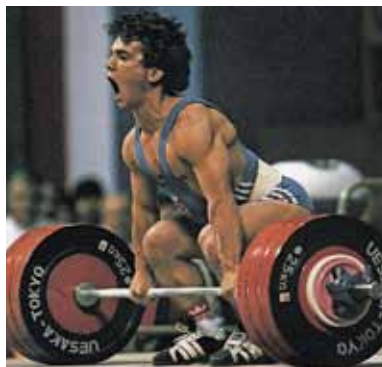


Obituaries

Naim Süleymanoğlu (TUR), *23 January 1967 in Ptichar (BUL), †18 November 2017 in İstanbul. It is likely that he was the strongest man who has ever lived, pound-for-pound. Nicknamed “The Pocket Hercules,” he first came to international acclaim at age 14 at the World Junior Championships in São Paulo. He also was 1982 World Junior champion, and at the 1983 World Championships became the youngest ever world record holder with snatch and total records at age 15, winning a silver medal.

At the 1984 European Championships he became the second man (after Bulgaria’s Stefan Topurov) to lift three times his own bodyweight overhead. He was also the first man to snatch 2½ times his own bodyweight (27 April 1988).



He was born in Bulgaria and represented them until he defected to Turkey at the 1986 World Cup finals. Born Naim Suleimanov and of Bulgarian-Turkish descent, he had made the decision a year before after being upset when the Bulgarians changed his name to Naum Shalamanov in 1985, to remove vestiges of its Turkish origins. Once in Turkey, he changed the name again to a more Turkish one. In order to compete internationally for Turkey, the Bulgarian government was paid \$1,000,000 by Turkey.

Süleymanoğlu was world champion at 60 kg in 1985, 1986, 1989, and 1991 and European Champion in 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1988. He did not compete in 1987 because he had recently defected, and was not allowed to compete until the Turkish authorities received permission from, and paid, the Bulgarians. Prior to the 1988 Olympics, he had set 32 world records prior to his 22nd birthday.

At the 1988 Olympics, he was absolutely dominant, lifting a weight which would have won the weight class above his. He also did not compete in 1990, retiring briefly before making a successful comeback. In 1992 at Barcelona, he defended his Olympic title despite his recent retirement, and won his third gold in 1996 at Atlanta. He also competed at Sydney in 2000 but failed to medal.

He later entered politics in Turkey. Süleymanoğlu died after undergoing surgery for liver failure. (BM)

Simon Charles Dickie (NZL), *31 March 1951 in Waverley, Otago, †13 December 2017 in Taupo, Waikato. He was the ultimate coxswain: A cool head in the coxswain's seat, someone who could talk to you quietly, to steady the nerves before the start of a big race. He had a deep understanding of what made a boat move. He was a coach, an encourager, a word-smith, a sports psychologist, with a burning desire to be the best. We believed in him totally, and trusted him implicitly.

And he had all these attributes at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, when he was 17 years old. His previous coxing experience was at Whanganui Collegiate, where he steered his 8 to three successive wins at the Maadi Cup, the premier event for schools rowing in New Zealand.

The coxed four won gold at Mexico, and this was the start of Simon's great run of successes in the coxswain seat of the New Zealand 8.

His 1970 crew came 3rd at the World Rowing Championships in Canada. 1971 his eight won the European Championships. This was a very tough race between East Germany and the Kiwis. Simon had a great rapport with coach 'Rusty' Robertson, and it would have been their hours of analysis and planning that was behind this victory. I believe that this win was the corner-stone for the 1972 victory.

The 1972 Olympic eight won, and won convincingly. This win has become a piece of New Zealand sporting history, as it was the first time the national anthem of New Zealand: 'God defend New Zealand' was played, instead of the usual 'God save the Queen'.

Simon stepped back from rowing at this stage, to begin his work career in the fishing and hunting industries. In 1976 he came back to steer the New Zealand eight to 3rd at the Montreal Olympics.

