THE 9TH ANNUAL EAS CONFERENCE 13TH – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2012, RIGA, LATVIA
" DUAL CAREER – EAST MEETS WEST. "

" Sport, education and career. "

Ivans Klementjevs

13.09.2012



Major achievements

- Ph.D. in pedagogy
- Member of the 9th, 10th and 11th Saeima
- Olympic champion in 1988
- Silver medallist in 1992
- Silver medallist in 1996
- 7-time world champion

How it all began

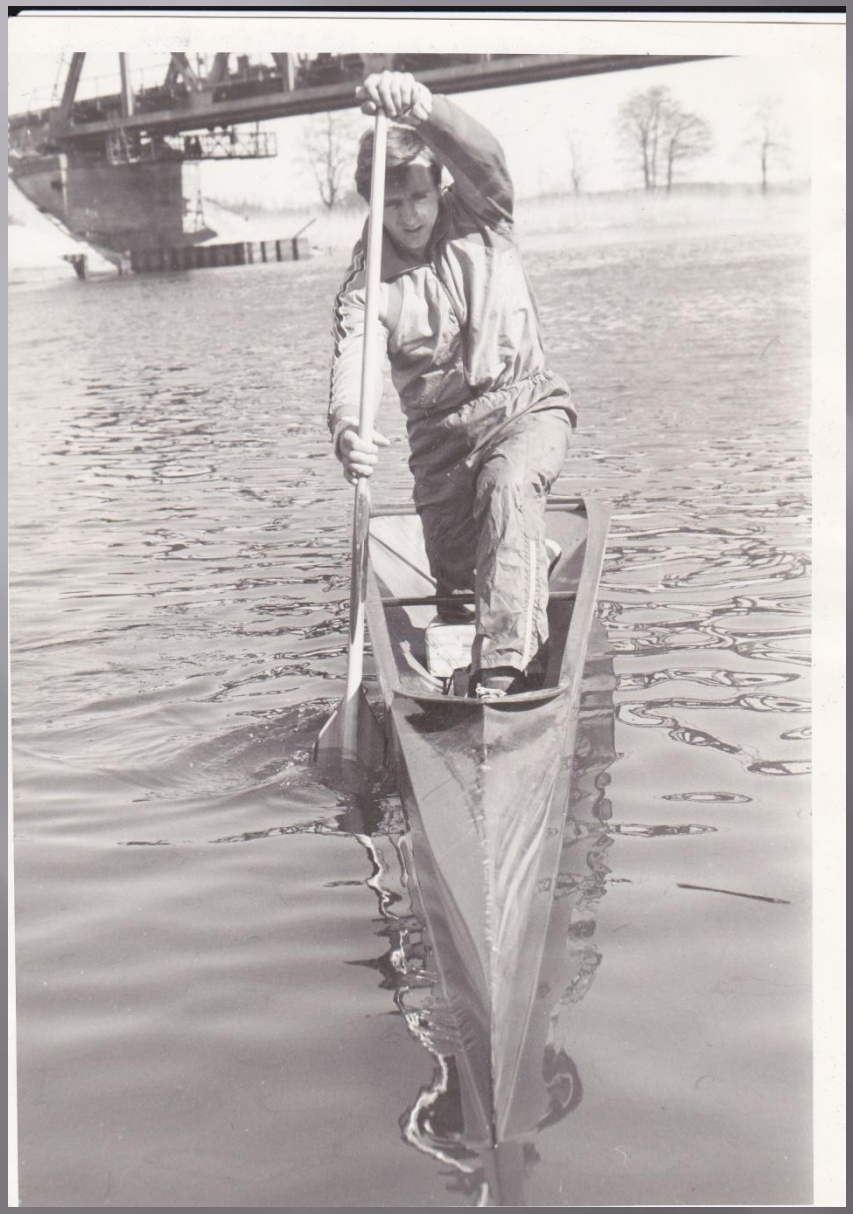
- I was born in 1960 in Latvia, in Buntiki village of the Jēkabpils District, in a large family.
- In 1967, I entered the Jēkabpils Secondary School No. 2, and in 1975 I graduated from it.
- In the same year, I came to Riga and entered a vocational school (to become a metal lathe operator) and started canoeing in the Trudovye Rezervy sports club in Lielupe.
- In 1978, I graduated from the vocational school and started working in a rolling stock maintenance depot while continuing to be engaged in sports activities.



