

# Obituaries



**Lyubov Baranova, née Kozyreva (URS)**, \*27 August 1929 in Bugry, Vsevolozhsky District, †22 June 2015 in Moscow. Lyubov Kozyreva (the word 'Kozyr' means 'triumph' in Russian) experienced the 871 day long blockade in the Second World War of her home city of Leningrad, which exacted around 1.1 million civilian victims from the first to the last day. From 1950 to 1958 the teacher, who weighed only 46 kilos, was 16 times Soviet champion in cross-country skiing, of which six were over individual distances.

In 1954, after she had become world champion in Falun over 10 km and in the 3x5 km relay, she was the first Soviet athlete to win Olympic gold in 1956 in Cortina on the 10 km distance as well as silver in the relay behind Finland. After her marriage she won two further Olympic silver medals in 1960 in Squaw Valley under the name of Baranova.

In addition she became world champion in 1958 and 1962 with the relay. She was the first Soviet athlete to win over 10 km in 1955 in Holmenkollen. After her sporting career, she worked as a cross-country ski coach. (VK)



**Esther Brand (RSA)**, \*29 September 1922 in Springbok; †20 June 2015 in Bloemfontein. Esther Brand competed in the high jump and discus throw at the 1952 Olympics, winning the high jump gold medal. She led the world list three times in the high jump, in 1940–41 and 1952. She was also third on the year list in 1951 and fifth in 1939.

Under her maiden name van Heerden she equalled, on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1941, with 1.66 m the world record of Dorothy Odam (GBR), who had set it in 1939. However recognition by the IAAF did not follow until 1976 because of a claim by the Swiss Federation, whose

member Ilsebill Pfennig had also attained 1.66 m in 1941.

This confusion had arisen through the disqualification of the German high jumper Dora Ratjen, who had increased the world record to 1.70 m as European champion in 1938. Subsequently it had however been established that Ratjen should have been classified as a man. (BM/VK)

**Ivan Dvorny (URS)**, \*5 January 1952 in Yasnaya Polyana; RUS, † 21 September 2015 in Omsk. Born in a small village near Omsk, Ivan Dvorny did track and field athletics (mostly shot put) in his youth and did not take up basketball until 1966, when he moved to Omsk to study in high school. He started professional basketball with Uralmash Sverdlovsk in 1969 and from 1971–73 played with Spartak Leningrad. With Spartak, Dvorny won the FIBA European Cup Winner's Cup in 1973.

Dvorny was selected to the Soviet national team in 1970, after playing on the winning European Junior Champions. The high point of his career was at the 1972 Olympics, where the Soviet team beat the Americans in a highly controversial final, by 51–50, and won a gold medal. The next year the Soviet team, as the reigning Olympic champions, had a two-month tour of America, but after returning, he was arrested and charged with smuggling and received a three-year prison sentence. Apparently Dvorny had bought a pair of jeans and a shirt in America, had not declared them in customs and had attempted to sell them in Sverdlovsk, but there were also wide-spread rumors that it was actually a mock-trial, as a KGB attempt to tone down the popularity of the Soviet team, who had become national heroes after winning the Olympic gold. After serving his sentence, Dvorny returned to basketball, but at less than his previous level.

From 1976–78 he played with Spartak Vladivostok and from 1978–

80 was with Dynamo Moscow, but with little success. He retired in 1980, at only 28-years-old. Because of his criminal record, Dvorny had difficulty finding a job, so from 1980–94 he worked as a fitter at the locomotive depot Moskovka in Omsk and from 1994–2000 worked as a maintenance man at the Omsk fire department. In 2001 he emigrated to the United States, where he settled in Baltimore, Maryland, and worked at a local supermarket for nearly 10 years before returning to Russia.

From 2012 until his death from lung cancer, Dvorny was President of the Omsk Region Basketball Federation. Since 2009 an annual basketball tournament in his honour has been held in Omsk. (TK)

**Achim Hill (GER/GDR)**, \*1 April 1935 in Berlin, †4 August 2015 in Berlin. Hill was the first East German oarsman to take part in three Olympic Games and also the first to win a medal. At first he was a member of the famous sports club Einheit Berlin, which he had to leave at the time of the Cold War as he was not prepared to give up his studies in aircraft construction in West Berlin. He then became a member of a small works sports community, in which he continued his sports career without a coach or support undeterred.

