

Obituaries



Dorothy Tyler, née Odam (GBR), *14 MAR 1920 in Stockwell, Greater London; †25 SEP 2014 in Sanderstead, Surrey. Dorothy Tyler won the silver under her maiden name Odam in the 1936 high jump and repeated this performance as Mrs. Tyler 1948 in London, making her the only woman to win an athletics medal before and after Second World War. In 1952, she placed seventh and in 1956 twelfth. In 1938 and in 1950 she also won the British Empire Games. She had changed her style from the scissors to the western roll in 1951. She retired from international competition after the 1956 Olympics and went on to become a coach, official and British team manager. In 2012, she was the official starter for the London Marathon. She died aged 94 following a long illness. (WR)

Jan Werner (POL), *25 JUL 1946 in Brzeziny; †21 SEP 2014 in Warsaw. Polish sprinter Jan Werner was a specialist over 200 and 400 m. In all

his three Olympic appearances he reached the final with the 4 x 400 m relay, placing fourth in 1968, fifth in 1972 and highlighting his career with the silver medal in 1976 after reaching the final of the 400 m. He won two golds at the European Championships in 1966 (4 x 400 m) and 1969 (400 m) as well as a silver (4 x 400 m) and a bronze (400 m) in 1971. At the European Indoors he added four more golds with the relay and two more silver medals, one with the relay and one over 400 m. He later worked as a coach. (WR)

Horst Arndt (FRG), *19 SEP 1934 in Königsberg/Prussia; †18 OCT 2014 in Taunusstein. The German rower won the silver medal in the coxed pairs at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. In 1956 and 1957 he also won the European Championships in this rowing class. Domestically he could earn three titles in the coxed pairs 1955–57 and four more bronze medals with the coxed eights 1957–59 and in the coxed fours in 1958. After his active career he was closely connected with his home club Rudergesellschaft Wiesbaden-Biebrich 1888 e.V. and became an honorable member. (WR)



William Danforth "Bill" Mulliken (USA), *27 AUG 1939 in Urbana, Illinois; †18 JUL 2014 in Chicago, Illinois; Inspired by a motivational talk from double Olympic pole vaulting champion Bob Richards, the American swimmer vowed he would win a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics. After winning gold at the 1959 Pan American Games, Mulliken did just that by winning the 200 m breaststroke at the 1960 Games in Rome. Mulliken graduated from Miami University in 1961 and received a law degree from Harvard, after which he practiced law in Chicago. (WR)

Wherever Peter Daland turned up, the US flag was raised



I first met Peter Daland in 1971, when the native New Yorker was 50 years old. Confidently the well-known swimming coach, who had begun as assistant at Yale University to the no less famous Bob Kipphuth, explained to me that he was accustomed to the fact that wherever he turned up the US flag rose up the winner's mast.

That was often repeated: at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, where he coached the US women's team, he took 15 of 20 possible medals. In 1972 in Munich, where he was responsible for the men's team, his protégés, including Mark Spitz (in the photo next to Daland) won 26 out of 39 attainable medal positions. In the 35 years he was employed at the University of Southern California, 80 of his athletes succeeded in qualifying for the Olympic Games.

I also often met Peter after his time as head coach in various roles. He travelled on behalf of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and represented the American Swim Coaches Association (ASCA), of which he was co-founder. In the last few years he was especially interested in history, which is why he had

become a member of ISOH. In 2009 he published the first volume of *The History of Olympic Swimming*, in which he dealt with the period 1896 to 1936.

I met him for the last time in Berlin in 2007, where he told me about his time at Harvard University, which was coming to an end, as he was called up into the US Army to liberate France from the German occupiers. But that was not the only reason he had a special relationship with Germany: in 1962 he got to know Ingrid Feuerstack from Hamburg, who at the US championships in breaststroke was twice second to the former world record holder Wiltrud Urselmann. Two years later they married. From the marriage with Ingrid, who runs a swimming school in Thousand Oaks in California, came five children.

Since Peter suffered in his last years from Alzheimer's, sadly he did not have time to finish his *Olympic history*. He himself was a part of it. He died on 20th October 2014, at the age of 93 – an interesting personality. It was a joy to know him.

