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## SUMMARY

Publishing of this book is forming another step on our way of description of the Paralympic movement. The volume you are holding in your hands is conceived as a summary to show the organisation of the four elite sporting events that are held for the physically handicapped and the visually impaired (Paralympic Games) and the athletes with hearing impairments (Deaflympic Games).

The book is introduced by the Rome 2001 Summer Deaflympics chapter. In the world, the deaf athletes are usually organised as an independent group. This is to say that they are not liased with their local national paralympic committees. The specific feature of the Czech model is that the Czech Sports Federation of the Deaf is a member federation of the Czech Paralympic Committee.

The next chapter will transfer you from Rome to the United States – into the State of Utah. This was the place where a small team of alpine skiers and one nordic skier headed to participate in the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Paralympic Games. Little by the number of athletes, but big by the number of medals won in the alpine events. Since these Games, the organizers' budget portion for safety precautions has been growing.

However, it is also the interest of the general public expressed towards paralympism that has been growing steadily. Every second year, we witness that the organizers of the Games are more and more meticulous in the care given to the participants. Since the Athens 2004 Games the participants that are within the quota of the national teams do not have to pay any entry fees.

The 2003 Winter Deaflympics took place in Sweden. Compared to the following year, the Czech Team was the smallest because of the number of athletes competing. Nevertheless, it was still capable of making its way to the top and it placed itself fourth among all the nations competing.

The Athens 2004 Summer Paralympic Games can be perceived as the peak of the four-year paralympic cycle. A record number of athletes departed for Athens – 67 paralympians were competing in seven of the total of 19 summer paralympic sports. It is still the individual sports that remain the strongest for our athletes: archery, athletics, boccia, cycling, swimming, table tennis and wheelchair tennis. The athletes won 31 medals (16 – 8 – 7) and in the general ranking of the nations they came the 12th. These marvellous results prove that their excellent achievements from the Sydney 2000 Games were not attained by a matter of pure luck.