

Libor Flemr, Czech Republic, Prague

My talk has 5 sections:

- 1 About our town: Brandýs nad Labem - Stará Boleslav
- 2 Culture and education
- 3 About sports at 3 basic school
- 4 Sports opportunities in our town
- 5 The Summary
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1 Brandýs nad Labem - Stará Boleslav is a small town (with 16,000 population) situated about 20 kilometres distance from Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. The name of the town is the longest in the Czech Republic. Brandýs nad Labem - Stará Boleslav originated by merging two formerly independent towns in 1960. Nevertheless, the history of its respective parts, Brandýs nad Labem and Stará Boleslav is much older than that. In the case of Stará Boleslav it goes deep into the Middle Ages. In spite of each part having its own cultural and historical development and being separated by the Labe River, they have grown into one unit and the town hall always protects the interests of both parts.

2 Culture and education

The town is a traditional center of education – the Pedagogical Faculty of the Charles' University resides there, and the local high school named after the poet J. S. Machar boasts nearly hundred years of continuous teaching. There is also an agricultural high school, a tennis high school, an integrated secondary school, three basic schools (Palach school being the biggest in the district of Prague-East) and five nursery schools. Among the cultural facilities offering their services are a municipal library, a municipal youth center, and a cinema with Internet cafe and open-air cinema. For those who like to go dancing there are regular discotheques and a rock club. The town hall supports cultural and sports organizations by giving grants based on youth work and on the performing arts. It also announces purpose-built grants.

3 At the basic school, physical training is obligatory for only 2 hours a week, but anyone who wants it can opt for an additional 2 hours of physical training.

There are 3 basic schools for children from 6 to 14 years of age, with 9 classes. Every one of schools has its own playground for outdoor activities. Unfortunately, outdoor activities are less important than indoor ones for school physical training, because there is a 2 months holiday in summer. There is possible operate the outdoor activities only from May until September (perhaps from mid-April until a mid-October). Expect third school isn't set-up with gymnasiums pretty good. The gymnasiums of the first and second school are very small, and lack good equipment.

The first school, which I attended, is about 140 years old. It has a new playground (about 10 years old), which was built by the same man who built the famous stadium at Houštka. It is possible to play football, basketball, volleyball, table-tennis, and to do field-events (the sprint, runny, long-jump, high-jump, shot put, throw bowl etc.) There is a small gymnasium (about 10*6metres). Children must go to bigger gymnasium about 10 minutes through the town. But already exist a decision about structure a new gymnasium in school area.

The second Palach school is the biggest in the district of Prague-East. The school has a small playground, but a new and nice one. It is possible to play basketball, volleyball, tennis, and to do the track and field sports (sprint, long-jump, high-jump). They have a tables for table-tennis at the corridors, children can play on the breaks. There is a small gymnasium (about 12*8metres). If the children need to use a large gymnasium, there is one only 5 minutes from the school.

The third school is the best for sporting activities. It's a new school, less than 20 years old. There is an athletic stadium, many clay tennis or volleyball courts, and 2 large gymnasiums with good equipment.

4 There are a lot of sport clubs; for instance; football, track and field events, floorball, basketball, tennis, table-tennis, gymnastics, rowing, fencing, riding horses, dance, judo etc., which children can usually attendance when they begin school at 6 or 7 years.

So I think in our town we have very good opportunities for sports activities on the situation in Czech Republic of course. We cannot compare with Western Europe or U.S.A. of course. There are 4 football playgrounds, an athletics stadium, a lot of clay

courts for tennis, a two 25 meters swimming pool, and a lot of gymnasiums, although these gymnasiums are mostly in bad condition. There are a lot of opportunities for outdoor swimming and aquatic sports in summer, ice-skating in winter and country for running, ride a bicycle.

5 Physical training hasn't as much prestige as the others subjects taught at school. All people (the head of school, the teaching staff and the parents) prefer the main subjects like the Czech language, mathematics, foreign languages and computer skills and nobody is interested in the physical training. The children don't like physical training either at present. When I was a child about 80 per cent of children liked physical training, and 20 per cent didn't like it. When I had optional physical training (that was about 13 years ago), we played (for example) table-tennis from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m and if we wanted to continue, but our teacher said: "I'm sorry, but I must go home, because I must heat my home."

But the situation is the opposite at the moment. Only about 30 per cent of children like a physical training I think by my experiences. When our pool was icebound in winter about 15 years ago, there were about 300 hundred children skating at the weekend. It was a great attraction. By contrast, there have been only about 20 children lately. In my experince. Todays children are more attractied to computers, big cinemas, discos and so on.

6 Emil Zátopek Athletics Center - Houška Stadium

The Houška Stadium - Emil Zátopek Athletics Center is located in a beautiful environment of meadow forests and former thermal mud spas.

The century old forest surrounding the athletic track and excellent climatic conditions have a favorable influence on the athletes' mental dispositions and provide extraordinary conditions for their performances.

The athletics track was built in Houška in 1950.

Many Czechoslovak and world records have been set on the exelent "Sibera track". For example Stanislav Jungwirth ran 1,500 metres under 3':40" like first man on the world there.

The world record holder and Olympic Champion Emil Zátopek contributed significantly to the fame of the Houška Stadium. His name has played an important role in its history. Emil Zátopek was an outstanding personality of Czechoslovak and

world athletics. He was Olympic Champion in the 10Km run in London in 1948 and in the 5Km and 10Km runs, and winner of the marathon race in Helsinki in 1952 in addition to having been threefold European Champion, fifteenfold Czechoslovak Champion and the holder of 50 Czechoslovak and 18 world records. He established 8 world records at the Houštka Stadium. Emil Zátopek was the world's fastest runner for 7 consecutive years (1948-1954).

I wrote a diploma work (this is a final work at our University) about the history this stadium.

The photos:

1 The school playground of the first school.

2 The school playground of the second school.

3, 4 The school playground of the third school.

5, 6 The school playground of Brandýs high school.

7 The football stadium of Brandýs.

8 The football playground of Stará Boleslav which I built with my father and brother.

9 Houška Stadium.

10, 11 Marble memorial of Emil Zátopek, made as a tribute in Italy in Carrara, which my grandfather fixed at the Houška Stadium.