Simon, along with his adored and loving partner Adi Walker, built up his adventure tourist business into

a world-renowned destination for tourists looking for the perfect break that they will always remember. He also had extensive interests in the farming and kiwi-fruit industries. His crew-mates will miss him terribly. (RC)

Fredy Schmidtke (FRG), *1 July 1961 in Worringen, †1 December 2017 in Dormagen. Track cyclist Fredy Schmidtke burst onto the scene in 1977, winning the West German Youth Championships, a title he retained the following year. In 1979, Schmidtke won five national titles and also captured the youth world title in the 1 km time trial in Buenos Aires. In 1981 he won two silver medals at the Senior Amateur World Championships in the 1 km time trial and tandem, with non-Olympian and long-time partner, Dieter Giebken. The following year Schmidtke won the time trial at the World Championships, and again won the silver with Giebken. In 1983, the tandem duo added a bronze medal to their collection. Domestically, Schmidtke won the West German national time trial title 1980-84, was sprint champion 1980-82 and 1984 and, with Giebken, won the tandem title in 1980-83.

Schmidtke's greatest moment came in 1984 when he captured the time trial gold medal at the Los Angeles Summer Olympics. In the sprint event he finished eighth. Schmidtke was a trained pipe fitter, but after his Olympic triumph, opened a sports shop in Cologne. As he was not a trained businessman, his business failed and he went bankrupt. He then worked in his trained job for a couple of years to pay back his debts. In 2017, he died from a heart attack. (WVR)

Robert Alt (SUI), *2 January 1927 in Gliion, Montreux, †4 December 2017 in Vevey. The Swiss bobsledder had his greatest success in the mid-1950s. In 1955, alongside Heinrich Angst, Gottfried Diener, and Franz Kapus, he

won a gold medal in the four-man event at the World Championships. The quartet followed this up the following year at the 1956 Winter Olympics, where they captured gold once again in the four-man. Alt retired from active competition following the Games. He worked as general agent of the Nationale Suisse Assurances. (OM)

Jean-Jacques Guyot (FRA), *1 December 1932 in Paris, †20 December 2017 in Fontainebleau, Seine-et-Marne. Guyon, surprisingly, won the individual three day event at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics with "Pitou". With the team he finished fourth. He then became flagbearer for France at the closing ceremony.

Guyot came to the French Army in 1951 and received, from 1954 to 1964, his education at the military riding school in Saumur. He was then stationed in Fontainebleau. He won the national title in 1956 and claimed a bronze medal with the team at the 1957 European Championships. (WVR)

Cyrus J. "Cy" Young, Jr. (USA), *23 July 1928 in Modesto, California, †6 December 2017 in Modesto, California. Young is the only US athlete to have won the Olympic javelin title. He won the gold medal at the 1952 Games in Helsinki with the Olympic record of 73.78 m. Second place went to William Miller, also a US thrower.

In April 1956, Young had the best throw of his career with 79.16 metres. Later in the season, he won his only AAU championship, but hampered



by an ankle injury, he failed to make a significant challenge in defense of his Olympic crown and finished 11th in Melbourne.

Young graduated from UCLA in 1951 and became a rancher. John Wayne arranged for him to have a Hollywood screen test but Young turned it down and returned to his farm. (BM)

Horace Ashenfelter (USA), *23 January 1923 in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, †6 January 2018 in West Orange, New Jersey. "Nip" Ashenfelter won the 1952 Olympic Trials and ran 9:06.4 min to better Harold Manning's 16-year-old US record. He further improved the record to 8:51.0 in the Olympic heats in Helsinki. In a classic final he defeated the much-vaunted Russian, Vladimir Kazantsev, and posted an unofficial world record of 8:45.4. The race became well-known and rumours said that Ashenfelter, an FBI agent at the time, was the only spy to allow a Russian to follow him.

In the 1955 Pan American Games, Ashenfelter won a silver medal when he finished second to Osvaldo Suárez in the 5000 metres. He competed again at Melbourne Olympics, but could do no better than sixth in a heat of the steeplechase. Ashenfelter joined the FBI in November 1951, but when he retired from competition after the 1956 Olympics, he also resigned from the Bureau and took a post in business, as a salesman for various metallurgy firms. (BM/WWR)

Hannelore Weygand (FRG), *30 October 1924 in Düsseldorf, †18 December 2017 in Düsseldorf. Weygand, with "Perkunos", won the silver medal in the team dressage at the 1956 Stockholm Equestrian Olympics. It was the first time that a German dressage team was an all-women trio. The team consisted of Weygand, Liselott Linsenhoff and Anneliese Küppers. Individually, Weygand came ninth.

