

Obituaries

Canada's "Sweetheart" Barbara Ann Scott became Olympic figure-skating champion in 1948 in St Moritz. In the same year she won the titles of Canada, North America, Europe and the world.

Barbara Ann Scott (CAN), *9 May 1928 in Ottawa; †31 September 2012 in San Fernandina, Florida, won Canada's only Olympic women's figure skating title and was forever the nation's Sweetheart. In 1939, aged only 11, she became the Canadian junior individual champion and retained the title in 1940. The following year her father passed away, but friends of the family took care of her and ensured that she continued her career. She won her first of five straight national senior championships in 1944; in 1945 and 1947 she was North American champion. In 1947, she became the first "overseas" figure skater to win the title, when the event was opened to non-Europeans. In the year she won the Olympic gold, Scott won also national, Continental, European and world championships.

Flyweight Terry Spinks was in 1956 the youngest Briton ever to become Olympic champion in boxing.

During the Olympic Winter Games in St. Moritz in 1948, she was regarded as the "glamour girl". However, the new yellow car which had been given to her by the City of Ottawa, might have been her downfall. Avery Brundage (future IOC President) protested against this gift and demanded that Scott return the car or risk losing her amateur status. After the Winter Games, Scott turned professional. She skated with the Ice Capades, starred in a London theatrical ice show and finished her career in the Hollywood Ice Revue. She married the American businessman Thomas V. King, and they settled in Chicago, where Scott began a second sporting career of training and showing horses.

When the Winter Olympics took place in Calgary in 1988, she was the first runner to carry the Olympic flame after it arrived by plane on Canadian soil. In 2009, she carried the Olympic torch into the House of Commons on its journey to Vancouver.



Roald Aas (NOR), *25 March 1928 in Oslo; †18 February 2012 in Oslo, was one of the most versatile Norwegian sportsmen. He participated three times in speed skating at the Olympic Winter Games, winning the bronze medal in Oslo in 1952 and the gold medal in 1960 in Squaw Valley over 1500 m. In 1956 in Grenoble, he came sixth in the 5000 m.

In the same year, he was the Norwegian road and track cycling champion. For this performance he received the Egeberg Honorary Award, with which Norway's most versatile athletes have been honored since 1918. Aas worked as supply clerk in a wood firm and after his sporting career ended he became a senior clerk in a company manufacturing toothbrushes.

Peter Hussing (FRG), *15 May 1948 in Kirchen; †8 September 2012 in Brachbach, was one of the most successful amateur boxers in West Germany. He was sixteen times German champion in the heavy-weight and super-heavyweight categories, and won the European title in 1979. He participated in three Olympic Games and won a bronze medal in Munich in 1972, after losing by k.o. in the semi final against Teofilo Stevenson of Cuba. In 1976 and 1984, he reached the quarter finals. After his career as an amateur,

Hussing resisted the temptations of a professional career. He studied architecture, worked as construction engineer and became involved himself in the interests of his hometown, as Mayor from Brachbach.

Mark Petrowitsch Midler (URS), *24 September 1931 in Moscow; †31 May 2012 in Moscow, was regarded as one of the leading foil fencers during the fifties and sixties. Midler took up fencing in 1943, during the WW II, and was a member of the Soviet National Team from 1951 to 1967. He took part in four Olympic Games and won a team gold in 1960 and 1964. His best performance as an individual fencer was a fifth place at the Rome 1960 Games. He won six world championship titles between 1959 and 1967 and two individual bronze medals in 1959 and 1961. After retirement, Midler became a fencing coach. He guided his national team at the Olympic Games in 1980 and from 1992 to 2000.



Terrence "Terry" George Spinks (GBR / photo), *28 February 1938 in West Ham; †26 April 2012 in Chadwell Heath, became the youngest Briton to win an Olympic boxing title when he won the flyweight gold at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics aged 18, defeating Romania's Mircea Dobrescu in the final. The man from East London originally wanted to be a jockey, but after winning the British Schools championship in 1953 (an event in which 52,000 boys took part) he took up boxing seriously. He had not entered a senior contest until 1956, which was why

many thought too young to participate in the Olympic Games. With the Olympic championship under his belt, he turned professional in 1957. He won 41 of his 49 fights, including winning the British featherweight championship, before retiring at the age of 24. After hanging up the gloves, Spinks became a successful coach. During the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, he coached the South Korean Boxing team.