Volker Kluge

Mervyn David "Merv" Finlay (AUS), *17 JUN 1925 in Balmain, NSW; † 2 JUL 2014 in Sydney. Merv Finlay was an Olympic bronze medallist with the Australian eight-oared crew at Helsinki, which had four oarsmen from Leichhardt Rowing Club, a club for which Finlay served as captain. He had earlier been a runner, winning the 1948 state title at 880 yards, after serving as a Flying Officer with the Royal Australian Air Force in Second World War. Finlay studied law and was admitted to the Bar in 1952. He eventually became an Australian Supreme Court Justice, serving in that role from 1984–94. He was also a member of Queen's Council. After his retirement as a Judge, he was appointed by the New South Wales State Cabinet as an Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission. (BM)

Werner Lueg (FRG), *16 SEP 1931 in Brackwede; †13 JUL 2014 in Gehrden. Werner Lueg equalled the 1,500 m world record at a meet in Berlin Olympic Stadium in 1952, running 3:43.0 min to match the mark set by Lennart Strand and Gunder Hägg from Sweden. With that, he became the second German after Dr. Otto Peltzer (3:51.0 min in 1926), to hold the world record at that distance.

He came as a favourite to the Olympics in Helsinki, but to his great disappointment he won only the bronze medal. Lueg placed fifth in the 1500 m at the 1954 European Championships. (WR)

Wallace Clayton "Wally" Jones (USA), *14 JUL 1926 in Harlan, Kentucky, †27 JUL 2014 in Lexington, Kentucky. Wally "Wah-Wah" Jones lettered in football and baseball, although basketball was his best sport. Jones is probably the only athlete who played for coaching legends Adolph Rupp in basketball, and Bear Bryant in football. He was a member of the 1948 Olympic gold medal winning team.

After graduation in 1949, Jones played three years of NBA ball with

the Indianapolis Olympians – the "Kentucky" team. He settled in Lexington, Kentucky and was elected Sheriff of Fayette County, serving from 1954 to 1958. He made an unsuccessful run at the US Congress, and returned to business, eventually starting and becoming CEO of Blue Grass Tours, a small bus company that specialised in sight-seeing excursions of Lexington's horse farms. Jones is a member of the State of Kentucky Athletics Hall of Fame, the University of Kentucky Athletics Hall of Fame and the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame. (WR)

Dursun Ali Eğribaş (TUR), *1933 in Rize; †22 AUG 2014 in Istanbul. Eğribaş won a bronze medal in Greco-Roman at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. He was the Mediterranean Games greco-roman flyweight champion in 1959 and won gold at the 1959 and bronze at the 1960 Balkan Games. Eğribaş stopped competing in 1965 and taught wrestling at his club in Feshane, and worked in trade. (TK)

Vladimir Beara (YUG), *2 NOV 1928 in Zelovo/CRO; †11 August 2014 in Split/CRO. Beara was a Yugoslav football goalie, considered one of the greatest in the world in his era. He was Red Star Beograd goalkeeper against Manchester United in the last match they played before the Munich Air Disaster. Beara participated in 1952 Olympics, won the silver medal against Hungary and saved a penalty to Ferenc Puskás. Beara tended goal for Yugoslavia at the 1950, 1954 and 1958 World Cups. He ended his playing career in Germany with Alemannia Aachen (1960–62) and Viktoria Köln (1963–64). In 1967, Beara graduated from a coaching course at the Deutsche Sporthochschule in Cologne. As his assistant, he helped Hajduk Split win the 1971 Yugoslav league title, their first since he left them as a player in 1955. He also won the African Cup Winners' Cup with Tonnerre Yaoundé in 1975. (BM)

Constantin Alexandru (ROU), *15 DEC 1953 in Constanța; †10 AUG 2014 Bucharest. Alexandru was a five-time European champion in Greco-Roman wrestling, winning titles in 1974–75 and 1977–79. He won the silver medal at the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. He was also world champion in 1978–79. He placed second at the 1974 Worlds and the 1976 Europeans. He wrestled almost exclusively in the 48 kg class, although between 1981 and 1983, at the end of his career, he moved up to 52 kg but never made an international podium at that weight. He later worked as a wrestling coach and international referee. He was the coach of Steaua Bucharest and Romanian, Venezuelan and Guatemalan national teams. (TK)

Alice Coachman (USA), *9 NOV 1923 in Albany, Georgia; †14 JUL 2014 in Albany. Alice Coachman became the first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal in any sport when she won the 1948 high jump title with a new Olympic record of 1.68 m. She was also the only US woman to win a track & field gold medal in 1948. Alice Coachman still holds the record for the most victories in the AAU outdoor high jump with consecutive championships between 1939 and 1948, and in 1941–43, she also won the indoor title. She thus won a total of 25 AAU championships. She later became a teacher in Atlanta. (BM)

Samuel Wesley "Sam" Hall (USA), *10 MAR 1937 in Dayton, Ohio; † 11 AUG 2014. Hall actually lettered in four sports at Ohio State – diving, track, gymnastics, and football. He competed in athletics in the pole vault and javelin and considered trying for the 1960 Olympic team and in those events but his diving success made him realise his best chances were in that sport. Hall won the silver medal behind his teammate Gary Tobian in springboard in 1960 in Rome.



