

Obituaries



Robert Lynn "Bob" Clotworthy (USA), *8 May 1931 in Newark, New Jersey; †1 June 2018 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The diver Bob Clotworthy attended the Ohio State University where he won 11 Big Ten, NCAA and AAU Championships before he crowned his career in 1956 as a member of the New York Athletic Club in Melbourne with the Olympic victory in the 3 m springboard. Previously he had achieved bronze medals at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki and at the 1955 Pan Am Games.

After retiring from competition, Clotworthy coached at West Point and Dartmouth. Then he returned to New Jersey, where at Princeton University among others he looked after the swimmers Jed Graef (1964 Olympic gold 200 m backstroke) and Ross Wales (Olympic bronze 1968 100 m butterfly).

In 1970 he joined the Peace Corps. With his family he lived in Caracas, Venezuela, where he trained coaches in diving. After his return to the United States he worked as a teacher at various universities. He ended his professional career in 2006 as youth trainer with the Taos Swim Club in New Mexico.

Clotworthy was a longtime ISOH member. In 1980 he was accepted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. (VK)

Alexander Kurlovich (URS), *28 July 1961 in Hrodna (BLR); †6 April 2018 in Hrodna. The Belarussian weightlifter continued the Soviet dominance in the unlimited class and claimed the title of world's strongest man by winning the super-heavyweight class at the 1988 and the 1992 Olympics, winning gold medals in both occasions. In 1996, he came in fifth.

Kurlovich first came to international prominence when he finished second at both the 1973 European and World Championships to his fellow Ukrainian Soviet, Anatoliy Pysarenko. In 1984, he and Pysarenko were considered as the main favorites for Olympic super-heavyweight gold, but they missed the Olympics due to the Soviet boycott. Later in 1984, both were arrested at Mirabel Airport in Montréal when customs officials searched their luggage and found anabolic steroids. The two were convicted by Canadian authorities and fined. Soviet officials dismissed them from the national team and stripped them of their status as "Masters of Sport", thus losing all the funding and benefits.

Kurlovich worked his way back to the Soviet national team. Despite no funding and no support from Soviet officials, Kurlovich made it back to the national team in 1987 and returned stronger than ever. He won the 1987 World Championship with a world record and repeated this victory in 1989, 1991, and 1994. He was also European super-heavyweight champion in 1989 and 1990.

During his career Kurlovich set 12 super-heavyweight world records: six in the snatch, two in the clean & jerk, and four in the total. In 2006 Kurlovich was elected to the International Weightlifting Federation Hall of Fame. (TK/WR)

Branislav Pokrajać (YUG), *27 January 1947 in Belgrade; †5 April 2018 in Belgrade. Pokrajać was considered the best left-winger in the world of handball in the 1970s.

He competed at two Olympics for Yugoslavia, leading them to the gold medal in 1972. During his club career he played for ORK Belgrade, Crvena Zvezda (Red Star), and Dinamo Pančevo. Pokrajać earned 180 caps, scoring 510 international goals, and also won bronze medals at the 1970 and 1974 World Championships.

He later became a renowned handball coach, leading Yugoslavia to Olympic gold in 1984, silver at the 1982 Worlds, and bronze at the 2001 World Cup. He coached several clubs in Yugoslavia, including Dinamo, Crvena Zvezda, Lovćen Cetinje, Partizan, Kretej, and Porto. He also coached overseas with Egypt, Qatar, Spain, and the USA. (BM/WR)

Albin Vidović (YUG), *11 February 1943 in Zagreb (CRO); †7 March 2018 in Bjelovar. Vidović was considered one of the best half left-wingers in the world of handball in the 1970s. He competed for Yugoslavia, helping them to the gold medal in 1972. During his club career he played for RK Partizan Bjelovar, winning six national championships and one national cup. He won the European Champions Clubs' Cup in 1972. He earned 36 caps, scoring 44 international goals. In 1977 he played for a half season for the West German Bundesliga club THW Kiel. (WR)

Rudolf Mang (FRG), *17 June 1950 in Bellenberg; †12 March 2018 in Bellenberg. Mang was a heavyweight lifter, whose duels with the Soviet athlete Vasili Alexeyev became legendary. He burst into the national scene fairly young with 14 years, when he dueled opponents four years older than himself. At the 1968 Games, he finished fifth in the heavyweight class and four years later in Munich he won the silver medal in the unlimited class.

He entered the podium winning silver medals also at the 1972 and 1973 World Championships in the unlimited class, and at the 1972

European Championships. Mang also won bronze medals at the 1971–73 European Championships. He set two unlimited world records: one in the press in 1972 and one in the snatch in 1973.

