

Obituaries



Csaba Fenyvesi (HUN), *14 April 1943 in Budapest; †3 November 2015 in Budapest. The Hungarian won a team épée gold medal at the 1968 Olympics and in 1972 returned to win gold both individually and with the team. He also competed at the 1976 Games but was unable to win a medal that year. Fenyvesi worked as a surgeon and pathologist in Budapest. He also served as a board member with the Hungarian Fencing Federation and in 2011 joined the board of the Hungarian Association of Athletes. (BM)

Ingo von Bredow (FRG), *12 December 1939 in Schleswig; †4 November 2015 in Hamburg. Ingo von Bredow began his Olympic career in 1956 at 16 and remains the youngest German Olympic sailor, through 2012. In Melbourne, he started with his longtime partner Rolf Mulka in the Sharpie class. In 1960, with the Olympic début of the Flying Dutchman class, in which they had already become world champions in 1956 and 1957 and had placed third in 1959, Bredow and Mulka won a bronze. Due to an injury Bredow did not participate in the fourth race and was temporarily replaced by Achim Kadelbach. (RR)

Stein Eriksen (NOR), *11 December 1927 in Oslo; †27 December 2015 in Park City, Utah (USA), Stein Eriksen emerged on the national scene in 1947, aged 19, when he won the downhill and combination at the Holmenkollen Kandahar event. He was Norwegian champion six times in the period 1949–54. His international breakthrough came in the World Championships at Aspen, Colorado in 1950, when he won the bronze medal in slalom. At the Oslo Olympics in 1952 Eriksen won the gold medal in giant slalom

and silver in slalom, being the first skier from a country outside the Alpine region to win an Olympic gold medal in alpine skiing. He had a great season in 1954, when he won three gold medals at the Alpine World Championships in Åre, Sweden.

After the 1954 season Eriksen ended his amateur career and moved to Utah, USA. He started as a ski instructor at Sun Valley in Idaho. He later established ski schools at various resorts, including Boyne Mountain, Michigan; Sugarbush in Vermont; Heavenly Valley, California; Snowmass and Aspen in Colorado; and Park City, Utah. He eventually settled at Deer Valley, Utah, where the Stein Eriksen Lodge was established in his name, living there until his death.



Eriksen became Norway's first star in alpine skiing, and made alpine skiing popular in Norway. He was born into a sport family. His father Marius Eriksen, Sr. won a bronze medal in team gymnastics at the Stockholm Games in 1912. His brother Marius Eriksen, Jr. was Norwegian champion in slalom and competed in the 1948 Winter Olympics at St. Moritz. (AG)

Maria Pankowa, née Nikulina (URS), *3 March 1963 in Bratsk; †4 November 2015 in Moscow. Setter Marina Pankova took up volleyball in 1975. Internationally she was on the Soviet and later Russian national

team from 1987–1996. With them she won an Olympic gold in 1988, Olympic silver in 1992, was world champion in 1990, won bronze at the 1994 Worlds, was European champion in 1991 and 1993, and added a silver at the 1987 Europeans. Pankova was also selected as the best setter of the tournament at the 1991 European Championship.

In 1989 she married Vadim Pankov, a long-time coach of the Soviet and later Russian women's national team and their daughter Yekaterina Kosyanenko (née Pankova) and son Pavel Панков also became international level volleyball players. She played in Spain from 1992–95 with CV Murcia, winning the Spanish championships with them from 1993–95 and the 1995 CEV Women's Champions League. (TK/WR)

Guo Jie (CHN), *16 January 1912 in Dalian, Liaoning; †15 November 2015 in Xi'an, Shanxi. His specialty was discus throw, in which he was crowned champion at the 1935 Chinese National Games, in addition to competing in the shot put and pentathlon events. He set a national discus record of 41.07 m in the trials for the 1936 Summer Olympics, guaranteeing him a spot among the country's first full Olympic delegation. He failed to advance to the final round of the tournament, although he did set a personal best of 41.13 m in his attempt.

Guo returned to Nanjing following the Games but soon moved to Japan, where he studied agricultural science and technology at the University of Tokyo. In 1952, several years after the Chinese Civil War, he was sent to the city of Xi'an to work in the local agricultural bureaucracy. He was by 2007 the last surviving member of the Chinese team at the 1936 Olympics. In 2008, a month prior to the start of the Beijing Olympics, he helped carry the Olympic torch through Xi'an. He died 103 years old as the oldest living Olympian. (WR/PT)

Ion Panțuru (ROU), *11 September 1934 in Sinaia; †17 January 2016. In 1968, together with brakeman Nicolae Neagoe, Panțuru won Romania's first medal at the Winter Olympics – which remains the country's only medal until today. He also finished fourth in the four-man bobs, just a tenth away from a second medal.