- In 1980, I entered the Institute of Physical Culture Education of Latvia, where I majored in physical education.
- In 1980 – the year of the Moscow Olympics – when everyone was watching the Olympics, I acknowledged that my dream was to take part in the Olympics.

- After the Moscow Olympics, when older athletes were leaving and the national team was formed anew, I was among those who were selected to be a part of it. Although I already had some achievements in sports, I had not participated in international competitions. Back then, athletes could combine sports and studies because educational institutions offered curricula specially adapted for athletes. However, such students were not exempt from exams or tests. The curriculum in my institute was very demanding; because I had too little time, it took me two years to complete the second year of studies. My sporting results continued to improve.

Sporting achievements



- In 1982 – World Championship, 5th place
- In 1983 – World Championship, 3rd place
- In 1984 the USSR boycotted the Olympics, but socialist states held their own Friendship Games 1984, in which I participated and won a gold and a silver medal.
- I became the world champion in the canoe singles 1,000-metre event. I also obtained a higher education degree and the profession of physical education teacher.

After becoming a world champion, I knew that I wanted to dedicate my life to sports. After graduating and earning a degree, I felt relieved because I thought I would now have a lot of free time. Unfortunately, that was not the case because sports took all of my time. Almost 300 days a year I was outside Latvia for training sessions, competitions and so on. Two years passed by. At the World Championship in 1986, I came in second, and in 1987 I came in third, so many people thought that I was past my prime.