She was coached on a private property owned by the well-known millionaire and publisher, Axel

Springer, and his third wife Rosemarie, also an Olympic dressage rider. In 1953 and 1955 Weygand won the CHIO in Rotterdam. She later became a horse breeder. (WWR)

Jana Novotná (TCH), *2 October 1968 in Brno (CZE), †19 November 2017 Brno. Jana Novotná, who won silver in tennis doubles with Helena Suková and bronze in singles at the 1996 Olympics, started out as a well-known doubles player and remained so throughout her career. However, she developed into a top-flight singles player best known for her failures and triumphs at Wimbledon, perfectly exemplifying the words from the Kipling poem that are emblazoned above the All-England Club's entrance to Centre Court, "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, And treat those two impostors just the same ..."

Novotná reached four Grand Slam singles finals. She lost the final of the 1987 Australian Open to Monica Seles in three sets. In 1993 she reached the Wimbledon final where she faced Steffi Graf. The match went into the third set, which Novotná led 4-1, and had a game point on serve for 5-1, but the pressure overcame her, and Graf won that game and then won the final five games, to win the set, the match, and the tournament. At the victory ceremony, when Novotná was given her runner-up trophy by the Duchess of Kent, she famously cried on the Duchess's shoulder.

Novotná returned to the Wimbledon final in 1997, but lost again in three sets, that time to Martina Hingis. In 1998, she finally overcame her demons on Centre Court, winning Wimbledon by defeating Nathalie Tauziat in straight sets, in one of the most popular Wimbledon victories ever. She received her trophy, the Venus Rosewater Dish, from the Duchess of Kent.

Novotná was the oldest woman in the Open Era to win her first Grand Slam title. She won 24 professional singles titles in her career but the

1998 Wimbledon was her only Grand Slam, although she did win the 1997 Tour Final. In doubles, she won 12 Grand Slams, and added four Grand Slam titles in mixed doubles. In all, she won 76 doubles titles. She achieved a career best singles rank of #2 in 1997 and had a best doubles rank of #1.

Novotná settled in Florida, doing tennis commentary on television, until returning to her hometown of Brno, eventually building a home in the small neighbouring village of Omice, where she lived with her partner, Iwona Kuczyńska, a former Polish tennis player. She died at age 49, after a long battle with cancer, which she fought very privately. She was the first women's Grand Slam champion of the Open Era to pass away. (BM)

William Clark "Bill" Steinkraus (USA), *12 October 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio, †29 November 2017 in Darien, Connecticut. Steinkraus was one of the first members of the American Pony Club before he took up show jumping in 1938. He first joined the US Equestrian Team (USET) in 1951 and won a bronze medal in his Olympic debut the following year. He was appointed captain of the USET in 1955 and held the post until his retirement in 1972. He later became president of the USET.

His successes around the world are too numerous to itemize in full, but apart from his Olympic medals, he twice won gold medals in the team event at the Pan American Games in 1959 with Frank Chapot, Hugh Wiley, and George Morris. In 1963 he won with Mary Mairs, Frank Chapot, and Kathy Kusner, and also got silver medals in individual jumping in 1959 and again with the team in 1967, which consisted of the same members as four years before.

His greatest achievement came in 1968 when he made history by becoming the first US competitor to win an individual gold in an Olympic equestrian event. In all, he competed



at five Olympics, and was prevented from making a sixth appearance when his horse went lame at the last minute in Tokyo in 1964. Steinkraus, who graduated from Yale, was an accomplished amateur musician and worked as a book editor. (BM)

Lones Wesley Wigger (USA), *25 August 1937 in Great Falls, Montana, †14 December 2017 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Little argument can be given to the statement that Wigger is one of the greatest competitive rifle shooters produced in the United States. Leaving aside his Olympic record, which includes making four Olympic teams, including 1980, he held or co-held 27 world records – 14 team and 13 individual. He was a member of 16 major US international teams, starting with the 1963 Pan-American Games. His record includes: 22 World Championships (two individual, 20 team); 13 Pan-American Games gold medals and 18 medals; seven Pan-American titles; 18 victories in the Championship of the Americas meet; 16 victories in the Council Internationale Sport du Militaire meet; and in all his international meets, he won 111 medals.

