



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

The President

Mr Zsolt Borkai  
President  
Hungarian Olympic Committee  
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Hongrie

Lausanne, 25 June 2014  
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Sent by e-mail

*Dear President,*

While we are enjoying the Football World Cup in Brazil, today we say goodbye to one of the heroes of the 1954 final and one of the greatest goalkeepers in the history of football.

Gyula Grosics was the goalkeeper for the Golden Team, the legendary Hungarian team of the 1950s. Nicknamed "Black Panther" - or "Fekete Párduc" in Hungarian - he represented his country 86 times, taking part in three World Cups.

With his teammates, Grosics won the Olympic title at the 1952 Games in Helsinki, two years before the World Cup final, which they unfortunately lost in Berne. He was, however, one of the heroes, in 1953, of the famous match in Wembley, during which the Hungarians inflicted on the English their first home defeat in 90 years (6-3).

With his captain and friend, Ferenc Puskas, whom he has gone to join, Gyula Grosics made a difference and shaped the history of sport and football, particularly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He set an example for all sportsmen and for his countrymen.

He understood the unique position of an athlete as a role model - an example to follow in sport and in life. A man of conviction, he always remained faithful to his country, later becoming a member of the 12 Sportsmen of the Nation.

On behalf of the Olympic Movement, I should like to extend my sincere condolences to the family of Gyula Grosics, to the football community of Hungary and to the entire national sports movement.

*With all our sympathy*

*Thomas A. C.*