After the Olympics he enlisted in the Air Force and competed in track & field for them, until a knee injury ended his sports career. He later entered politics and served a term in the Ohio State House of Representatives. He also made the headlines when he fought as a mercenary for the Nicaraguan Contras. He was captured as a "spy" by the Sandanistas in December 1986 but was released within two months.

Hall wrote two books of his exploits, not all of which are believed by experts, entitled *Danger's Disciple* and *Counter-Terrorist*. He later entered the real estate business in Florida, where he helped develop condominiums. Hall was known for his wild streak, chasing hurricanes in Florida and tsunamis in Asia, but was also known as a philanthropist and animal lover, he himself claiming to have rescued animals on four continents. (BM)



Angéla Németh, married Ránky (HUN), *18 FEB 1946 in Budapest; †5 AUG 2014 in Budapest. Angéla Németh won the 1968 Olympic javelin title, and in 1969 added the European Championship. She was named Hungarian Sportswoman of The Year in 1968 and 1969, and was world ranked No. 1 in both years.

Her first love was basketball and she competed as an international with the national team, but it was not an Olympic sports during her athletic career.

She continued to compete in basketball, however, after 1972 when she stopped competing with the javelin. Németh-Ránky earned a teaching degree from the Eötvös Loránd University and later became a physical education teacher, serving as head of the department in 1990. She was later a member of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, and the National Council of Physical Education and Sport (BM).

Abel Ricardo Laudonio (ARG), *30 AUG 1938 in Buenos Aires; †12 August

2014. Laudonio was Argentinian lightweight champion when he boxed at the 1960 Rome Olympics, winning a bronze medal after losing to future world professional champion Sandro Lopopolo of Italy. He had also competed at the 1956 Olympics, being eliminated early, but then won a gold medal at the 1959 Pan American Games. He turned professional in 1961, fighting exclusively in Argentina through 1965, finishing with a pro career record of 48 wins (37 by KO), 6 losses, and 2 draws. In 1965, Laudonio contested the South American lightweight title but lost to Niccolino Loche on points. He later opened and ran a fitness centre in his hometown of Buenos Aires until he developed Alzheimer's disease and had to close the business. (BM)

Louis Zamperini (USA), *26 JAN 1917 in Olean, New York; †2 JUL 2014 in Los Angeles. Lou Zamperini was a distance runner in Southern California in the 1930s, and competed in the 1936 Berlin Olympics shortly after graduating from high school placing eighth over 5000 m. He was a solid distance runner but his life after athletics was far more interesting.

Zamperini enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in 1941, and was deployed to Hawaii as a bombardier. On 27th May 1943, his aircraft went down due to mechanical problems. Only Zamperini, the co-pilot, and one companion survived. At home, all crew members were presumed dead, and Zamperini's obituary appeared in US newspapers.

However, Zamperini and his two crewmen managed to get out of the wreck of their B-24 and climbed into lifeboats. After 47 days, eating sharks and albatrosses, they were rescued by a Japanese fisherman near the Marshall Islands. By that time, one of his companions had died. They were arrested when brought to shore, and were moved from island to island, eventually landing in a prisoner-of-war camp in Japan in September



1943. For two years, Zamperini barely survived the reign of terror of Matsuhiro "The Bird" Watanabe, one of the most notorious Japanese guards during World War II.

When released in 1945, he met a *New York Times* reporter. Telling him his name, the reporter failed to believe Zamperini, as he had read about his death. Zamperini managed to convince him with a university card, one of the few possessions he had after two years of imprisonment. The remarkable story made headlines at home, where he received a hero's welcome.