Hill began in 1953 as a oarsmen, five years later he moved to the sculls and became GDR champion in 1959 and 1950, after that also from 1962 to 1967. At the all-German Olympic qualifications events of 1960 he surprisingly defeated the four times European championship runner-up Klaus von Fersen (FRG); then he gained Olympic silver behind the Russian Vyatcheslav Ivanov. There was the same result in 1964 in Tokyo. In his third Olympic Games in 1968 in Mexico City Hill was fifth.

One of his greatest successes was winning the European Championship in 1967 in Vichy, at which he was able to beat the legendary Ivanov for the first and only time.

After the building of the Berlin Wall Hill he studied applied mechanics in Dresden. Thereafter he worked as a qualified engineer at the Institute for Rolling Stock. From 1990 until spring 2000 he was President of a Berlin rowing club. (VK)

**Erika Zuchold, née Barth (GDR)**, \*19 March 1947 in Lucka, †22 August 2015 in Alto, Paraguay. The delicate Leipzig gymnast really wanted to join a circus, and in the end she did land up there. But in between lay a sporting career which anyone could admire. The flickflack shown by her on the balance beam for the first time on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1964 made her internationally recognised.

The same year she won the elimination contests for the all-German Olympic team, but a few days before the departure for Tokyo she tore her Achilles tendon in an unfortunate landing during a salto on the floor mat, so that she was deprived of perhaps her greatest success. Not until 1966 – in the meantime she had married the track cyclist Dieter Zuchold – did she recover her form. In Dortmund she became runner-up to the world champion in the horse vault and fourth in multi-events.

In the ensuing period she did not escape further injury in 1970 she saw herself compelled to have an operation on her meniscus. But just a few months later she became



world champion in vault and beam in 1970 and runner-up in multi-events. Soon after she was chosen as "GDR Sportswoman of the Year".

Erika Zuchold took part in 1968 and 1972 in the Olympic Games and was twice second in the vault. She won two further silver medals in 1972 with the team as well as on the uneven parallel bars. In 1968 as well she was third with the team. In addition she won 19 GDR championship titles.

She studied education and was then trained as an art teacher. Later came an evening degree in painting and graphic art. She had several exhibitions and received a series of prizes for her work. Besides that she tried herself out an entertainer. She did tap-dancing, rode on elephants across the ring and dared to go on the high trapeze as an artiste.

But from the 1990s the blows of fate piled up. As an artist great success eluded her – she lived on the margins of existence. After the death of her husband in February 2014 she resolved to emigrate to Paraguay, where her mother and sister already lived. She sold her medals, prizes and diplomas and left Germany at the end of June 2015, only to die two months later in her new homeland.

At a memorial service on 2<sup>nd</sup> October Erika Zuchold's brother who had remained in Germany expressed the suspicion that his sister had died an unnatural death. (VK)

**Kurt Oppelt (AUT)**, \*18 March 1932 in Vienna; †16 September 2015 in Goldenrod, Florida (USA). The 1956 Olympic champions in pair skating started his career as a singles skater, placing third at the Austrian Championships in 1951–52 and second in 1953. He placed 11<sup>th</sup> at his only World Championship in singles, in 1953. Kurt Oppelt and partner Sissy Schwarz were Austrian champions from 1952–56. In 1952 they had their international debut as a couple, placing seventh at both the Europeans and Worlds. They



won bronze at the 1953 European Championships and the 1954 World Championships, adding a silver that year at the Europeans. In 1955 they did not participate at Europeans but at Worlds they were close runners-up to the Canadians Frances Dafoe and Norris Bowden. Their best year was 1956, as they won the European, World and Olympic titles.

Oppelt/Schwarz joined the Wiener Eisrevue and performed in ice shows for three or four years. In 1976 he received the Olympic Flame when it arrived in Austria coming from Athens. Oppelt was the coach of the Royal Dutch figure skating team from 1957–1960. He later settled in the United States, and beginning in 1967, he was an instructor at Penn State University in its College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, although he later worked for an insurance company. In 1996 he received the Golden Medal of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria. He was inducted into Austrian Olympic Hall of Fame in 1976. (OM)

**Miloslava Misáková (TCH)**, \*25 February 1922 in Horákov; †1 July 2015 in Prague. The Czech was the sister of Eliška Misáková, who was on the Gymnastics team for the 1948 Olympics, but contracted poliomyelitis while training in London, and died on the day when the competition began.

