

VEIKKO JOHANNES HAKULINEN 4.01.1925-25.10.2003



One of the greatest cross country skiers in sports history, Veikko HAKULINEN, has passed away. He died in a traffic accident in his home town Valkeakoksi in Finland at the age of 78. His victory in 50 km cross-country in the 6th Olympic Winter Games in Oslo 1952 was unexpected and sensational. His winning time 3:33,33 will always be remembered.

During his 9 years career on top level in the Olympic Games 1952-60, he won 3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal. In biathlon he was 15th in 20 km in Innsbruck, 1964. World championships he won 3 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze. After his skiing career he went on and became active in orienteering.

HAKULINEN was a born fighter, much alike Paavo NURMI. To compete was a must for him. He was a silent obstinate woodtechnician, who never gave up. By nature shy and did not much care about being an idol. He devoted his whole life to sport with unfailing enthusiasm. He will be remembered as one of the most remarkable Finnish sportsmen of all time.

Ingmar Björkman