The following year, Panțuru claimed a silver medal at the World Championships in Lake Placid, with Dumitru Focșeneanu. However, he lost this medal in a car while hitchhiking to the airport. The medal was found in a basement thirty years later, and was returned to Panțuru.

His last international medal was won at the 1973 World Championships, when Panțuru / Focșeneanu came third. Before becoming a bobsledder, he was a decent football player, as a goalkeeper for Carpati Sinaia in the second division. (OM)

Anatoli Roshchin (URS), *10 March 1932 in Gaverdovo; †5 January 2016 in St. Petersburg. The Russian, who was involved in weightlifting and played basketball in his youth, took up wrestling quite late, in 1955, when he served in Soviet Navy. He was considered a promising wrestler, but a thyroid disorder caused by excessive stress in 1957 nearly put an early end to his wrestling career. It took almost three years to recover from the disease, after surgery where part of his thyroid gland was removed.

Roshchin, who competed in Greco-Roman heavyweight for his entire career, made his international debut at the 1962 World Championships, where he won silver. At the 1963 Worlds, he won a gold medal and went to the 1964 Olympics as a clear favorite for the Greco-Roman heavyweight title. At the Olympics, however, Roshchin wrestled a draw with István Kozma (HUN) in the final round and, due to the bad points system, had to settle for a silver medal.



Between the Olympics, Roshchin competed at two major international tournaments, winning gold at the 1966 European Championships and silver at the 1967 World Championships, and had to settle for silver again at the 1968 Olympics, after once more drawing with Kozma in the final round. After 1968 Roshchin was nearly undefeated, winning gold at the 1969 and 1971 World Championships and silver in 1972. At the 1972 Olympics, by then 40-years-old, Roshchin won gold. He finished his sporting career and worked as an international wrestling referee. (TK/WR)

Ants Antson (URS), *11 November 1938 in Tallinn (EST); †31 October 2015 in Tallinn. The first great Estonian winter athlete excelled in athletics, playing tennis and ice hockey as a youth, before taking up speed skating. In 1963 Antson began training under Olympic champion Boris Shilkov, and soon established himself as one of the top skaters. The 1964 season was probably his best. He made his international debut at the 1964 European All-around Championships, where he won the title while finishing first in the 1500 and second in the 500 m.

At the 1964 Olympics, Antson won the only gold medal for Soviet male speed skaters in the 1500 m, and was fifth in the 10,000 m. After that, Antson set his only world record, clocking 4:27.3 over 3000 m at Oslo. At the 1964 World Championships he won bronze in the 1500 m and 5000 m, but lost the all-around title

due to a fall in the 500 m, settling for a disappointing 15th place.

In 1965 Antson won a bronze at the 1500 m at the European Championships. In 1967 he also won a silver (1500 m) and bronze (3000 m), while finishing in fourth position in the all-around at both the European and World Championships.

He retired from sports after the 1968 Olympics, and began work as a sports official, first in the Estonian Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, and later with the Olympic Committee. In 1992 at Albertville, he was selected to be the first Estonian flag bearer after the country became independent. (TK/WR)

Mal Whitfield (USA), *11 October 1924 in Bay City, Texas; †18 November 2015 in Washington D.C. At the 1948 Olympics, Whitfield won the 800 m and was a member of the winning 4 x 400 m relay. He also earned a bronze in the 400 m. At the 1952 Olympics, he repeated his 800 m victory and won a silver in the 4 x 400 m. He was the finest 400/800 m runner of his time. Between June 1948 and the end of the 1954 season he lost only three of his 69 races at 800 m/880 y, and during that period he won all his two-lap races in major championships, including five AAU wins, two at the NCAA, and one Pan American Games gold medal. In the 1951 Pan American Games he also finished first in the 400 m and in the 4 x 400 m relay. Four years later he finished fourth in the 1955 Pan American Games 800 m. In 1955 he tried unsuccessfully to move up to the mile, but he reverted to the 800 m in 1956 and retired after placing fifth at the Final Trials.

Whitfield served in Second World War as a member of 332nd Fighter Group, a segregated unit of the Army Air Force, much more famously known as the Tuskegee Airmen. He also served during the Korean War, as a tail gunner who flew 27 bombing missions. After his sports



Mal Whitfield in the leading position in the 800 m final at the 1952 Olympics.