Wigger attended Montana State University where he earned a degree in agronomy and All-American honours in rifle shooting three times. He had a 26-year career in the US Army, retiring in 1987. He then went to work for the National Rifle Association (NRA) as director of training for the USA Shooting team until 1994.

He continued to work as a volunteer with the US Junior Olympic Shooting Program, and served on the board of USA Shooting for various terms through 2016. On his 80th birthday, USA Shooting renamed the interior of its headquarters and upper range the Lones Wigger Legacy Hall and Range. (BM)

Karl-Erik Nilsson (SWE), *4 January 1922 in Stehag, †14 December 2017 in Malmö. Greco-Roman wrestler Karl-Erik Nilsson won a gold medal

at the 1948 London Games and added two bronze in 1952 and 1956, all in the light-heavyweight class. In 1949, he was one of the first wrestlers who offered his hands to the German wrestlers to come back to reconciliation and athletic competition. He and his teammates travelled to Germany for a competition series. At World Championships Nilsson had less success by placing fourth, seventh and third in 1950, 1953 and 1955, respectively. (WR)

Stephen Brian Wooldridge (AUS), *17 October 1977 in Sydney, New South Wales, †14 August 2017. Wooldridge was a gold medallist with the Australian pursuit team at the 2004 Olympics. He won four world titles in team pursuit, in 2002–2004 and 2006. He also won a gold medal in the event at the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Individually, he was runner-up in the pursuit at the 2005 Australian Championship. On the roads his only major victory was winning Stage 5 at the 2007 Tour of Siam.

He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2005, and in 2015 was inducted into the New South Wales Hall of Champions. Wooldridge had great successes, but obviously had his own demons, as in August 2017 he took his own life. (BM)

Cliff Frederick Bourland (USA), *1 January 1921 in Los Angeles, CA, †1 February 2018 in Santa Monica, CA. After placing fifth in the 200 m at the 1948 Olympics, Cliff Bourland confirmed that he was really at his best over the full lap with a 47.3 s leg in the 4×400 m relay, which put the USA into a winning lead. Bourland had reached the peak of his career some years earlier. In the 1941 AAU he finished third in the 400 m in 46.1 and ran a 46.0 relay leg when Southern Cal finished second to Cal/Berkeley, with both teams breaking the world record for the 4×400 m relay. Bourland also won the AAU and

NCAA 400 m in 1942 and 1943, placing second both years in the 200. He then enlisted in the Navy and served as the Captain of a landing craft tank, but he returned to Southern Cal in 1947.

After the war he attempted to enter local politics with little success, and then went to work for an insurance company, and later became part owner of Norris, Biggs, and Simpson, a mortgage banking firm. (BM)

Lothar Thoms (GDR), *18 May 1956 in Guben, †5 November 2017 in Forst. The East German track cyclist from Cottbus began as a sprinter and points racer. At the 1974 Junior European Championships he earned a bronze medal in the sprint. From 1977 to 1981 he won the World Championship title four times in the 1 km time trial, and the Olympic gold of 1980 with a world record (1:02,955). The “GDR Sportsman of the year 1981” had to accept a defeat for the first time in 1982 from Freddy Schmidtke (FRG). He placed third.



After his sporting career, Thoms completed an engineering degree in rail vehicle technology and became Deputy General Secretary of the GDR Cycling Federation. With end of the GDR he lost his job; his marriage also collapsed. He began training as a physiotherapist, but suffered a heart attack and took early retirement. (VK)

Walter Schuster (AUT), *2 June 2018 in Lermoos, †13 January 2018 in Lermoos. Schuster won the Austrian Junior Championship in downhill in