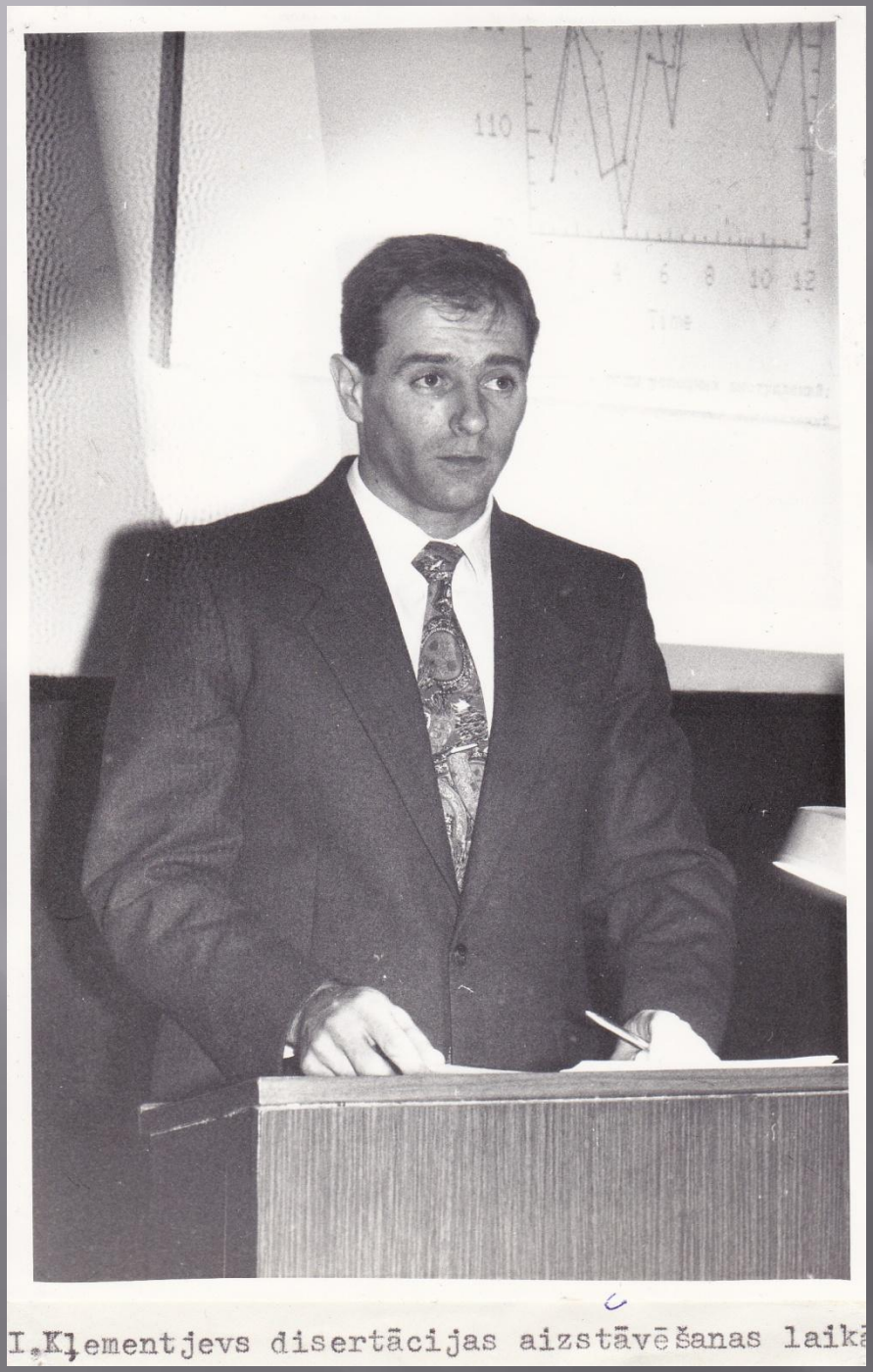
Olympic year of 1988



On 1 October 1988, at the finals of the canoe singles 1,000-metre event I became an Olympic champion.

As we had skipped the previous Olympics of 1984 because of the boycott, I knew that the Olympics of 1988 were my last; I also knew that my dream could come true. Needless to say, my success came after a lot of hard work – 20 training sessions a week, 8 hours a day of hardcore exercise regardless of the weather with strong competitors and frequent elimination competitions. And all that was done for the sake of my dream.

While preparing for the Olympics, I started thinking about my future after my professional sporting career. I was only 27.



I.Klementjevs disertācijas aizstāvēšanas laikā

After the Olympics, I decided to continue working in the domain of sports. While preparing for sporting events, I was always interested in processes going on in the human body. This is why I went to Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg) and entered the Graduate School in St. Petersburg Scientific Research Institute, where I did research and as a result defended my doctoral dissertation on "Training Program of Standing and Technical Improvement for Achievement and Maintenance of Outstanding Sportsmanship".

The objectives were the following:

1. To compare different variants of top – class paddlers one year training program;
2. To estimate the tendencies and peculiarities of sportsmanship structure during long standing training process;
3. To reveal the originality and general laws of skill acquiring and successful performing of world – known elite paddlers.

Family's role

I was born in a large family. I have two older sisters and two brothers. My sisters never did any sports, but my brothers and I always competed with one another. So when my older brother Pyotr went in for kayaking, I started canoeing in order not to compete with him. Some time later, my younger brother also got involved in canoeing. I was lucky because I was always supported by my two brothers. We trained together, went to competitions together, lived together during the training sessions away from home, and helped one another with advice. After Latvia renewed its independence, my brothers still were my main source of support at the Olympics.


Atlanta 1996
RESERVED SEAT
PRESS SUB-CENT
OLYMPIC FAMILY
LOUNGE
FEDERATION
OFFICE
Atlanta 1996
Atlanta 1996
adidas
Atlanta


LATVIA



Success formula

- To be committed
- To be hardworking
- To pursue one's goal against all odds

Nobody has ever told me that I am talented, but I managed to succeed as I told you today.
Nobody knows the limits of his or her ability.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you to have dreams, to strive and to study!

Thank you for your attention.


LABĀKAIS SPORTISTS
DAUGAVA
40
SPORTA LAUREĀTS 1987
SPORTA LAUREĀTS
ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ ГРЕБЛИ НА БАЙДАРКАХ И КАНОЕ СССР
RĪGA
БЪЛГАРСКИ ОЛИМПИЙСКИ КОМИТЕТ
VBSB «Darba Rezerves» Latvijas RP
Darius Survutas
JELGAVA-83
БФКК
PZK
BJFSSK
Lielupe
SPORTA KLUBS
25

World championships 1993.
Gold medal C1-1000m
Copenhagen