Despite this tragedy, Miloslava Misáková won a gold medal with the Czechoslovak team. She later coached youth gymnastics and worked as a gymnastics judge. Before her death she was the oldest living Czechoslovak Olympic gold medallist. (BM)



**Galina Prozumenshchykova, divorced Stepanova (URS)**, \*26 November 1948 in Sevastopol, Crimea; †19 July 2015 in Moscow. Galina Prozumenshchykova, who was born in the Crimea and whose father was a U-boat commandant, was the first Soviet swimming star. The breaststroke specialist, who was a member of CSKA Moscow, was the first to win an Olympic swimming gold, in 1964 in the 200 metres breaststroke, to which she later added two silvers (1968 and 1972 in 100 metres) and two bronzes (200 metres in 1968 and 1972).

She also won three European titles (1966 and 1970 in 200 m and 1970 in 100 m), to which she added two European Championships medley relay silvers (1966, 1970). She also set five world records during her career, four in 200 m (2:47.7 and 2:45.4 in 1964, 2:45.3 in 1965 and 2:40.8 in 1966) and one in 100 m (1:15.7 in 1966).

After the Olympic Games in Mexico she began the study of journalism, which she concluded in 1976 with a diploma. She married the engineer Vladimir Stepanov and in November 1969 brought her daughter Irina into the world. She finished her sporting career after the 1972 Olympics and worked as a methodologist for the Soviet Sports Committee. After that she married a second time, but kept her maiden name. (TK/VK)

**Pyotr Kondratyevich Korol (URS)**, \*2 January 1941 in Bredy, Chelyabinsk, RUS; †2 July 2015 in Lviv, UKR. Korol took up weightlifting in 1957, but rose to prominence nearly 20 years later, in the mid-1970s. He was not selected for the Soviet team until he won his only national title in 1972.

In addition to his 1976 Olympic title in Montreal, Korol won world lightweight titles in 1974-1976 and an European lightweight title in 1975. He set five lightweight world records between 1971 and 1975: four in the clean & jerk, and one in the total.

After finishing his sporting career Korol worked as a weightlifting coach in the Ukraine. (TK)

**György Mészáros (HUN)**, \*30 April 1933 in Budapest; †14 September 2015 Budapest. The Hungarian sprint canoeist competed from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s. Mészáros won two Olympic silver medals in 1960 at Rome in the kayak relay and the K-2 1000 metres. He also won five medals at the World Championships, highlighted by a gold in the K-2 1000 metres in 1954, adding three silvers in the 1958 kayak relay and K-4, and the 1971 K-4 10 km.



His daughter Erika Mészáros became a world class kayaker, winning Olympic gold in the 1992 K-4 event and silver in the same event in 1988. (BM)

**Vasily Petrovich Ilyin (URS)**, \*8 January 1949 in Lisiy Nos (RUS); †21 September 2015. Ilyin played his entire career from the late 1960s until the early 1980s with one club – MAI Moscow. With his team, he won the

EHF Champions League in 1973, and was runner-up next year and EHF Cup Winner's Cup in 1977.

Ilyin was on the Soviet national team from 1970-78 and was capped 101 times, scoring 177 goals. He was an Olympic champion in 1976 and took silver at the 1978 World Championships. He also played for Soviet teams that finished fifth at the 1972 Olympics, fifth at the 1974 World Championships, and ninth at the 1970 World Championships.

After finishing his sporting career, he worked as a handball coach in Moscow. (TK)

**Robert "Bobby" Barry Cleary (USA)**, \*21 April 1936 in Cambridge, Massachusetts; †16 September 2015 in Hyannis, Massachusetts. From 1955 through 1958, Bobby Cleary played hockey for Harvard and broke the school scoring record, set by his older brother, Billy. He led the nation in scoring in both his junior and senior years, and captained the team as a senior. In addition he played three years of varsity baseball, also captaining that team in his senior year.

After leaving college, Cleary played for the 1960 gold medallists, went into the insurance business, and also set up a casualty and property company with his older brother.

The Cleary brothers had missed the Olympic try outs through business commitments and their late call-up to the roster was originally very unpopular with their teammates. He was a life member of the Million Dollar Round Table. (PT)

**Mikhail Burtsev (URS)**, \*21 June 1956 in Moscow; †16 October 2015 in Moscow. Burtsev took up fencing in 1965 and was on the Soviet team from 1976-88. Competing in sabre, he won Olympic team golds in 1976 and 1980, an individual silver in 1980 and a team silver in 1988. He likely missed more medals when the Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Olympics, but Burtsev competed

at the 1984 Friendship Games, a replacement games, where he won both the individual and team sabre competitions.

