

# OBITUARIES

**Viktor Danilovich Saneyev (URS)**, \*3 October 1945 in Sukhumi, Georgia; †2 January 2022 in Sydney. The most successful triple jumper in the world also comes from Abkhazia, where he grew up on the Black Sea coast. His mother was a Cossack who raised him with an iron hand. After World War II, his father, a veteran, returned home an invalid and was bedridden for the rest of his life. He died when his son was 15 years old.

Saneyev attended a boarding school in Leselidze for six years, where the triple jump was part of his physical education classes. Because some elite Soviet athletes, such as Olympic high-jump champion Valeri Brumel, were training close by at this time, his interest in athletics grew. He met coach Akop Kerselyan, who became like a second father. After being accepted into the Dynamo Tbilisi sports club, he became the world's best within two years.

Saneyev was Olympic champion three times in a row from 1968 to 1976. His first victory was in Mexico City in 1968, in a memorable competition in which three athletes broke the world record four times within the space of an hour. He won his second gold medal in Munich in 1972, defeating Jörg Drehmel (GDR), against whom he had lost at the European Championships a year earlier – one of his few defeats. His third victory followed in Montreal in 1976. Despite an operation on his Achilles tendon a year later, he won another silver medal at the end of his sporting career as runner-up to his Estonian teammate Jaak Uudmäe in Moscow in 1980.

Saneyev, who also became European champion twice (1969, 1974) and European indoor champion six times (1970–1977), graduated from the Georgian State University of Subtropical Agriculture and Tbilisi State University. After graduating, he coached Soviet triple jumpers for four



years, after which he became coach at his local club, Dynamo Tbilisi. He lost his job when civil war broke out in Georgia in the early 1990s.

Saneyev emigrated to Australia with his family. He tried his hand at delivering pizza until he found a job as a physical education teacher at St. Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, and then as a coach at the New South Wales Institute of Sport. (VK)

**Earle Wells (NZL)**, \*27 October 1933 in Auckland; †1 October 2021 in Whakatane. When Earle Wells sought a skipper in 1961 for his Flying Dutchman class yacht, *Pandora*, and settled on a Danish émigré, Helmer Pedersen, an Olympic champion combination was born. Pedersen had been a reserve in the 1960 team and a reserve for Denmark at the 1952 Olympics. The new pair won the 1964 Olympic trials in *Pandora* but got off to a slow start in the racing in Sagami Bay on the outskirts of Tokyo. They were 16<sup>th</sup> in the first race and failed to finish the second. But their fortunes changed, and in the ensuing racing, they gained three firsts, a third and a fourth – enough to give them the gold medal, the second won by New Zealand sailors at an Olympics.

In the late 1960s, Wells took up the challenge of ocean racing, first helming *Anticipation* and then *Condor*. He was to sail in five Sydney to Hobart races, the Clipper Cup series off Honolulu, and many other great ocean races. In 1972, he and his wife Jean bought a furniture factory and ran it until 1990, when they moved to Whakatane to farm deer. (OM)

**Anatoli Alyabyev (URS)**, \*12 December 1951 in Danilovo (RUS); †11 January 2022 in St. Petersburg. Alyabyev won his only Soviet title in 1979 in the 20 km and made his international debut the next year at the 1980 Winter Olympics, where he was very successful, medalling in all three biathlon events, winning gold in the 20 km and relay and bronze in the 10 km. At the World Championships, Alyabyev won two bronzes, both in the relay in 1981 and 1982. He also won silver at the 1980–81 World Cup.

After his sporting career, he became a biathlon coach, working with the Russian national team from 1990–98. Alyabyev graduated in 1981 from the Military Institute of Physical Culture in Leningrad and received a candidate degree in pedagogy in 1997. From 1998, he was a professor at his alma mater, publishing over 30 scientific papers. He died from COVID-19 at the age of 70. (TK)

**Mino De Rossi (ITA)**, \*21 May 1931 in Arquata Scrivia; †7 January 2022 in Genoa. The track cyclist was a logical member of the Italian pursuit team who won the Olympic gold medal in 1952. After the Games, he again reached the pursuit final at the World Championships, finishing second this time. He then turned professional and embarked on a long career, on both the road and the track. He was mainly successful at six-day events, winning twice (Buenos Aires 1959, Montréal 1963). As an amateur in 1950, De Rossi also broke the world hour record, setting it at 42.481 km.