Rolland "Rolly" Leslie Tasker (AUS), *21 March 1926 in Perth; †22 June 2012 in Mandurah, Western Australia, became Australia's first Olympic sailing medallist when he won a silver in the 12 m Sharpie class at the 1956 Olympics. With crewman John Scott, he was unlucky not to win the gold medal after an unfortunate disqualification in the final race. Two years later, he won his first world championship in the Flying Dutchman class. After competing in the 1960 Olympic Games, he crewed in the 1962 America's Cup. He took to ocean racing and between 1969 and 1985 dominated the competitions with five yachts, all called *Siska*. Later he became a one of the world's largest manufacturers of sails. In 1994 he moved to Thailand and set up a new sail-making factory in Phuket.

András Szente (HUN), *10 December 1939 in Budapest; †14 September 2012 in Florida. The Hungarian sprint canoeist competed in two Olympic Games. He won two silver medals (K-2 1000 m and K-1 4x500 m) at Rome in 1960 and came fourth (K-4) in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He began his sporting career as a swimmer, fencer and skater before he changed to canoeing in 1955. Together with György Mészáros, he was European champion in the K-2 over 500 and 1000 m.

In 1969 Szente defected from Hungary, travelling to West Germany where he worked with the American aid workers until he was given

permission to settle in the USA. He worked there as an engineer. At the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976 he was coach of the Canadian canoe team. He passed away while vacationing in Florida.

Erhard Wunderlich (FRG), *14 December 1956 in Augsburg; †4 October 2012 in Cologne, played from 1976 to 1986 in the handball team of the Federal Republic of Germany, winning Olympic silver in Los Angeles in 1984. At 21 he was the youngest member of the team which, trained by Vlado Stenzel, won the world championship in 1978. Wunderlich played 140 matches with the national team and scored 504 goals. His best period for the 2.04 m tall back was when he played with VfL Gummersbach, with whom he won the European Cup four times.

In 1983 he moved to FC Barcelona, to make his name, but returned to Germany after only one year, where he had five more successful years with TSV Milbertshofen.

Ann Curtis, married Cuneo (USA), *6 March 1926 in San Francisco; †26 June 2012 in San Rafael, California, won two gold and a silver at the 1948 Olympic Games in London. At that time there were only five Olympic events for women and participants were limited to only three competitions. Curtis won the 400 m freestyle in a new Olympic record and was a member of the winning US freestyle relay team. Her second place came in the 100 m freestyle behind Greta Andersen from Denmark. It might have been possible that Ann Curtis, who won no fewer than 34 AAU titles, would have been an Olympic champion in 1944 if the Games had not been prevented by WW II. That year, she swam the 800 m freestyle in the first of her two world records and was honoured as the first woman to win the Sullivan Award.

After her sporting career, she founded the Ann Curtis School of



Swimming in San Rafael, in which about 40,000 youngsters learned to swim, among them world-record holders like Rick DeMont and Ben Wildman-Tobriner, member of the winning Olympic relay team in Beijing 2008. While raising five children, she coached a swimming team for 25 years and a synchronizing team for twelve years.

Tibor Csernai (HUN), *3 December 1938 Pilis; †11 September 2012 in Tatabánya. In Tokyo in 1964 Csernai was part of the Hungarian football team which won the Olympic gold medal. The midfielder player started in four of the five matches, and scored six times. He started his career with the Budapest Railway Sports Club (BVSC). From 1962 to 1972 he was a member of SC Tatabánya, for which he played 175 matches and scored 60 goals. Throughout his sporting career, he stood in the shadow of his older brother Pál, who played two matches in the Hungarian national team in 1955 and who later became a well-known coach for FC Bayern Munich in the period from 1978 to 1983.

The American Ann Curtis after her Olympic victory over 400 m freestyle in London, 1948. Right: the Dane Karen Harup, who won the silver medal and was victorious in the 100 m backstroke.



