

KarateNow

Notizie, interviste, gare e risultati del Karate Olimpico

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The interview. The Georgian champion prepares for the Olympic qualification

Gogita Arkania, a life for Karate

"I think positive, I will continue to train and I will never give up"



INTERVIEW
by Rossella Zoccali

Gogita Arkania "dreams" and her dreams come true. In 2014 he won the world championship in Bremen (Germany) by beating the Japanese Ryutaro Araga in the final, it was the "dream" of his life, his wife was expecting his first child Alex and Gogita managed to dedicate this victory to them. Another "dream" of the champion, born in Ochamchire, Georgia on May 2, 1984, was about to come true, he had reached the podium in 12 races "Premier League" and "Serie A", on 17 participations, in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, he had won three gold medals (Paris '19, Moscow '19 and Paris '20), four of silver and five of bronze. Suddenly, COVID-19 ruined everything and paused his "dream". In August, during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, her second child would be born and, perhaps, the miracle would repeat itself. Gogita is a mature karateka, who mainly uses the right guard, good at defense and possessing essential and effective arm techniques. The opponent's knockdowns are his specialty and he prefers short distance. The KarateNow editorial team wishes Gogita to make his "dream" come true with his beautiful family.

THE INTERVIEW

R: How old did you start practicing karate?

G: I have been practicing karate since I was 11 years old. I am now 36 years old and I can say that karate is my life.

R: If you want, talk about your family.

G: I am very happy with my family, my wife is called Tati, I have a 5 year old boy, Alex and we are expecting the second child who will be born in August. My whole family practices karate. My wife is a WKF referee. We met at the races 21 years ago. From that moment we never broke up. Alex also loves karate, I hope you become a great champion.

R: Who was your first Master?

G: My first karate master was Gela, now we are good friends.

R: My wife and I have our own karate sports center which is one of Georgia's strongest clubs. Some of our students are European champions.

R: Have you practiced any other sport besides karate?

G: No, I only practiced karate. When I was a student, we did Judo once a week at school.

R: What is the first major race you have won?

G: My first big competition where I got the gold medal was the Bosphor Cup in Turkey in 2003. It is my first big international success at WKF.

R: What studies have you undertaken and what do you do? What are your hobbies? Do you like animals?

G: I graduated from the Academy of Physical and Sports Education

and I teach Karate in my gym. I spend my free time with my family, or I follow and play football. I like animals but I don't have any.

R: What is the race you remember with greatest emotion?

G: Without a doubt, they were the World Championships in Bremen in 2014. It was the dream of my life and it came true. It was a very great emotion, my wife was pregnant with our son Alex and I knew that this victory would make her very proud and happy.

R: You have a long international career behind you, what are you going to do?

G: Yes, in fact I have one of the longest careers among the competitors in the current world ranking. It is really difficult to continue, but I still have a dream and I have to try.

R: You came one step away from qualifying in the "Tokyo Standings" ranking, the last few races have gone very well, in your opinion, in addition to a bit of luck, what should you have done to be already qualified?

G: I think everything that happened was bad luck for me. Because I was in really good shape. All last year I have won medals in almost all competitions.

I'm really sad about what happened. The competitions that were canceled were very important to me. But I think I still have the chance to go to Tokyo and I will never give up.

R: In your opinion, are the Olympic qualification rules correct,

or should they be reviewed?

G: Of course I think the regulation should be revised. It remains a year before the Olympics and those competitions that have canceled for the virus, must be called. This is my opinion. Everyone in my same situation understands what I mean.

A competition could determine everything for me. And it's very sad. But I have respect for all competitors who are already qualified. They are really strong.

R: Are the Olympic categories, three male and three female, inadequate, or would it have been better to compete in the international categories?

G: Of course I think it would be better for everyone to have the same international categories in force, 5 male and 5 female. We fought in our categories and it is very difficult to change categories for the Olympics.

R: Are there a few 10 athletes in each category, or was 16 athletes better, or even 32 qualified and also possibly two athletes for each nation? **G:** 10 athletes in each of the 3 categories are very few. It should be at least 16.

R: How are you doing the training in this "coronavirus" period and how do you plan to face the qualifying race for Paris?

G: I am in a good mood, I try to stay positive, I continue to train and I will not give up. The Tokyo Olympics are one of the most important things in my life. They are my big "dream".



Gogita Arkania, 12 years old



Gogita Arkania with his wife Tati and son Alex



Gogita Arkania - First place Open Paris 2020