De Rossi turned professional in 1952 with the Bianchi team of

Fausto Coppi, with whom he shared a physical likeness. De Rossi was third in the 1954 Giro di Lombardia behind Coppi and Fiorenzo Magni. A fractured pelvis resulted in De Rossi returning to track racing, and in 1962 he joined the Ignis team alongside Domenico De Lillo, Antonio Maspes, and Valentino Gasparella. He remained a pro until 1967, and after ending his career, became the Genova salesman for Michelin tyres, who were very much linked to cycling in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He also collaborated with his friend Angelo Gnecco in the organisation of the Giro della Liguria for amateurs. *(OM)*

**Heidi Biebl (FRG)**, \*17 February 1941 in Oberstaufen; †20 January 2022 in Immenstadt im Allgäu. Heidi Biebl grew up without a father, as he had died on the Eastern Front during World War II. After her mother taught her to ski, she was invited to take a course in skiing for the first time at the age of 13. After secondary school, she completed an apprenticeship as a retailer at a Bavarian ski factory, whose brand she also used.



National coach Fritz Huber, who was an Austrian, recognised Biebl's talent when she became a three-time German youth champion in 1958. "Struppi", as she was called, due to her shaggy blonde hair, won the adult giant slalom for the first time a year later. Overall, she won 15 national championship titles.

She celebrated her greatest success as a 19-year-old at Squaw

Valley in 1960, where she became the Olympic champion in downhill skiing with the start No. 1. On the other hand, the French, who presented the sensational metal ski, did not win any medals. Four years later, Biebl finished fourth in the downhill and slalom at the Innsbruck Winter Games and was disqualified in the giant slalom. After a disagreement with the German Ski Association, who failed to nominate her for the World Championships in Portillo in 1966, she ended her career.

Biebl was married to the Swiss junior champion Werner Schmid from 1964 to 1968. Together they opened a spa hotel in Oberstaufen and a ski school, where Biebl taught children to ski. In 1974, she married Croatian musician Borislav Prelević. *(VK)*

**Benjamin Kogo (KEN)**, \*30 November 1944 in Arwos; †20 January 2022 in Eldoret. Kogo won the silver medal in the 3,000 m steeplechase event at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. He had already won the East African Championships in 1964 and again in 1967 and 1968. At the 1966 Commonwealth Championships, he earned the bronze medal. He died from prostate cancer in 2022. *(WR)*

**Rolf-Dieter Amend (GDR)**, \*21 March 1949 in Magdeburg; †4 January 2022 in Potsdam. Trained as a chemical plant engineer, Amend learned how to canoe in a folding boat on a canal on the Elbe River. As an 18-year-old soldier, he joined the Leipzig Army Sports Club, where he and Walter Hofmann formed a two-person team (C 2) in the canoe slalom. Both won the East German championships in 1969; two years later, they were runner-up at the World Championships. In 1972, they became the first Olympic champions in this discipline at their Olympic premiere.

After 1972, the canoe slalom was not part of the Olympic programme again until 1992. In the meantime, "Achmed", as he was called, ended his competitive sports career. He

completed a degree in sports studies and became a canoe racing coach in Potsdam, where he trained the Olympic kayak doubles champions Kai Bluhm and Thorsten Gutsche. In 1991, he was appointed national coach but had to resign after suffering a heart attack. After recovering, he mentored many successful canoeists, including Ronald Rauhe and Tim Wieskötter. He was involved in nine Olympic victories in total. *(VK)*

**Jerry Shipp (USA)**, \*27 September 1935 in Shreveport, Louisiana; †5 October 2021 in Durant, Oklahoma. Shipp attended Southeastern State College in Durant, Oklahoma and was named All-American four times, but his best days as a basketball player came in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) leagues. After college, he played for the Phillips 66ers and helped them win several national AAU championships. As a member of the 66ers, he won a gold medal at the 1963 Pan-American Games and was named to the 1964 Olympic team. Shipp spent his career with the Phillips Company in the sales training programme and also coached high school and youth basketball. *(BM)*

**Ketevan "Keto" Losaberidze (URS)**, \*1 August 1949 in Tqibuli (GEO), †23 January 2022 in Tbilisi. Georgian Losaberidze was one of the best female Soviet archers in the 1970s. During her career, she competed at two Olympic Games, finishing fourth in 1972 and taking gold in 1980, becoming the first and only Soviet Olympic gold medal winner in archery.

Losaberidze also won world team titles in 1973 and 1981, the European individual title in 1972, and European team titles in 1972, 1978, and 1980. She won two individual Soviet titles in 1973 and 1979 and took five individual bronzes at the Soviet Championships (1971–72, 1974–75, 1981) and the Soviet Cup twice in 1972 and 1978. She was selected as the best Georgian athlete of the year in 1980 and was

named fourth in the vote for the best Georgian female athlete of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After her sporting career, Losaberidze worked as a professor of mathematics at the Tbilisi State University and from 2002 to 2005 the president of the Georgian Archery Federation. *(OM)*

**Lothar Claesges (FRG)**, \*3 July 1942 in Krefeld; †12 November 2021 in Krefeld. Claesges, a track cyclist, finished sixth in the 1,000 m time trial at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. His greatest moment came when he won a gold medal with the German pursuit team, beating Italy by a very close margin of .07 s. It was impossible to tell who had won at the finish, and the jury conferred for 10 minutes before announcing that his team was the gold medallist. All four cyclists came from West Germany.