The Italian fencing legend Edoardo Mangiarotti: four consecutive golds with the épée team from 1936 to 1960 and in 1952 the individual Olympic épée championship.

Edoardo Mangiarotti (ITA), *7 April 1919 in Renate, Monza e Brianza; †25 May 2012 in Milan. The Italian fencer collected 13 Olympic medals (6 gold, 5 silver, 2 bronze) between 1936 and 1960. He was the most successful in the épée team, winning four gold and one silver. In 1952 he won the individual event. He was possibly the greatest epeeist of the 20th century. His sixth gold came in the foil team in 1960. After making his international debut at the world championships in 1935, he won two individual and 13 team titles.

Growing up in a famous fencing family, he was tutored by his father, Maestro Giuseppe Mangiarotti (1883–1970), who competed in the 1908 Olympic Games and came fourth with the Italian épée team. His father made him fence left handed even though he was naturally right handed. The elder brother Dario (1915–2000) won six national championships in épée between 1938 and 1953 and participated in the two Olympic Games. In 1948 he won silver in the team event and in 1952 he was second in the individual competition behind his brother and Olympic champion with the team. Edoardo's daughter, Carola, represented the third generation of fencers in the 1976 and 1980 Olympics.

Mangiarotti was as an estate agent and journalist for the newspaper *La Gazzetta dello Sport*. He served as FIE

Secretary-General from 1981 to 1984, Head of the delegation of Italian Fencing and a FIE representative. Altogether he attended 27 Olympic Games between 1936 and 2008.

Sixten Jernberg (SWE), *6 February 1929 in Lima, Malung-Sälen (Dalarna); †14 July 2012 in Mora, Dalarna. The Swede was the greatest cross-country skier of the post-WW II era. Between 1956 and 1964, he won four gold, three silver and two bronze. In 1956 and 1964, he was Olympic champion in 50 km marathon. In 1960, he won over 30 km, and his fourth gold medal came in the Swedish relay in 1964. His tally of nine Olympic medals remained a record until surpassed in 1992 by the Russian Raissa Smetanina.

Jernberg learned to be a blacksmith and then became a woodsman in order to have more time for training. His first successes came in 1951, when he doing his military service. At the Olympic Winter Games from 1952, the Swedish cross-country skiers went through a crisis that caused the formation of a new national team, and Jernberg was one of the young athletes who were elected. At the world championships in 1954 in Falun, he came fourth over 30 km and seventh over 15 km. His breakthrough came in 1955 in Podrevskov near Moscow, when he conquered the complete Soviet élite, including the world champion Vladimir Kusin, over 30 km.



Cross-country skier Sixten Jernberg, voted in 1973 as the most popular Swedish sportsman of all time.

He took part in 363 competitions between 1952 and 1964, winning 134, including the famous Vasa race (1955 and 1960). In 1965, the IOC awarded him the Mohammed Taher Trophy. In 1973, Swedish people voted him the most popular sportsman in Sweden in a newspaper poll.

Amy Tryon (USA), *24 February 1970 in Redmond, Washington; †12 April 2012 in Seattle, rode for the US equestrian team at the 2004 Olympics and won the bronze medal in the Three-Day Event. She was sixth in the individual competition. In 2008, she competed at the Beijing Games and helped the US team to seventh place. The 42-year-old former firefighter died of an accidental drug overdose.

Rolf Mulka (FRG), *23 November 1927 Hamburg; †14 July 2012 in Hamburg, was one of the most successful yachtsmen in the world in the 1950s. In 1956 and 1957 he was world champion in the FD Class. At the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956, he started with Ingo von Bredow in the Sharpie Class and came sixth. In 1960 in Rome, both won a bronze medal in the Gulf of Naples.

It can be a curse to carry a famous name. In the files of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, a public prosecutor in Frankfurt in charge of the prosecution of Nazi criminals, stumbled on the name "Mulka" (a relatively rare name in Germany) in connection with the adjutant of Rudolf Höß, commandant of the extermination camp Auschwitz. In fact, Robert Mulka was the father of the Olympic yachtsman, with whom he had founded a business after the WWII in Hamburg.

