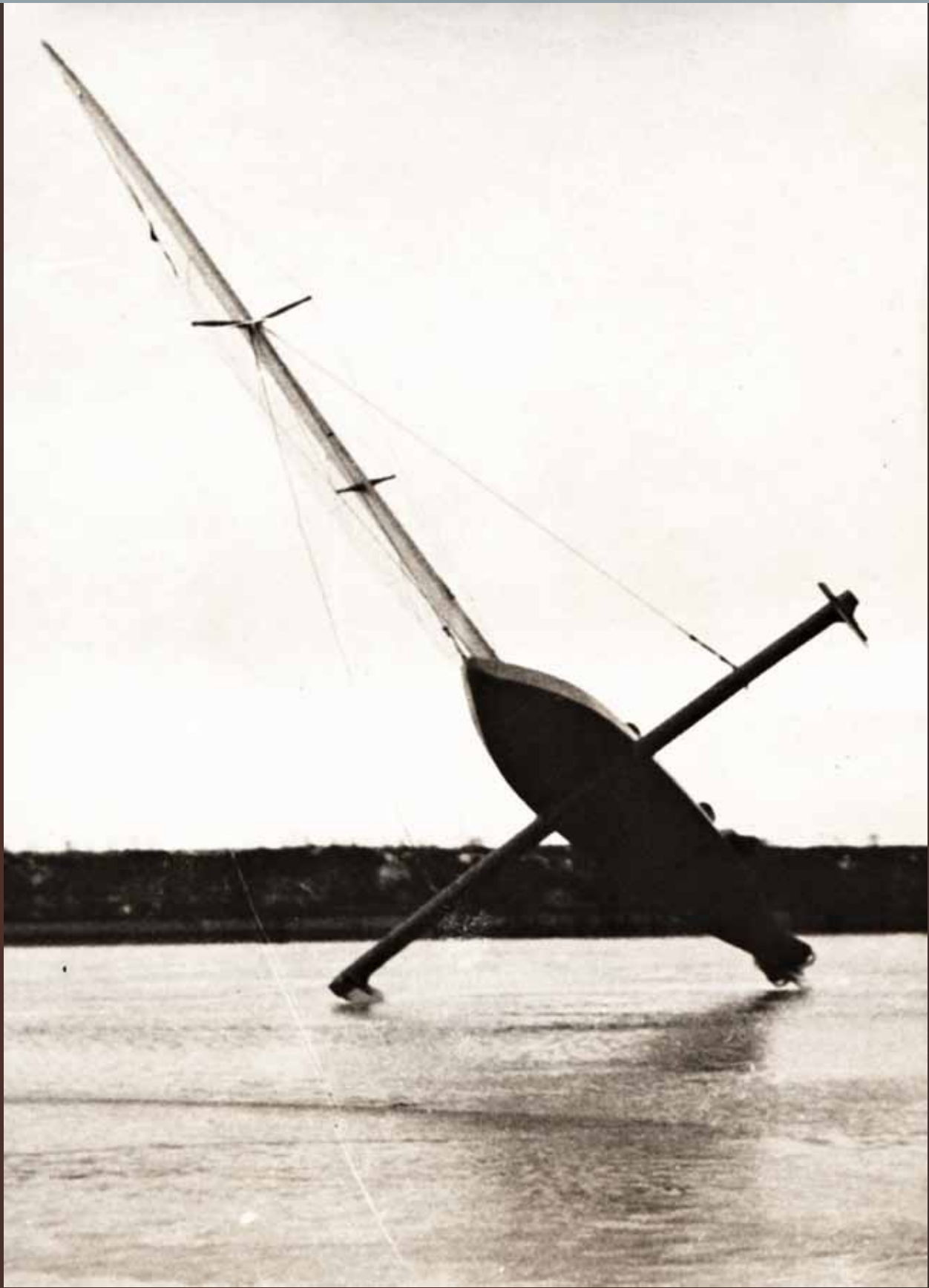
Estonia's national team participated in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, participating furthermore in the first-ever basketball face-off at the Olympics. It was a face-off between Estonia and France, with the jump ball tipped off by the inventor of basketball himself, James Naismith. The game was won by Estonia, acquiring the first victory in the history of Olympic basketball to its name.



World's best marksmen!

For Estonians, shooting has been an incredibly successful sport. As of 2012, Estonians have snapped up 77 gold medals at World Championships, and in the late 1930s they were hard to match in the world!

Estonian national team of marksmen during their World Championships Debut (L'viv, 1931)



Yachts on ice

For Estonians, ice yachting is a traditional winter pastime and also a serious sport where medals are gained at major competitions. Monotype XV, one of the better known ice yacht models today, was designed by the Estonian Erik Holst in 1932.



Estonia's Formula 1 cars

Estonia has also hosted Formula 1 races. The main vehicles were locally manufactured. The manufacturing of Formula 1 vehicles called Estonia began in Tallinn in 1957 and lasted until 2000.



Estonia outdoes the US!

In the late 1960s, Estonian basketball was world-class. This was also proved by the victory in 1970 of Estonia's national team over the US team who were preparing for the Munich Olympics. The Americans could not even be helped to victory by the future NBA star Julius Erving (No 6)!

A glimpse of the legendary meet between Estonian and US basketball players in 1970



Invented in Estonia 1

Sail skiing was conceived by the Estonians Kalev Allikveer and Jüri Pliznik in 1976. That same year, the first competitions were held in Estonia.



Invented in Estonia 2

Kiiking is an entertainment sport invented by Ado Kosk in Estonia in the 1990s; its objective is to go over the top on a swing. According to experts, kiiking begins when the feet of the person on the swing are above his / her head – up to that point, it is just swinging.



Invented in Estonia 3

In 2011, Estonian underwater athletes pulled off a distinctive record: Valtu in Rapla County is known to have hosted the world's first underwater draughts tournament. The tournament featured 52 underwater draughts players, and naturally it was an undertaking worthy of a Guinness record.



Competing is within everyone's powers!

Mosquito catching is gaining popularity as a sport. In 2011, Estonia even hosted the World Championships in this event. In this event, everyone can set records – whoever catches the most mosquitoes in two minutes wins!



Special things – special museum!

A glimpse of the serious and not-so-serious sport achievements of Estonians are on display at the Estonian Sports Museum in Tartu and its Otepää Winter Sports Museum branch. The Estonian Sports Museum is the largest sport museum in the Baltic States!