After the war, Zamperini began a new career as a Christian motivational speaker. One of his favorite themes was "forgiveness", and he has spoken several times in Japan to former war criminals, several of whom had tortured him as a prisoner-of-war. Zamperini was given the honour of carrying the Olympic Flame three times, in 1984, 1996 and 1998. At the latter occasion, the Nagano Winter Olympics, he returned to Japan for the first time since 1950, when he had gone on a Christian mission. Shortly before the Olympics, it was discovered that Watanabe was still alive as well, but a meeting with him was blocked by the Watanabe family. Zamperini wrote a book about his life and experiences, entitled *Devil at My Heels*. In 2010, author Laura Hillebrand wrote his biography, *Unbroken*, in far more detail. A movie based on the Hillebrand book, screenplay by the Coen Brothers and directed by Angelina Jolie, came out in late 2014. (PT)

Robert Eugene "Bob" Jeangerard (USA), *20 JUN 1932 in Evanston, Illinois; †5 JUL 2014 in Belmont, California. The basketball player attended the University of Colorado in the early 50s, winning All-Big Eight honours in both his junior and senior years. He was also chosen as MVP of the NCAA western regionals in his senior year, 1955, leading the Buffaloes to the Final Four. He was a member of the gold medal winning team at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and also at the 1959 Pan American Games.

After the Olympics he moved to the Bay Area of California where he and two brothers started Gerard Tire, which became a chain of stores in northern California. He went to law school on nights and weekends and became the attorney for the chain, in addition to remaining an owner and manager. He retired in 1982 and travelled the world with his wife, Margie. (BM)

Karl Molitor (SUI), *29 JUN 1920 in Wengen; †25 AUG 2014 in Grindelwald. With his father owning a sports store, Karl Molitor was introduced to skiing at a young age. His original specialty was ski jumping, but he eventually decided to switch to downhill and slalom and won his first national championship (in the downhill) in 1939. He also earned a bronze medal in the downhill at that year's World Championships.

His international career was interrupted by the Second World War, but he remained active and, through 1948, captured an additional seven national championships: three in the slalom (1942, 1946, 1948), three in the combined (1945, 1946, 1948), and one more in the downhill (1946). He also saw great success in Switzerland's prestigious Lauberhornrennen, earning a total of 11 victories.

He finally got his chance to compete in the Winter Olympics in 1948, where he took silver in the combined and bronze in the downhill (tied with his compatriot Ralph Olinger),

and finished in eighth place in the slalom.

By the end of the year he had retired from active competition and married Antoinette Meyer, who had earned a silver medal in the slalom at the 1948 Games. They settled in Wengen and opened a sports shop, which they ran together until 1987, at which point they passed the business on to their son. Molitor also worked as a ski coach and instructor and mountain guide and served on the downhill and slalom committee of the International Ski Federation, as the president of Skiclub Wengen, and as director of the Lauberhornrennen. (RR)

Fyodor Cherenkov (URS), *3 MAY 1959 in Moscow; †4 OCT 2014 in Moscow. The midfielder was an incredible passer who was also known as a top goalscorer. A product of the Spartak Moscow youth system, Cherenkov took up football aged 10 and made his senior debut with them at the 1977 Soviet Championships. Playing with Spartak until 1990, he had 344 appearances with them, scored 86 goals, won Soviet titles in 1979, 1987 and 1989, and was named as the best Soviet Footballer of The Year in 1983 and 1989.

Internationally Cherenkov was capped 34 times with the Soviet national team and scored 12 goals. He also participated at the 1980 Olympics, where he played in all six matches, scoring four goals, and winning a bronze medal.

In 1990 Cherenkov decided to try his hand abroad and played one season in France with Red Star Saint-Ouen, but was not very successful, playing only 15 matches and scoring one goal. In 1991 Cherenkov returned to Spartak and played there until his retirement in 1993. From 1991 to 1993 he had a further 54 appearances with Spartak, scored nine goals, and won the Soviet Cup in 1992, the last time it was awarded. After finishing his sporting career, he remained with Spartak as a coach. (TK)

Helen Johns (USA), *25 SEP 1914 in East Boston, Massachusetts; †23 JUL 2014 in Sumter, South Carolina. Helen Johns competed for the Boston Swimming Association and won the 1932 AAU junior indoor 100 y freestyle title. Although she did not make the 1932 Olympic team in the individual events, she picked up a gold medal and a share of the world record in the freestyle relay.

Johns later became a swim coach and special education teacher. She died only two months before her 100th birthday. (WR)

Robert Allen Suter (USA), *16 MAY 1957 in Madison, Wisconsin; †9 SEP 2014 in Middleton, Wisconsin. The ice hockey defenseman attended the University of Wisconsin, where he liked to mix it up and was frequently seen in the penalty box. While in college he played for the 1977 NCAA champions. He was member of the "Miracle on Ice" 1980 Olympic hockey team who won the gold medal.