At the World Championships, Burtsev won six team titles (1977, 1979, 1983, 1985–1987), individual silver in 1978 and team silvers in 1978 and 1981, and individual bronze in 1979 and team bronze in 1982. Burtsev also won the team World Cup in 1983 and the team European Cup in 1978, 1979, and 1983–1985.

After finishing his sporting career, Burtsev worked as a sabre coach in Moscow. In 1992 he was the head coach of the Unified Team's Olympic sabre fencers. (TK/WR).



**Norman Edwards (JAM)**, \*24 September 1962 in Jamaica; †13 July 2015 in Washington, DC. Norman Edwards grew up in Silver Springs, USA, but was born in Jamaica giving him dual citizenship. In 1984, Edwards joined three Jamaican teammates to win the silver medal in the 4x100 m relay at the Olympics in Los Angeles. He was also a semifinalist in the 100 metres. Following his track career, Edwards worked in the financial industry for more than 20 years before joining the Long & Foster Real Estate office in Annandale, earlier this year. (WR).

**Eduardo Guerrero (ARG)**, \*4 March 1928 in Salto; †17 August 2015 in Buenos Aires. Guerrero was a gold medallist in double sculls rowing at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. He also competed in Rugby for the French Sports Club and was the founder and director of the Museo Olímpico Rodante. In 2002, Guerrero paddled along the Parana River from Puerto Iguazu to Buenos Aires, a distance of more than 1500 km. (BM)

**Ildikó Tordasi (Schwarczenberger), (HUN)**, \*9 September 1951 in Budapest; †13 July 2015 in Budapest. The Hungarian Jew with the sport name "Tordasi" was one of the greatest female fencers, winning

four Olympic medals, and 11 medals at the World Championships. The highlight of her career was winning the individual gold medal in foil at the 1976 Montréal Olympics. To this she added a team silver in 1972 and bronzes in 1976 and 1980. She won two world titles, both in team foil, in 1971 and 1973. She had four individual foil podiums, with silvers in 1973–74 and bronzes in 1977 and 1979. In 1973 and 1976 she was named Hungarian "Sportswoman of the Year". (BM/VK)

**Boris Arsenyevich Shilkov (URS)**, \*28 June 1927 in Arkhangelsk, RUS; †27 June 2015 in St. Petersburg. Shilkov first rose to fame in 1952, when he skated 2:14.3 min for 1500 metres at Medeo, although he lost out to Valentin Chaykin, who broke the world record with 2:12.9. Shilkov made his international debut at the 1953 World All-round Championships and won silver behind his compatriot Oleg Goncharenko, who would remain his closest rival throughout his career. At the 1954 World All-round Championships, Shilkov beat Goncharenko and won the world title. He also captured his only European All-round title in that year.

In 1955 in Medeo, Dmitry Sakunenko became the first person to skate

5000 metres below eight minutes, with 7:54.9. In a later pair Shilkov then improved this world record to 7:45.6, which was considered almost unbelievable at the time, but at the 1956 Olympics Shilkov proved this time was not impossible after all, when he finished only three seconds above his own world record to win the Olympic gold.

In addition to his gold and silver at the World All-round Championships, Shilkov won another silver in 1957 and bronze in 1955. He also won the following distance medals at the World Championships: 500 m – silver (1953 and 1955); 1500 m – gold (1953–54, 1956–57) and bronze (1955); 5000 m – silver (1954) and bronze (1957); and 10,000 m – bronze (1954). At the European Championships, Shilkov was less successful, winning, in addition to his only all-round title, the following distance medals: 500 m – gold (1958); 1500 m – gold (1954) and silver (1957); and 5000 m – bronze (1954). In spite of his Olympic gold and world record at 5000 m, Shilkov often had problems with the longest distance. Three times he led after three distances, only to lose because of a bad 10,000 km.

After his sporting career Shilkov had a long and successful time as a skating coach and official. From 1959–1962 he was a coach with Trud Leningrad and then from 1962–1964 and 1966–1968 he was the head coach of the national team. After that he worked as a skating coach in Leningrad and finished his career from 1979 until his retirement in 1989 with sport club Dynamo. His most famous pupils were Ants Antson, Olympic champion at 1500 m in 1964, who died on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. (TK)

BM = Bill Mallon, OM = OlyMADMen,  
PT = Paul Tchir, TK = Taavi Kalju,  
VK = Volker Kluge, WR = Wolf Reinhardt



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