Mang later owned a company producing training tools and a sports studio. He died from a heart attack. (WR)

William Thomas “Bill” Smith (USA), *17 September 1928 in Portland, Oregon; †20 March 2018 in Humboldt, Iowa. The American wrestler won the gold medal in the welterweight freestyle event at the 1952 Olympics. While at Iowa Teacher’s College (now Northern Iowa), he won two NCAA championships in 1949 and 1950, and three straight AAU titles, starting in 1949.

After winning his gold medal, he continued to wrestle competitively, and at the 1956 Olympic Trials he became the only person to ever give Dan Hodge a decisive defeat. But Smith did not wrestle at Melbourne, because he was taken off the team when it was revealed that he had been paid to coach in an Illinois high school, which was then a violation of amateur status.

His career was as a high school teacher and he coached wrestling at both the high school and collegiate levels. (BM/WR)

Jiichirō Date (JPN), *6 January 1952 in Saiko, Prefecture Oita, †20 February 2018 in Chofu, Tokyo. The Japanese freestyle wrestler won the gold medal in the welterweight division at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, beating American Stan Dziedzic in the semifinals and Iran’s Mansoor Barzegar in the final. He won six of his seven matches by fall.

Four years earlier, in Munich, he went off in round three in the Greco-Roman welterweight. In 1973 he surprising won the World Cup. At the 1975 Worlds he claimed the bronze medal. Sadly, he never got the opportunity to defend his Olympic

title, as Japan joined the boycott of the Moscow Games in 1980.

After the 1980 Games, Date returned to Kokushikan to become the school’s coach. He also served in various coaching positions with the Japanese team in the late 1980s and was a member of the staff at the 1992 Olympics. From 2015, he was serving as general manager of Kokushikan’s sumo wrestling club. (WR/VK)

Arnaud Geyre (FRA), *21 April 1935 in Pau, Pyrénées-Atlantiques; †20 February 2018 in Château-Thierry, Aisne. The French road cyclist was selected for the national road race team in 1956. He finished eighth at the World Championship road race, and then at the Melbourne Olympics he helped his team to win the gold medal, finishing second individually in the road race to Italy’s Ercole Baldini.

Geyre turned professional and rode with Helyett from 1958–60, winning the 1958 Paris-Auxerre race, and two stages of the Tour de l’Aude. In 1959, he won the Boucles du Bas-Limousin and the Nocturne de la Liberation. In 1961, riding for Mercier/BP/Hutchinson, he won the GC at the Tour de l’Herault, and won another stage at Tour de l’Aude. He continued racing as a professional through 1963, but had no further major wins, and then retired. (BM)

Durward Knowles (BAH/GBR), *2 November 1917 in Nassau; †24 February 2018 in Nassau. Taught to sail at a young age by his father, Knowles’ first major success in the Star Class on the international scene came in 1946, when he won a bronze medal alongside Basil Kelly at that year’s World Championships. The following year, with Sloane Farrington, he took gold and was selected for his first of eight Olympic teams. In 1948, he represented Great Britain and came in fourth with Farrington, but from 1952 on, Knowles represented the Bahamas. In 1952, he and Farrington were fifth,

but they earned their first medal, bronze, in 1956, which became the nation’s first Olympic medal. Farrington remained with Knowles through 1960, when they placed sixth, and then retired in favour of Cecil Cooke.

At the 1964 Games, Knowles and Cooke won Bahamas’ first Olympic gold medal, its last medal of any colour until 1992, and its last Olympic title until 2000. Knowles competed with his stepbrother Percy in 1968 and Montague Higgs in 1972, placing fifth and thirteenth respectively.

When he made a surprise return at the 1988 Games, with Steven Kelly, he became one of only four Olympians at the time to have competed in eight editions of the Games (the others were Danish sailor Paul Elvstrøm and Italian equestrians Piero and Raimondo D’Inzeo). He was also one of only four Olympians at that time to have competed over a span of 40 years (the others were Elvstrøm, the Norwegian sailor Magnus Konow, and the Danish fencer Ivan Osier).

Knowles was the oldest competitor at the Games, carried the Bahamian flag in the Opening Ceremony, and finished 19th with a partner who had not even been born when Knowles had taken part in his first two Olympics.

In addition to his Olympic accomplishments, Knowles also took silver at the 1954 World Championships, with Farrington, gold at the 1959 Pan-American Games, again with Farrington, and bronze at the 1974 Worlds, with non-Olympian Gerald Ford.

Knowles received the Olympic Order in Silver in 1989 and was knighted in 1996 for his accomplishments. Upon the death of Sándor Tarics in May 2016, he became the oldest living Olympic champion. (BM/PT)

Roger Bannister (GBR), *23 March 1929 in Harrow, Greater London; †3 March 2018 in Oxford, Oxfordshire. Middle-distance runner Bannister started running seriously at Iffley



Road in 1946 when, as an undergraduate, he won the Oxford University Freshman's Mile, timed seven seconds under five minutes. He was considered for the 1948 London Olympics, but felt at age 19 he wasn't ready to compete at such a high level.