Later, during a six-day training session, Claesges collided with a car and was severely injured, after which he retired immediately. Domestically he won six national titles. He was a furniture maker by profession. *(WR)*

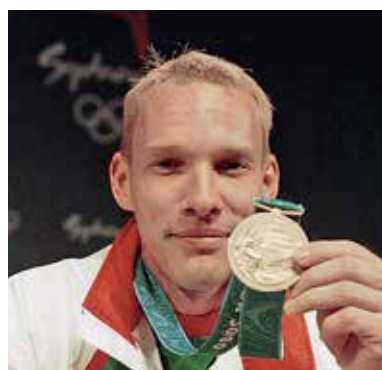
**Viktor Mazin (URS)**, \*18 June 1954 in Chernovskiy Kopi, Zabaykalsky Krai (RUS); †8 January 2022 in Minusinsk. Mazin grew up in Shakhtinsk in a dysfunctional family and, at the age of 16, was imprisoned for theft. While Mazin was working as an electrician in a mine, weightlifting coach Nikolai Snegurov took him under his wing. Mazin worked hard and almost immediately began to show good results. His best year was 1980 when he won his only Soviet title (featherweight) and was selected for that year's Olympic team. At the Games, Mazin set six of his seven world records, three in snatch, one in clean & jerk, and two in total, as he won Olympic gold, which also doubled as a World Championship gold.

Mazin, who set one more featherweight world record in snatch in 1981, won silver at the Soviet Championships in 1979 and 1981, and

won the Soviet featherweight cups in 1978 and 1982, the latter marking the end of his career.

He then moved to the Krasnoyarsk Territory with his brother and sister and worked in the timber industry. Unfortunately, he again ended up in prison, and after his release settled in a distant village in northern Russia. Mazin died of throat cancer in 2022. *(AC)*

**Szilveszter Csollány (HUN)**, \*13 April 1970 in Sopron; †24 January 2022 in Budapest. The Hungarian gymnast won the gold medal on the rings at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, his third Games. He also won the silver medal on the rings four years earlier in Atlanta and placed sixth at his first Olympics in Barcelona in 1992.



In 2002, he was world champion on the rings after winning five silver medals in earlier years. In 1998, he was European champion and won one more silver and four bronze medals, all on the rings.

Csollány later lived in Iceland, where he worked as a gymnastics coach. From 2014 to 2015 he worked in Switzerland and then in Austria. He fell ill from COVID-19 in November 2021. *(WR)*

**Hans-Jürgen Dörner (GDR)**, \*25 January 1951 in Görlitz; †19 January 2022 in Dresden. Trained as a lathe operator, Dörner joined the Dynamo Dresden football team in 1967. From 1969 to 1974, he played in the East German junior squad in the position of libero. In the same year, he debuted

in the senior national team playing against Chile (0–1), even though he hadn't played a single game in the 1<sup>st</sup> division up to then.

The highlight of his career was the 1976 Olympic victory in Montreal, where the East German team defeated Poland 3–1 in the finals. He missed the 1974 World Cup in West Germany, when his team defeated the hosts and eventual world champion 1–0 in the first round, as he was suffering from jaundice at the time.

The football athlete from Saxony played 392 games for Dynamo Dresden in the first division and 65 games in the European Cup. After playing his 100<sup>th</sup> international match in 1985, he was dismissed from the national team, where he had long served as its captain. He went on to get a degree in sports studies and became a coach. Among other things, he worked as an assistant coach for the national team from 1994, the Werder Bremen Bundesliga team (1996/97), and the Egyptian champion team Al Ahly Cairo from 2000. *(VK)*

**Warren Jay "Rex" Cawley (USA)**, \*6 July 1940 in Detroit, Michigan; †5 January 2022. At the 1959 AAU, Rex Cawley made track history by becoming the only athlete ever to place in the first six in all three hurdles events. As an 18-year-old high school student, he finished fifth in the 110 y, third in the 220 y, and sixth in the 440 y hurdles. In the fall of 1959, Cawley entered Southern Cal. After failing to make the 1960 Olympic team, he had excellent seasons in 1961 and 1962 despite injury problems in those years. In 1963, he enjoyed a full season and won the AAU and NCAA 440 y hurdles, also placing second in the open quarter at the NCAA with a career best of 46.0. In 1964, Cawley set a world record of 49.1 for the intermediate hurdles and went on to win the Olympic title. His last major championship came in 1965 when he won the AAU. Cawley later worked in the medical/electronics industry and became a travel agent. *(BM)*

**Dorothy Manley (GBR)**, \*29 April 1927 in West Ham, Greater London; †31 October 2021 in Ilford. Dorothy Manley took up athletics during school but had to wait until after World War II to represent Great Britain in international competition. Despite finishing fifth in the 100 m event at the 1948 national championships, she was selected for the delegation to that year's London Olympics and won a surprising silver medal behind the legendary Fanny Blankers-Koen (NED). She was also a member of the 4x100 m relay that placed fourth.