1948 and in slalom and combined in 1949. He was considered a favorite for medals at the 1950 World Championships but broke his femur shortly before the event and was out of racing for over a year. In the 1952-53 season Schuster won 11 major races, and he continued to win in the early 1953-54 season. Again looking towards the World Championships, he missed the event with a broken rib, but he returned with several victories in 1954-55, and finally was able to compete at a major international at the 1956 Winter Olympics in Cortina. There he won a bronze medal in the giant slalom, finishing behind his countrymen, Toni Sailer and Anderl Molterer, as Austria swept the medals. Schuster retired after the 1956-57 and became a ski instructor and owner of a wintersport shop at Lermoos. (OM)

Carla Marangoni (ITA), *13 November 1915 in Pavia, †18 January 2018 in Pavia. Carla Marangoni was only 12 years old when, as a member of the Italian gymnastic team, she won a silver medal in the all-around event at the 1928 Olympics. She and her teammates had trained locally in their native Pavia and had few resources, but had nonetheless qualified to represent Italy.



Upon their return, they were congratulated personally by Benito Mussolini. This was her only major achievement in the sport and, with no professional opportunities, she gave up the sport several years after the Games.

Marangoni eventually studied to be an accountant, working for the Pavia Transportation Department before and during Second World War. It was this occupation that led to her being one of the first women in Italy to obtain a driver's license. At some point, she lost her Olympic medal.

While one of her teammates, Bianca Ambrosetti, had the unfortunate distinction of being the Olympian to have died at the youngest age, Carla Marangoni lived to be the last-known surviving competitor from the 1928 Games. She was 102 years old. (WR)

Hari Pal Kaushik (IND), *2 February 1934, †25 January 2018 in Jalandhar Cantonment. In addition to winning two Olympic gold medals in 1956 and 1964, Hari Pal Kaushik was on the Indian hockey team in 1960 that lost to Pakistan, but did not see action. Kaushik was Assistant Captain of the Indian team in 1964 and also in 1966 when India won the gold medal at the Asian Games. Nine times Kaushik played for the Service XI team in the All-India hockey tournaments, captaining the team four times.

Kaushik later became a hockey coach for the Sikh Regiment Centre team. He rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He also served as an administrator in the sport and a commentator on TV hockey matches. (OM)

Joseph Henry "JoJo" White (USA), *16 November 1915 in St. Louis, Miss., †16 January 2018 in Boston, Mass. A member of a Pan American gold medalist in 1967, an Olympic gold medalist in 1968, and an NBA champion in 1974 and 1976, White missed only an NCAA title to add to his trophies. But he tried, as he was the top player at Kansas in the late 60s, twice being named All-America and MVP of the Big Eight Conference.

In 1969, he was drafted first by the Boston Celtics with whom he played for 10 seasons. He had an excellent career as a pro, quarterbacking the

Celtics to two NBA titles. He also was named to the All-Rookie team in 1970, and was twice named NBA All-Star second team.

He was named to play in seven consecutive NBA All-Star games, from 1971 through 1977. "JoJo" finished out his career with two seasons with Golden State and Kansas City before retiring in 1981. He later went into college coaching. (BM)

Roderick 'Rody' Rijnders (NED), *1 March 1941 in Balikpapan/INA, †15 January 2018. When he started his rowing career in 1958 as a member of the Delft students rowing club LAGA. Rody Rijnders had no rowing background, did not know the difference between port and starboard and could not even swim. But he learned very fast and developed into one of the best and colourful coxswains in Dutch rowing history. He was always very dedicated to his rowers, paid attention to their eating habits and took care that he himself was far below the weight for a coxswain. He steered his LAGA club members Hadriaan van Nes and a far from fit Herman Suselbeek to a silver medal in the two with cox at the 1968 Olympics.

He will also be remembered for an incident during the 1967 European Championships in Mâcon, France. Unannounced Jeanne Beck, "Miss France 1967", entered the boats terrain and this gave so much commotion and distraction that it apparently irritated the Dutch rowers whereupon Rijnders threw "Miss France" into the water. A student's joke. The incident led up to the FISA measure, still in force, that no outsider can enter the boats terrain without permission. (RP)

Waltraud Kretzschmar (GDR), *1 February 1948 in Lehnin, †7 February 2018 in Berlin. A bank clerk by profession, she won Olympic handball silver in 1976 and bronze in 1980. She was a world champion three times (1971, 1975 and 1978), with SC Leipzig twice won the European

Cup of national champions (1966 and 1974) and ten times the national championship. She was the first GDR handball player to contest 200 international matches in 1978.