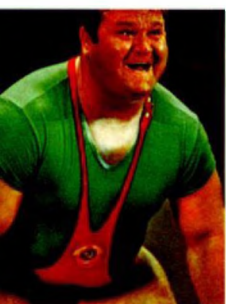
career ended, he travelled the world working as a sports ambassador for the US Intelligence Service, usually teaching and coaching athletics, and once lived in Africa coaching for three years. *(BM/WR)*



Ingeborg Sjöqvist (SWE), *19 April 1912 in Kalmar; †22 November 2015 in. Ingeborg Sjöqvist died 103 years old. She finished fourth and ninth at the 1932 and 1936 Olympics as a 10 m platform diver. She was also runner-up both at the 1931 and 1934 European Championships. Her sister Lala won the bronze medal at the 1928 Olympics. Later she worked as an elementary school teacher and club secretary.

Since 1939 she was married to Lennart Ingers, with whom she had three children. After the death of Guo Jie on 15th November 2015 she was for one week, the oldest living Olympian. *(WR)*

Medeya Jugeli (URS), *1 August 1925 in Kutaisi (GEO); †8 January 2016 in Tbilisi. Georgian Medeya Jugeli won a team gold and team portable apparatus silver at the 1952 Olympics, while finishing fourth on her favorite discipline, vault, and ninth in both the all-around and on the uneven bars. After finishing her sporting career in 1955, she worked as a gymnastics coach in Georgia. From 1962–1965 she was head coach of the Georgian SSR gymnastics team and from 1965 to 1970 she served as coach of the Soviet women's team. She later was an international gymnastics referee and from 1991–2005 was Vice-President of the Georgian Gymnastics Federation. *(TK)*



Leonid Zhabotynskiy (URS), *28 January 1938 in Uspenka (UKR); †14 January 2016 in Zaporizhzhia. Zhabotynskiy took over the title "The World's Strongest Man" from Yury Vlasov in 1964. Vlasov was heavily favored to defend his Olympic title at Tokyo, but Zhabotynskiy defeated him by breaking the world record

in the clean & jerk and also claimed the world title. Before the Olympics, he had always lost to Vlasov in every head-to-head competition, winning bronze at the 1963 World and silver at the 1963 European Championships. Zhabotynskiy followed his 1964 Olympic gold with victories at the World Championships in 1965 and 1966 and then defended his Olympic title in 1968, which also counted as a world title. He also won European Championships in 1966 and 1968.

He took up weightlifting in 1956 after being a competent shot putter, was less impressive against the record book than some other super-heavyweight world champions, but he did post 19 world records one in the press, 16 in the clean & jerk, and two in the total. He later graduated from the Kharkiv Pedagogical Institute in 1964 and received a candidate of pedagogy degree in 1970.

After finishing his sporting career Zhabotynskiy worked as a coach with the Soviet Army and retired in 1991 as a Colonel. From 1987–1991 he worked in Madagascar, being a military consultant to the local government as well as head coach of the Madagascar weightlifting team. In 1991, after retiring from the Army, he started to work as a pro-rector of the Moscow Institute of Business and Law, one of the first private higher education facilities in Russia. *(TK/WR)*

William D. "Bill" Johnson (USA), *30 March 1960 in Los Angeles, CA; †21 January 2016 in Gresham, Oregon. Johnson won the 1984 Lauberhorn downhill in Wengen in January, shortly before the Sarajevo Winter Olympics. But his win was derided by the European downhillers, who claimed he was only a glider, with no technical skills. But the Sarajevo downhill was also relatively non-technical and Johnson boldly predicted he would win, and repeated his victory there to become the first American to win an Olympic downhill gold medal, and the first



American man to win an Olympic skiing gold medal. When asked what the victory meant to him, the brash, cocky Johnson replied, "Millions!"

He won two more World Cup downhill s in March 1984 and his future looked bright. But the years ahead would not be as golden for Johnson. He had been a troubled youth who had troubles with the law when he was only 17, and he would never realize those millions. After 1984, he never again stood on the podium in a major international ski race. His best finishes in the World Cup being two seventh places – one in 1985 and one in 1986. He did not make the 1988 US Olympic team and he was off the circuit by 1990.

Personally, Johnson suffered as well. In 1992, his 13-month-old son drowned in a hot tub accident. Shortly after that his marriage crumbled and he was left bankrupt, living in a motor home. His only salvation was his skis and he tried a comeback in 2000 to attempt to make the 2002 Olympic team. On 22nd March 2002 he crashed at the US Championships near Whitefish, Montana. He sustained a significant closed head injury with permanent brain damage, and was in a coma for three weeks. He never fully recovered, and required constant personal aid, mostly given by his mother, until his death. *(BM)*

Maria Szatkowska, née Gąsienica Daniel (POL), *5 February 1936 in Zakopane; †1 January 2016 in Zakopane. Maria Szatkowska, who came from a skiing family, competed in Alpine skiing at the 1956 and 1964 Winter Olympics. She was a six-time Polish champion and won 17 silver

medals at the Polish nationals. She also competed at the 1958 World Championships, where she was 27th in downhill. She later worked as a skiing coach with Wisła-Gwardia Zakopane.