Three months after the Olympic Games in Rome in 1960, Robert Mulka, who had been responsible in Auschwitz for the acquisition of the poison gas Zyklon B, and who had personally selected people for the death chambers, was taken into custody. The "trial against Mulka and others" (with to Mulka, 24 Auschwitz

guards were charged) became the first "Auschwitz-process" in history.

It started on 20 December 1963 in Frankfurt and lasted 183 days. To finance the defence of his father, Rolf Mulka sold his Olympic yacht *Macky VI*, which meant a two-year gap in his sailing. Although the prosecutor demanded 36,500 life sentences – the number of people Mulka selected for the death chambers – this was changed into a 14-year term, for of "assisting in mutual murder in at least four cases to at least 750 people each". Because of his "unsuitability for detention" he was released early in 1968.



Jerzy Kulej (POL / photo), *19 October 1940 in Częstochowa, †13 July 2012 in Warsaw; he was one of 14 boxers to win two consecutive Olympic gold medals. The light-welterweight won in the final against Yevgeni Frolov (URS) in Tokyo in 1964 (a man he had previously beaten in the Soviet Union-Poland match in Moscow). In 1968, he beat the Cuban Enrique Regüeiferos Blanco. Kulej was chosen for the Polish national team at the age of 19 and became national champion for the first time in 1961. In 1963 and 1965, he won the European title; in 1967 he won a European silver medal. By the time he retired in 1971 he had won 317 of his 348 contests. Kulej then became a trainer. Later, he became a politician and was elected into the Polish Parliament (Sejm) in 2001 for a four-year term.

Jack Wells Davis (USA), *11 September 1930 in Amarillo, Texas; †20 July 2012 in San Diego, California. In the 1950s, Davis was ranked the world's top hurdler six times. In 1956, he set a world record of 13.4 s at the AAU championships. He took home silver in the 110 m hurdles at the 1952 and 1956 Olympics, losing the gold to Harrison Dillard in photo finishes. But he was invincible in the years between his Olympic appearances, and at one stage of his career won 37 consecutive finals. In later years, Davis had a career as a real estate developer.

Elizabeth Ferris (GBR), *19 November 1940 in Bridgewater, Somerset, †12 April 2012 in London. She was the last female Briton to win an Olympic medal in diving – bronze in the 3 m springboard at the Rome 1960 Games. In 1961 she won two gold medals at the World Student Games. Dr. Ferris was a doctor specializing in acupuncture. She worked also as a freelance journalist, writer and broadcaster on sport. She assisted in the creation of the IOC Women and Sport Commission, of which she was a member from 1995. She also assisted in the creation of the British Olympians Club and the World Olympians Association (WOA), of which she was Vice-President for over 10 years.

Nils Karlsson (SWE), *25 June 1917 in Östnor, Mora (Dalarna); †16 June 2012 in Mora, Dalarna. With Karlsson, who was named "Mora-Nisse" after his hometown Mora, died the oldest Olympic champion in the Olympic Winter Games to date. The Swede won the 50 km cross-country race in St. Moritz in 1948. In the 18 km, he disappointed with a fifth place, because he had problems with the thin air. Karlsson participated for the first time in the Swedish championships in 1938 and came 25th. The WW II robbed him of two participations in the Olympic Winter Games.



He celebrated his greatest performances in the famous VASA-Loppet over 85.5 km with start in Sälen and finish in Mora. He won this race nine times in total (1943, 1945 to 1951 and 1953). In 1953 he retired as 17-times Swedish champion and opened a sports shop in Mora. At the Olympic Winter Games in 1956 and 1960 he acted as instructor of the Swedish cross-country skiers. For many years he was chief of the Organizing Committee and in charge of the VASA-Loppet race.

Cross-country skier Nils Karlsson, who won the 50 km race in 1948 in St Moritz. The Swede became known as "Mora-Nisse". "Nisse" in Sweden is defined as "a small Christmas man or a child of a Christmas man" – a "friendly elf" from Mora, as explained to us by ISOH Member Ove Karlsson.

Volker Kluge / Anthony Th. Bijkerk

The ISOH offers the families of the deceased its sincere condolences.