In 1972 she married her coach Peter Kretschmar, who had become 1963 world champion in field handball. Their son Stefan also became a handball player and won an Olympic silver medal in Athens in 2004. (VK)

Károly Palotai (HUN), *1 September 1935 in Békéscsaba, †3 February 2018 in Győr. Palotai played for 12 years for Vasas Győr, with whom he won the Hungarian football championship in 1965. A year before he was in the Hungarian team which became Olympic champion in Tokyo. In 1967 he had to end his sporting career because of a knee injury.

After that he was one of the few top players who became FIFA referees. He was used at three World Cups (1974, 1978, 1982) and two Olympic Games (1972 and 1976). In addition he officiated at two finals of the European Champions' Cup (1976 and 1981) and the European Cup Winners' Cup final of 1979. (VK)

Sergey Litvinov (URS), *23 January 1958 in Zukorova-Balka, Region Krasnodar, †19 February 2018 in Sochi. Litvinov grew up in Rostov-on-Don, where he began as a freestyle wrestler. At a youth sports school he was discovered for hammer throwing. After he had become runner-up in the European Junior Championships in 1977, he won in 1979 at the World Cup in Montreal. At the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow he won the silver medal behind his compatriot Jury Sedykh, who since 1986 has held the world record with 86.74.

Litvinov was twice world champion (1983 and 1987) and runner-up in the European Championships of 1986. Three times he threw world record between 1980 and 1983. His greatest success was in 1988 in Seoul, where he was Olympic champion.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union Litvinov came with his "ethnic German" wife as a "late emigrant" to Germany, where the former army officer experienced a disappointment, when the diploma he had acquired in Russia as a sports teacher was not recognised. In addition his marriage collapsed.

After the divorce Litvinov moved in 2001 to Belarus, where he received a position as trainer in Minsk. His son, who also became a hammer thrower, however returned to Germany in 2008, when he received permission to compete there. In 2009 he became German champion and fifth at the World Championships in Berlin.

When he was no longer promoted there from 2011, he returned with his father to Russia, for which country he won a bronze medal at the European Championships of 2014. (VK)

Yuriy Sergeevich Tyukalov (URS), *4 July 1930 in Leningrad / RUS, †19 February 2018 in St. Petersburg. Tyukalov got his first medal in 1942 in the Second World War during the 900 day siege of his home city by the Germans. The 12 year old had extinguished 30 incendiary bombs with sand, two of them with phosphorus.

Nine years later – in 1951 – Tyukalov travelled for the first time abroad – to East Berlin where the Student World Championships in rowing took place. He won a silver medal in the fours.

One year later Tyukalov created a sensation. Internationally still hardly known, in 1952 in Helsinki he became Olympic champion as the first Soviet rower in the single scull – in a German boat that was part of the Soviet war booty.

From 1951 to 1953 the student of the Leningrad Art Academy was Soviet champion. When in 1956 he had to pass the title to Vyacheslav Ivanov, he changed to the double sculls, in which together with Alexander Berkutov he also achieved Olympic gold in Melbourne. Four years later in Rome there followed a silver medal.



Together they won five consecutive European titles in 1956–61, the Henley Royal Regatta in 1957 and 1958, and the Soviet Championships in 1957 and 1961. Finally in 1962 he became USSR champion, this time with Ivanov.

Tyukalov worked until 1976 as a rowing coach. When he received the offer as a sculptor in Leningrad to create the "Square of Victory", he remembered the conclusion of his studies. For two years he worked on the memorial, into which he worked many personal war experiences. Tyukalov took his own studio (photo: Peter Frenkel). His preferred themes were Russian history. He created numerous metal reliefs among others for the memorial to the battle of 1812 in Borodino, the Kutusov grave, for Tolstoy, Peter I and the Cathedral of St. Petersburg. (VK)

BM = Bill Mallon, OM = OlyMADMen,
RC = Ross Collinge (Olympic rowing
champion in 1968), RP = Ruud Paauw,
VK = Volker Kluge, WR = Wolf Reinhardt

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