



In Memorium:

A Tribute to Daniel Robin

Ramazan Savranbaşı



Published online: December 2018.

To cite this article:

Ramazan Savranbaşı. (2018). In Memorium:
A Tribute to Daniel Robin. International Journal of Wrestling Science, 8:2,
49-50.



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A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL ROBIN (1943-2018)

Ramazan Savranbaşı

savranbasi@yahoo.com

HE WAS A WRESTLING MAN AND A GENTLEMAN. HE WAS THE BARON OF WRESTLING

When I started my wrestling career in 1972, in order to learn about the famous wrestlers of Turkish and the world, I read the writings of Ali Gümüş with incredible curiosity and pleasure. I read of the famous champion wrestler of French, Daniel Robin. We finally met face to face in 1985, during my tenure as national team coach. Robin asked me, "Do you know that Bayram Şit embraced me with friendship?" I told him that I had a good friendship with Bayram Şit (1952 Helsinki Olympic Games Champion) and that he was now a coach of the national team. When I told Daniel that I was from Izmir City, Robin's friendship with me increased. He told me about the 1971 Izmir Mediterranean Games and talked about the hospitality and, cooking sea bass and bream with the people in the adjoining villages. For this reason, he stated that he had a very special place in his heart for those games and Izmir, and he would never forget those days. After this I met up with Robin at every European and World Championships, and our friendship continued.

He said that he lived in France and Canada because of his work, so he missed Bayram and couldn't see him for years. Each time we met he put both hands on my shoulders, in his Turkish special "Ramazan, I greet you and give more greetings to Bayram and Izmir."



Robin, Savranbaşı & Şit

When Bayram Şit heard that Daniel Robin was coming in 2006 as a FILA officer to Antalya, Bayram Şit was there when he arrived to meet his former student. It was really worth seeing the encounter between Bayram and his former student. We were together for a week in Antalya and I had the opportunity to listen to Bayram Şit-Daniel Robin stories from their mouths. But I would like to describe a story that I like the most as a third person.

In 1964, Bayram Şit was transferred to France as a wrestling coach and started to work. Approximately a month later, some Turkish newspaper reporters living in Paris come for an interview. During the training, they took a photo, while they jokingly asked Bayram, "Mr. Şit, Was there no other country in the world you could choose? and you chose France? The French are not wrestlers!" This frustrated Bayram, and later during a break in the training, he points to a tall blonde, and says, "he will be a champion."

The next day Robin goes to the Turkish Consulate and asks the officers in charge what does "olacak" mean? They ask Robin, how did Bayram Şit use this word. Robin said "Şampiyon olacak." The consulate officials laughingly tell him, "you will be champion," Robin rejoices very much, and asks the officers to translate one French word into Turkish. The Turkish officer translates and writes it on a small paper. Daniel leaves the Turkish consulate happily.

Daniel Robin never missed Bayram's workouts, and was the strictest follower of his courses and seminars throughout France for two years. Şit after working for two years in France, returned to Turkey and started to work with our national team again.

In 1967, during the New Delhi World Championship medal ceremony, Daniel Robin starts to run with the championship gold medal around his neck and jumps quickly from the mat and comes to Bayram Şit shouting, "oldum" (a Turkish word meaning „became“) and hugs his teacher and cries out the Turkish words learned at the Turkish consulate for the first time there, by punching his chest repeatedly saying; "I became,".

When I meet Robin, sometimes, as he walks in the hall or on the street, I shout at him in Turkish "will be". When Robin heard the words, he also shouts at me "oldum", he turns 180 degrees back with a reflex, with his fist hitting his chest. We've repeated this scene for years. Dozens of my friends have witnessed this. He enjoyed it a lot.

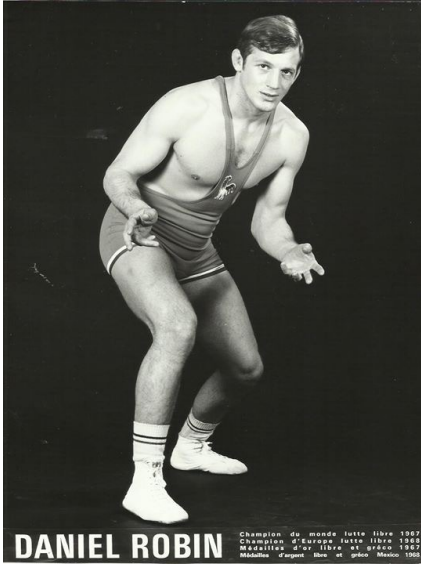
When Bayram Şit came to France, my level of wrestling was zero, Robin said, he taught me to be a wrestler and a champion and at that moment I was once more proud of my Bayram. However, Daniel Robin always

remembered the efforts of Bayram had entrusted to him and he was always loyal and talked to me in every setting.

I had written a great part of the memories of Bayram Şit, Daniel Robin and me with a biography about Bayram's life. But this time I did not write it here again, on the contrary, I wrote with great sadness. I was so shaken when I heard that Daniel passed away. They say painful news is quick to hear. First, Kemal Şit from Ankara, five minutes before the tremendous and sad voice from Bayram. On the phone, it was impossible to describe the sadness of Bayram Şit.

The passing of Daniel Robin is a great loss to the wrestling world. Daniel Robin was not an ordinary champion. Therefore, a Turkish-friendly champion, as an ancient friend, with a few lines of my hearts would not be willing to write. Daniel Robin had a heart full of love. The Turkish wrestling community and the wrestling fans are close to him; they had the opportunity to get acquainted in the 1971 Mediterranean Games in İzmir. Robin always said that he is more popular in Turkey than in France. He expressed love and respect towards the Turkish people. Turkey was very proud of the recognition given him. When Taha Akgül was the champion in Tashkent in 2014, while the Turkish national anthem was being played, it was worth seeing Daniel's singing of our anthem.

Daniel Robin, twice participated in the Mediterranean Games, 1967 and 1971, winning 3 gold medals. He won gold at the 1967 Freestyle World Championships in New Delhi. and the 1968 European Championship in Skopje. In the same year, at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games he made the final matches in both freestyle and Greco Roman. These silver medals in two styles were a first in the history of world wrestling. By the same token, the world medals Robin received, included the first gold medal for France. He became the pioneer of French wrestling.



Daniel Robin started as a wrestling athlete, and served as a coach, French National Team Coach, Canadian Olympic Coach, and TV commentator. He was a versatile champ and sportsman. Even at the 2012 London Olympic Games, the organizing committee brought in Robin to lead the wrestling organization of the games and he made it a perfect success.

Daniel Robin passed away on May 23, 2018. Universally, wrestlers are loyal people and never forget their friends! We shared Robin's memories and the pain of loss with Turkish wrestling fans. DANIEL ROBIN, the great wrestler, our old friend, the colorful and lovely man of world wrestling, who was separated from us at the age of 74 years old. We have no choice to say another word. Sleep comfortably in the grave. We will never forget you. Provincial était un homme formidable qui a vécu avec beaucoup de classe et il a quitté de nous laissant des souvenirs inoubliables. He was a wonderful man, he lived a great life and eventually passed away from this world, leaving all of us unforgettable memories.

Ramazan Savranbaşı

Former Coach of Turkish National Wrestling Team

Sports Scientist and Lecturer

Member of The Educational Board of The Turkish Wrestling Federation

Member of Editorial Committee of the International Network of Wrestling Researchers (INWR) .