



Our representatives at the Olympics!

Four IDC Herzliya students are currently at the Olympics, as part of Israel's Olympic delegation. Professor Reichman has already promised a scholarship for anyone returning with a medal...

By Tammy Berger

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You may not have known it, but within the walls of IDC Herzliya there are a number of students who, in addition to the regular pressures faced by students - lessons, work, relationships and so on - are also dealing with the stress of an Olympic career.

The IDC representatives at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games are: **Vered Buskila** – 470 sailor; **Alex Havner** - coach to windsurfer Maayan Davidovitch; **Tomer Or** – fencer; and **Arik Zeevi**, judoka and bronze medalist at the Athens Olympic Games, who this year completed his studies in law and government at IDC Herzliya.



Vered Buskila, 25, began sailing at the Maccabi Zevulun club in Bat Yam. 10 years ago, her sailing partner was Linor Kliger, sister of Olympic sailor Gidi Kliger. In 2000, she joined up with Nika Kornitzky, her current partner in the Olympics. In 2005, Nika Kornitzky

decided to retire from sailing and Vered found herself trying out a "new partnership" with other sailors, without success. In 2006 Nika decided to return to competitive sailing, and since then the two have been working energetically towards the current Olympic Games.

Vered Buskila is a third-year student of law and government.

Achievements:

Bronze medal in the 2001 European championship in Ireland

Bronze medal in the 2004 world championship in Croatia

Bronze medal in the 2004 European championship in Germany

18th place in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games

Silver medal in the 2005 European championship

Olympic criterion - 8th place in the 2007 world championship in Portugal.





Tomer Or, 29, began fencing at the age of eight at Hapoel Haifa, with coach Udi Carmi. At the age of 20, he won the world youth championship held in Venezuela. Since then, he has moved up in the world rankings and in 2001, in the space of a year, moved from 70th place to 5th place. Towards 2008 he has chalked up impressive achievements, including winning the bronze medal in a competition held in Tokyo in May 2007, in one of the rounds of the World Cup. In 2007 Tomer achieved the first part of the Olympic criteria by finishing in 13th place in the world championship in St Petersburg. In March 2008, in the same city in Russia, he finished in 11th place in the World Cup, guaranteeing himself a place in the European rankings, which sent him to Beijing. Tomer Or is the first fencer to represent Israel in the Olympic Games since Los Angeles in 1984. Tomer is completing his studies this year in the law and government track at IDC Herzliya.

Achievements:

Gold medal in the world youth championship in Venezuela, 1998
 19th place in the 2006 world championship in Italy
 Bronze medal in the 2007 World Cup in Tokyo
 22nd place in the 2008 European championship in Ukraine

Another student who is currently in Beijing is **Alex Havner**, a first year student of law and government. Alex is a former competitive windsurfer, and today coaches Maayan Davidovitch. The windsurfers are under pressure of great expectations following the achievements of Shahar Tzuberi in the windsurfing events at the start of the Olympics.



Arik Zeevi, 31, grew up in the Kiryat Herzog neighborhood of Bnei Brak and currently lives in Tel Aviv. He belongs to the Hapoel Bnei Brak judo club in Pardes Katz. His brother, Ronnie Zeevi, was the first judoka in the club to win the national judo championship. Arik followed him into the sport, and at the age of 14 already won the national cadets championship, the youngest person ever to win this title. Arik is completing his studies at IDC Herzliya this year, in the law and business track.

Achievements:

2000 - bronze medal in the Athens Olympics
 2005 - 3rd place in the World Cup in Tallinn
 2005 - silver medal in the European championship held in Rotterdam
 2007 - bronze medal in the European championship
 2008 - gold medal in the judo championship World Cup round held in Prague
 2008 - bronze medal in the European championship held in Lisbon



In the picture: the head of the sports directorate at the IDC – Ilan Kowalski, Vered Buskila, Prof. Uriel Reichman, Tomer Or, Alex Havner and the IDC Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Ayelet Ben-Ezer

Just before they took off for Beijing, a farewell meeting was held at IDC Herzliya by **Professor Uriel Reichman**. At the meeting, Reichman announced that he would give a scholarship to any of the athletes returning with an Olympic medal.

We wish them all the best of luck!

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