Unlike most of the Olympians, he made little effort to play pro hockey after Lake Placid. He returned to his hometown, where he opened a sporting goods store, Gold Medal Sports. But in 1981 he signed with the Minnesota North Stars who shipped him to their Nashville farm club. He never played in the NHL, and after one season in the minors, retired from hockey to return to the store. His brother Gary and his son Ryan also became Olympic ice hockey players. (PT)

Fyodor Bogdanovsky (URS), *16 APR 1930 in Sheteyevo, †2 OCT 2014 in St Petersburg. Bogdanovsky took up weightlifting in 1948 and soon rose to be one of the best middleweight athletes in the world. He was, however, always under the shadow of two great American weightlifters, Pete George and Tommy Kono, whom he managed to beat only once in head-to-head competition. This victory was probably the most important of his career, as it came at



the 1956 Olympics and earned him the gold medal.

The Russian never won the World title, finishing second behind either George or Kono five times between 1954 and 1959, but he did win four European titles (1954, 1955, 1958, 1959). In 1961 he moved up to light-heavyweight, but was not as successful. During his career Bogdanovsky set 15 middleweight world records.

After finishing his sporting career in 1963 he worked as a coach in his native Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). In the 1970s he also worked as coach of the national weightlifting team. (TK)



Erik Rosendahl Hansen (DEN), *15 NOV 1939 Randers; †29 SEP 2014 in Holstebro. The Danish sprint canoer from the club Pagaj in Holstebro competed from the late 1950s to the early 1970s. The electrician participated in the Olympics four times. He won the 1960 gold in the 1000 m K-1 in Rome, and at the same Games he helped to win bronze in the 4x500 m relay. Eight years later in Mexico City, he won his third Olympic medal when he finished third in the K-1. At the same Olympics, he was the Danish flag bearer.

Hansen won 37 Danish and eight Nordic Championships from 1958 to 1972, and took a total of 12 medals at World and European Championships. In 1992 the estate agent was elected as one of the ten most successful athletes of Denmark in the Hall of Fame. (VK)

Gerd Bonk (GDR), *26 AUG 1951 in Limbach; †20 OCT 2014 in Greiz. The vehicle mechanic began as an athlete. In 1967 he set a GDR junior record in the shot putt with 17.82 m. For a time he did shot-putting and weightlifting at the same time, until in 1969 he decided to change to the weightlifting camp. The breakthrough to world class came in 1972, when in the super heavyweight class he was third in the European Championships behind Vasily Alekseyev (URS) and Rudi Mang (FRG). It was the same order at the Olympic Games in Munich.

Bonk was an expert in clean & jerk. He achieved his first world record in 1975 in Karl-Marx-Stadt with 246.5 kg, his second with 252.5 kg – in the absence of Alekseyev – as European champion in 1976 in Berlin. At the Olympics in Montreal he again lost to the Russian by 35 kg. In 1980 he once more qualified for the GDR Olympic team, but was withdrawn because of a positive drug test result.

In 1989 he was declared to be an invalid pensioner because of severe diabetes and recognised a few years later as the victim of doping. In 2002 he received the Georg-von-Opel prize in the category “Silent Victims”. (VK)

Miloslava Rezková, married Hübnerová (TCH), *22 JUL 1950 in Prague; †20 OCT 2014 in Prague. Milena, as she was known, grew up in the Holešovice district of Prague, where she attended the Masaryk School. She began with ballet and rhythmic sports gymnastics, until her talent for the high jump was discovered. In 1964 she was accepted for membership of the Prague sports club Ruda Hvězda (Red Star).

Rezková surprised in Olympic year 1968, when she became national champion and within a season improved from 1.66 m to 1.82 m. The last height sufficed for the 18-year-old secondary school pupil, who at that time was only 1.69 m tall, to become Olympic champion in



Mexico City, where she left the favourite, GDR jumper Rita Schmidt (who led the world rankings with 1.87 m) well behind in fifth place.

The Czech, who jumped using the then customary straddle style, proved that this was no one-day wonder with her victory the following year in Athens in the European Championships. She also learned a suitable skill: she became a goldsmith. In 1970, she married her fellow high jumper Rudolf Hübner, who had competed in Mexico City and had also coached her in those years.

With the start of the 1970s, her series of victories came to an end. At the European Championships of 1971 and 1974 she was twice fifth, at the Munich Olympic Games she was only fifteenth. After she was unable to qualify for the Games in Montreal, she ended her sporting career in 1977. Thereafter, she acted as a youth coach in her club. Her marriage to Rudolf Hübner, which was dissolved, produced two children. She kept the name Hübnerová. She died aged 64 from cancer. (VK)

(BM = Bill Mallon, PT = Paul Tchir, RR = Ralf Regnitter, TK = Taavi Kalju, VK = Volker Kluge, WR = Wolf Reinhardt)

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