Two years later, in 1950, he won the 800 metres bronze medal at the European Championships. In 1951, he captured the first of four AAA titles, when he won the mile. He won the 880 yards in 1952 and the mile again in 1953 and 1954. At the 1952 Olympic Games he could only finish fourth in the 1500 metres.

In 1954, during the annual Oxford University versus the AAA race at the University's Iffley Road track, six runners set off on a mile race that would electrify the world. At the end of the race, with Bannister collapsing into the arms of the Reverend Nick Stacey, his fellow Olympian, the trackside announcer, Norris McWhirter, later of Guinness Book of Records fame, announced to the crowd: "The result of event number six, the one mile, winner R. G. Bannister of Exeter and Merton Colleges, in a time which will be a new English record, a new track record, a new British Empire Commonwealth record, a European record, a world record – in three ..." The rest of the time could not be heard above the cheering and applause of the crowd, who had witnessed the breaking of the four-minute barrier in the mile. McWhirter eventually read out the remainder of the time which was: "Three minutes, 59.4 seconds."

Bannister obtained his medical degree in 1955, when he was awarded the CBE, and also published his first book *The First Four Minutes*. Bannister was soon established in his profession as a consultant physician before he started training in neurology after completing his two years National Service in 1959. He became one of the Britain's leading neurologists. Bannister was knighted for his services to sport in 1975, and

was made a Companion of Honour in the 2017 New Year's Honours. The Iffley Road track at Oxford is now rightly called the Roger Bannister running track in Bannister's honour. (IM/NWR)

Liz Chase (ZIM), *26 April 1950 in Mutare (ZIM); †9 May 2018 in Johannesburg (RSA). Liz Chase was born in Umtali (later renamed Mutare) in the far east of Rhodesia but was educated in Salisbury, the capital city. During her time at the Salisbury Girls High School she represented the national schools hockey team from 1966, and then graduated to the under 21 and full international teams. Chase then went to university in South Africa to study physical education and, during her studies, played firstly for the state team then the South African B team. Finally, in 1976, she was called to play for the South African national team.

With no sign of sanctions being lifted against South Africa and the newly renamed Zimbabwe emerging from its own sporting ban, Chase returned to her native country to teach physical education at one of Harare's girls schools whilst continuing her hockey career at Old Hararians HC.

Zimbabwe was late invitees to the Moscow Olympics, when the women's tournament was decimated by the Western boycott. With Chase installed as vice-captain, the team was unbeaten as they strode to the most unlikely gold in Olympic hockey history. Shortly after the Olympics she returned to South Africa, where she eventually became the head of the Physical Education Department at Wits University until her retirement at age 65 in 2015. Unfortunately, she was struck with a serious illness shortly afterwards and died in 2018. (IM)

Evert Kroon (NED), *9 September 1946 in Hilversum; †2 April 2018 in Hilversum. Kroon was considered one of the world's best goalkeepers in water polo. Participating with the

Dutch team in the Olympics of 1968, 1972 and 1976 Kroon's finest hour came during the Montreal Games. Thanks greatly to Kroon, who did one formidable save after another, the Dutch succeeded in eliminating world champion Soviet Union (3-2). After the match the Russian coach described Kroon as 'an octopus with arms that reached from goal post tot goalpost'. Later on in the tournament the Dutch team, under the legendary coach Ivo Trumbi, captured the bronze medal which no one in the Netherlands had expected.

Kroon was a member of HZC De Robben which won many national titles. (RP)

Eugène Van Roosbroeck (BEL), *13 May 1928 in Noorderwijk; †28 March 2018 in Noorderwijk. The Belgian racing cyclist became 12th individual at the 1948 Olympics in London in the cycling road race. Together with his teammates Lode Wouters (3rd place) and Léon DeLathouwer (4th) he became Olympic champion in the team race. The result was calculated by the addition of the individual times.

The race in Greater Windsor Park was adversely affected by rain and storm and a bad course. Of 101 racers only 28 crossed the line. Many had to quit because of damage to tyres. After that the chaos continued. As a result the team race was not announced, and so the next day the Belgian riders set off for home without their medals. Only later did they find out they had won.

Over 50 years later – in 2010 – did Van Roosbroeck read in the newspaper that the Belgian sailor André Nelis, who lost his two Olympic medals (silver 1956, bronze 1960) in a fire, had received replacement medals from IOC President Jacques Rogge. Thereupon Van Roosbroeck enquired of the Belgian NOC where his gold medal was. But as it could not be found, Rogge handed the 82 year old a copy on 4th June 2010,



which later Wouters also received. For DeLathouwer, the honour came too late. He had died in 2008.

