

Simon Charles Dickie (NZL), *31 March 1951 in Waverley, Otago, †13 December 2017 in Taupo, Waikato. He was the ultimate coxswain: A cool head in the coxswain's seat, someone who could talk to you quietly, to steady the nerves before the start of a big race. He had a deep understanding of what made a boat move. He was a coach, an encourager, a word-smith, a sports psychologist, with a burning desire to be the best. We believed in him totally, and trusted him implicitly.

And he had all these attributes at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, when he was 17 years old. His previous coxing experience was at Whanganui Collegiate, where he steered his 8 to three successive wins at the Maadi Cup, the premier event for schools rowing in New Zealand.

The coxed four won gold at Mexico, and this was the start of Simon's great run of successes in the coxswain seat of the New Zealand 8.

His 1970 crew came 3rd at the World Rowing Championships in Canada. 1971 his eight won the European Championships. This was a very tough race between East Germany and the Kiwis. Simon had a great rapport with coach 'Rusty' Robertson, and it would have been their hours of analysis and planning that was behind this victory. I believe that this win was the corner-stone for the 1972 victory.

The 1972 Olympic eight won, and won convincingly. This win has become a piece of New Zealand sporting history, as it was the first time the national anthem of New Zealand: 'God defend New Zealand' was played, instead of the usual 'God save the Queen'.

Simon stepped back from rowing at this stage, to begin his work career in the fishing and hunting industries. In 1976 he came back to steer the New Zealand eight to 3rd at the Montreal Olympics.

Simon, along with his adored and loving partner Adi Walker, built up his adventure tourist business into

a world-renowned destination for tourists looking for the perfect break that they will always remember. He also had extensive interests in the farming and kiwi-fruit industries. His crew-mates will miss him terribly. (RC)

Fredy Schmidtke (FRG), *1 July 1961 in Worringen, †1 December 2017 in Dormagen. Track cyclist Fredy Schmidtke burst onto the scene in 1977, winning the West German Youth Championships, a title he retained the following year. In 1979, Schmidtke won five national titles and also captured the youth world title in the 1 km time trial in Buenos Aires. In 1981 he won two silver medals at the Senior Amateur World Championships in the 1 km time trial and tandem, with non-Olympian and long-time partner, Dieter Giebken. The following year Schmidtke won the time trial at the World Championships, and again won the silver with Giebken. In 1983, the tandem duo added a bronze medal to their collection. Domestically, Schmidtke won the West German national time trial title 1980-84, was sprint champion 1980-82 and 1984 and, with Giebken, won the tandem title in 1980-83.

Schmidtke's greatest moment came in 1984 when he captured the time trial gold medal at the Los Angeles Summer Olympics. In the sprint event he finished eighth. Schmidtke was a trained pipe fitter, but after his Olympic triumph, opened a sports shop in Cologne. As he was not a trained businessman, his business failed and he went bankrupt. He then worked in his trained job for a couple of years to pay back his debts. In 2017, he died from a heart attack. (WVR)

Robert Alt (SUI), *2 January 1927 in Gliion, Montreux, †4 December 2017 in Vevey. The Swiss bobsledder had his greatest success in the mid-1950s. In 1955, alongside Heinrich Angst, Gottfried Diener, and Franz Kapus, he

won a gold medal in the four-man event at the World Championships. The quartet followed this up the following year at the 1956 Winter Olympics, where they captured gold once again in the four-man. Alt retired from active competition following the Games. He worked as general agent of the Nationale Suisse Assurances. (OM)

Jean-Jacques Guyot (FRA), *1 December 1932 in Paris, †20 December 2017 in Fontainebleau, Seine-et-Marne. Guyon, surprisingly, won the individual three day event at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics with "Pitou". With the team he finished fourth. He then became flagbearer for France at the closing ceremony.

Guyot came to the French Army in 1951 and received, from 1954 to 1964, his education at the military riding school in Saumur. He was then stationed in Fontainebleau. He won the national title in 1956 and claimed a bronze medal with the team at the 1957 European Championships. (WVR)

Cyrus J. "Cy" Young, Jr. (USA), *23 July 1928 in Modesto, California, †6 December 2017 in Modesto, California. Young is the only US athlete to have won the Olympic javelin title. He won the gold medal at the 1952 Games in Helsinki with the Olympic record of 73.78 m. Second place went to William Miller, also a US thrower.

In April 1956, Young had the best throw of his career with 79.16 metres. Later in the season, he won his only AAU championship, but hampered