Her brother Andrzej was a ski jumper at the 1956 Cortina Winter Olympics. Another brother, Józef, competed in Nordic combined at the 1968 Grenoble Winter Olympics, while her sister Helena skied cross-country at the 1956 and 1960 Winter Olympics. (BM)

Anatoly Ilyin (URS), *27 June 1931 in Moscow, †10 February 2016 in Moscow. Ilyin won the gold medal with the Soviet football team at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and was eliminated in the group stage four years earlier. He was injured during the first match against Bulgaria and could not help the team in the next matches. He was married to former Olympian gymnast Galina Shamray, gold medallist with the team event.

He played all his life for Spartak Moscow, winning the national title in 1952, 1953, 1956, 1958, 1962, and was the top scorer in the League in 1954 and 1958. He earned 31 international caps and participated in the 1958 World Cup. He became historic as he scored the Soviet selection's first ever World Cup playoff goal, as he secured the victory against England. Nevertheless, the team lost the quarterfinal against Sweden 0-2. (WR)

Ernst Larsen (NOR), *18 July 1926 in Ranheim, †2 December 2015 in Ranheim. He was one of Norway's most prominent athletes during the 1950s, winning 13 national titles in track and cross country running and breaking the national record in the 5000 m and 3000 m steeplechase 15 times.

His international breakthrough came in 1954 when he finished third in the European Championship in the steeplechase, lowering the national record to 8:53.2 min.

In September 1956 he lowered his national record to 8:42.4, his all-time best, and went to the Melbourne Olympics as one of the medal favorites. At the Olympics he was third, but received international acclaim for his sportsmanship when he declared that he was not obstructed by the eventual winner Chris Brasher (GBR), when he first was disqualified due to an incident with Larsen during the final.

He was also a decent cross-country skier, who tried to qualify for the 1952 Winter Olympic team. His grandson Martin Larsen became one of Norway's best boxers, attempting to qualify for the 2016 Olympics. (WR)

Kim Seong Jip (KOR), *13 January 1919 in Seoul, †20 February 2016 in Seoul. Three-time Olympian weightlifter earned two bronze medals in 1948 and 1952 in the middleweight, placing in fifth in 1956. He was the first Korean defending a medal at Olympics. In 1947 he also earned a bronze at the World Championships, and in 1954 he won the Asian Games, now in the light-heavyweight class. In 1994 he was awarded the Olympic Order. (WR)

Wiesław Rudkowski (POL), *17 November 1946 in Łódź, †14 February 2016 in Warsaw. The Polish boxer earned a silver medal in the light-middleweight at the 1972 Munich Olympics, losing the final against Dieter Kottysch (FRG) in a close decision 2-3. He already reached the quarterfinals four years earlier in the middleweight in Mexico City. At

European Championships he won a bronze in 1971 and a silver in 1973. He also was ten times Polish Champion in 1966 (welterweight) and 1967-75 (light-middleweight). (WR)

Elżbieta Krzesińska, née Duńska (POL), *11 November 1934 in Warsaw; †29 December 2015 in Warsaw. Elżbieta Krzesińska competed in the long jump at the 1952, 1956 and 1960 Olympics, in 1952 under her maiden name. She won the gold medal in 1956 and added a silver in 1960. She was a bronze medallist at the 1954 European Championships, placing seventh at that event in 1962. She also won gold at the 1954 World Student Games in the long jump and pentathlon, and won the long jump at the 1959 Universiade in Turin. Krzesińska set a world record of 6.35 m in Budapest in August 1956, and then equaled that mark a few months later to win the Olympic gold medal in Melbourne.

She later competed in Masters competition, breaking age group world records in the long jump, triple jump, and high hurdles in 1988. From 1981 to 2000 Krzesińska lived in the USA, before returning to Poland. (BM)

(AG = Arild Gjerde, BM = Bill Mallon, OM = OlyMADMen, PT = Paul Tchir, RR = Ralf Regnitter, TK = Taavi Kalju, WR = Wolf Reinhardt)

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



Polish special stamp which was issued in December 1956 following the Olympic victory of Elżbieta Krzesińska.



An "Olympia organ" with the Olympic rings and the inscription "Berlin 1936" was kept by ISOH member Klaus Fink in a Hamburg storeroom. The mechanical musical instrument, is a fair or roundabout organ, and comes from the Italian firm Giovanni Battista Bacigalupo in Berlin, Frali & Co. One of Bacigalupo's descendants manufactured there until 1975. The music was programmed on pin rollers and later on paper rolls of music, which have been preserved.

Photo: Klaus Fink