After the 1948 Olympics Van Roosbroeck changed to the professional ranks, riding in the pro peloton through 1955. He rode a few one-day classics but never finished near the top. His best professional performances came in minor races, with a second at Roubaix-Huy in 1951 and third at Kessel-Lier in 1955. (BM/VK)

Sven-Olov Sjödelius (SWE), *13 June 1933 in Svärta; †29 March 2018 in Nyköping. Sjödelius was a Swedish canoeist, who won gold medals both at the 1960 and 1964 Olympics in the K-2 1000 metres teaming with the legendary Gert Fredriksson and with Gunnar Utterberg. His nephews Anders and Bengt Andersson were also race canoeists.



A trained mechanic, he had won silver at the World Championships in 1950 (with the K-4 1000 metres), 1963 (K-1 0,000 metres) and a bronze in 1958 with the K-1 4x500 relay. (WR)

Brigitte Ahrenholz (GDR), *8 August 1952 in Potsdam; †3 March 2018 in Werder/Havel. As a medical student who rowed for the Sport Club Berlin-Grünau, Brigitte Ahrenholz celebrated her greatest successes in the eights: in 1971 she became runner-up in the European Championships, in 1974 world champion and in 1976 Olympic gold medallist. In 1973, she won the European title in the double fours.

She was also successful in her

profession. After her studies she achieved a doctorate in 1983. She worked as a surgeon in the city hospital in Berlin. In the early 1990s she opened her own practice in Werder near Potsdam. She continued to take an interest in rowing. She was president of the local rowing club.

Dr. Ahrenholz was seen alive for the last time on the evening of 3rd March 2018. The next day she was reported missing by her daughter. One month later her body was found in the reeds of a lake. The police, who had also brought in the media in their search, assumed it was suicide. (VK)

Mait Riisman (URS), *23 September 1956 in Tallinn (EST); †17 May 2018 in Moscow. The Estonian began with water polo in 1966 with Kalev Tallinn. With the beginning of his study of journalism, speciality television, he moved to Moscow, where he played for the sports club Burevestnik and became Soviet champion in 1979.

The halfback was member of the USSR national team from 1978, he also won the Spartakiad tournament. In 1979 and in 1980 he became Olympic champion.

From 1989 to 1991, Riisman managed the team of Dynamo Moscow and became vice-coach of the Soviet national team. Then he went to Paris, where he looked after the Racing Club de France (1991-1996). After his return he came chief trainer of Dynamo Moscow, whose team won the European Cup in 2000 and became the four-time Russian champions (1998, 2000-2002). In 2001 he was elected president of the Dynamo water polo club and in 2005 chairman of the trainers' council of the Russian swimming federation.

As a member of the conservative people's party, Riisman was a candidate at the communal elections in Tallinn. But he received only 0.6% of the votes cast. He was the author of several publications, among them a novel with the title *Veepalluri (The Water Polo Player)*, which appeared in 2015. (VK)

Viktor Nikolayevich Shamburkin (URS), *12 October 1931 in Leningrad; †11 May 2018 in Moscow. The sports marksman achieved his first Soviet title in 1957. In 1958 he became world champion in three positions with the small caliber rifle in the individual as well as in the team. At the 1960 Olympics he won the gold medal in this discipline, in which he equalled the world record with 1139 points.

Shamburkin, who was a member of the paramilitary sports club, DOSAAF in Leningrad, repeated his national successes in 1964 and 1968, yet at the Olympic Games of 1964 he did no better than ninth place (three positions event) and 21st (small calibre rifle, prone 60 shots). After he had become Soviet champion for the last time in 1971 and 1972, he became chief trainer of the national team. (VK)

Aureliano Bolognesi (ITA), *15 November 1930 in Sestri Ponente; †30 March 2018 in Genoa. Bolognesi was the Italian lightweight boxing champion of 1951 and 1952, coming into the Helsinki Games. In his first match, he faced the tournament favourite Bobby Bickle, and beat the American in a close fight in a 2-1 decision. Winning his next three bouts, Bolognesi returned home with the gold medal.

With an excellent amateur record (just 1 defeat and 4 draws in 151 fights), he turned pro. His career was mostly confined to Italy, and he wound up with 17 wins in 21 fights.

After working as a colleague with the Italian boxing federation, he founded his own boxing school. (BM)

BM = Bill Mallon, IM = Ian Morrison,
PT = Paul Tchir, RP = Ruud Paauw,
TK = Taavi Kalju, VK = Volker Kluge,
WR = Wolf Reinhardt



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