In 1950 Manley won her only national title, in the 200 m, which gained her a spot on the 1950 British Empire Games team. At those Games, she took silver in the 220–110–220–110 y relay and bronze in the 110–220–110 y relay, in addition to placing fourth in the high jump and being eliminated in the heats of the 100 and 220 y races. At that year's European Championships, she helped win the 4x100 m relay with June Foulds-Paul, Jean Desforges, and the non-Olympian Elspeth Hay. She took the bronze in the 200 m. After setting a world record in the 4x220 m relay in 1951, Manley retired the following year due to a thyroid condition.

After her first husband, Peter Hall, died in 1973, she married John Parlett, a teammate from the London Games. She taught the piano for many years. (OM)

**Vyatcheslav Vedenin (URS)**, \*1 October 1941 in Sloboda, Tula Oblast (RUS); †22 October 2021 in Moscow. Vedenin, whose father died in the Second World War, was one of the best long-distance cross-country skiers in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He made his first international appearance at the 1966 World Championships, where he was sixth at 50 km and eighth in the 15 km. At the 1968 Olympics, Vedenin won the only medal among Soviet male skiers by finishing second in the 50 km. In Grenoble, he was fourth in the relay and 14<sup>th</sup> at 30 km. At the 1970 World



Championships, Vedenin won two golds: in the 30 km and relay, and one silver over 50 km.

At the 1972 Olympics, Vedenin first won gold in the 30 km, becoming the first Soviet male skier to win an individual Olympic title, and then placed third behind Norwegians Pål Tyldum and Magne Myrmo in the 50 km. Three days after his bronze in the 50 km, he skied the anchor leg for the Soviets in the relay. After three legs, the Norwegians had a comfortable lead, over a minute ahead of the Soviet Union, but Vedenin managed to reduce the gap to only 30 seconds after 5 km, and he continued to increase his pace, catching Norwegian anchor Johs Harviken only 100 m from the line. Harviken fell while trying to counterattack and Vedenin, with the fastest leg of the competition, won an Olympic relay gold for the Soviet Union, ten seconds ahead of Norway. In 1972, Vedenin also won the Vasaloppet and continued to ski a few more seasons until an injury ended his sporting career. Domestically, he won 13 Soviet titles – one at 15 km (1969), four at 50 km (1967–69, 1972), two at 70 km (1969, 1970) and six in the relay (1966, 1968–70, 1972, 1973).

After his competitive career, Vedenin spent 12 years as the head coach of Dynamo's women's team. From 1989 to 2003, he worked as a physical education teacher at the Institute of Physics of the Earth of the Russian Academy of Sciences. His son, Vyatcheslav Vedenin, Jr., recited the Olympic oath at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics. (OM)

**Hans-Peter Lanig (FRG)**, \*7 December 1935 in Bad Hindelang; †28 January 2022 in Bad Hindelang. The Bavarian Alpine ski racer finished fifth in the downhill despite a fall on the track and placed seventh in the giant slalom at the 1956 Winter Olympics. Four years later, he won a silver medal in the downhill while finishing seventh in the slalom but was a disappointing 13<sup>th</sup> in the giant slalom. Domestically he won seven titles.

Between 1960 and 1962, he worked in various hotels in the US. A few years later, he took over his parents' café in Oberjoch and expanded it into a sports hotel. He also was head coach of the West German Alpine national team from 1962 to 1966. His sister was the alpine skier Evi Lanig. She married, making him the brother-in-law of the 1952 bobsleigh Olympic champion, Lorenz Nieberl. (WR)

**Olga Szabo-Orban (ROU)**, \*9 October 1938 in Cluj-Napoca; †5 January 2022 in Budapest (HUN). The Romanian fencer took part in five Olympics. At the 1956 Games, she reached the finals in singles, where she finished first with six victories together with Gillian Sheen (GBR). In the barrage, she lost to Sheen and thus received the silver medal.

In Rome in 1960 and Tokyo in 1964, she placed in the top ten in both individual and team competitions, as well as in individual competitions in Mexico City in 1968. In the team competition, she moved into the semifinals, in which the Romanian team lost to Hungary. In the battle for bronze, she then prevailed against France. At the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972, she finished the team competition with a bronze medal. She married water polo player Alexandru Szabo. (WR)

AC = Andrey Chitikin, BM = Bill Mallon, OM = OlyMADMen, TK = Taavi Kalju, VK = Volker Kluge, WR = Wolf Reinhardt

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