



*«Sick children is an injustice.
I support Beyond the Moon to render
this unfairness more bearable.»*



Gella Vandecaveye
Ambadress of BEYOND THE MOON

Schriek, 10 March 2009 – As from today, Gella Vandecaveye (www.gella.be) is officially appointed as volunteer Ambadress of **BEYOND THE MOON**, the association that offers children suffering from a life-threatening disease, and their families, the opportunity to spend valuable quality time together and to enjoy a memorable, cost-free and carefree vacation in a child-friendly environment far away from hospitals and daily treatments.

Gella Vandecaveye started with judo at the Judoclub Zwevegem when she was 8. At the age of 15, she joined the Judoclub Jenos Kwai Hooglede under the supervision of her current trainer and mentor Eddy Vinckier. In 1993, she broke through with a first World title in the Canadian Hamilton and successfully combined top sport with her superior studies in communication management and journalism. A model of willpower, determination and boundless ambitions. A new high was achieved with a fantastic silver medal won after a very hard run at the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996. In 1998, Gella broke her neck and escaped the wheelchair just in time. Five months later, she turned yet again into European Champion. Two months ahead of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, she ripped off the crossed ligaments of her right knee. She nevertheless obtained a second Olympic bronze medal despite her ripped off knee. Eight years after winning her first World title, she became World Champion for the second time in 2001 and ended up that year without losing a championship. Gella Vandecaveye put an end to her career at the age of 31, after taking part in 4 Olympiads and having won 23 national titles.

Prize list

O.G.: silver 1996, bronze 2000.

W.C.: 2x gold (1993 & 2001) 2x silver (1997 & 1999), bronze 1995, (5 medals).

E.C.: 7x gold (1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001), 2x silver (1993 & 2003), 2x bronze (1995 & 2002), (11 medals);

B.C.: 23x gold, of those 14x at senior level.

Sportswoman of the Year: 1993 & 1997, (nominated 7x).

European Judo player of the Year: 1994, 1998, 1999, 2001, despite her presence at international level.

Sport merit Trophy: 1999.

Sport person of the Year: 2000.

Sport Example of the Year: 2002, for her sportive conduct and her example for the youth.

Master Officer of the Order of Leopold: 2003.

Life Time Achievement Award: 2004, for her exceptional career.

Eeuwige Roem: 2008, winner of the so-called TV programme with ex-top sportsmen on the Belgian national television.

Gella is the only sportswoman in the Belgian sports history having won two Olympic medals at two different Olympic games!

v.z.w. BEYOND THE MOON

Zandstraat 27K – 2223 Schriek (Grootlo) – Belgium

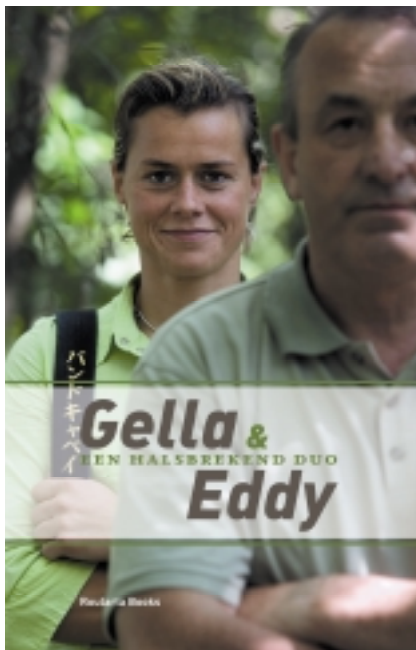
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During her 16 years as a top sport figure, she built up a relations network together with her trainer and mentor Eddy Vinckier. This lead to opening doors, making contacts, people management, networking, PR activities, teambuilding and motivation sessions for sponsors and partners and also for a number of companies. She gets involved in all kind of activities focused on sport, health, children and healthy food. On a regular basis, she commits herself to helping the needy people in our society and carries out her part of charitable work.

“Children suffering from a life-threatening disease is an injustice. Unfortunately, they cannot fully enjoy a carefree and joyful children’s life and do not have much chances to have fun or to practice sport. I support Beyond the Moon to render this unfairness more bearable for them and their immediate family.” said Gella.

At professional level, she works together with Passage Fitness First (www.passage.be) and the sport marketing bureau Golazo Sports to promote sport on a recreational basis. The objective is to bring across the benefits of sports to the young and old and to encourage them to play sport and this via companies and during events. She also works with Golazo (www.golazo.com) on her world tour, which will begin mid-2009.



Read more about this sportswoman and her 21-year partnership with Eddy Vinckier in the book “EEN HALSBREKEND DUO” (in Dutch only). This is not a biography, but a duo story telling funny anecdotes, drawbacks and victories of the ex-judo player and her trainer. Their relationship is unique in the Belgian sports world, therefore a must to read! As from the end of April 2009, this book will be available at the best book stores.

This book can be an ideal business gift: It is a story very close to the hard reality of business life, on how to get to the top and the fight to, literally and figuratively, remain on top. As from a minimum quantity ordered, the book can be personalised with the logo of your company, club, etc and Gella will come along to autograph it. This book together with a personal visit from Gella: a strong recommendation!

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