

## Maxi Baier-Herber

\*8 October 1920 in Munich †20 October 2006 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen



As Maxi HERBER, she became Olympic champion at pair skating together with Ernst BAIER in Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936. The architect Ernst BAIER, born in 1905, had placed second at the single competition in Lake Placid four years before. In November 1932 the pair trained together for the first time and a few months later they already became German Champions. In 1934 they placed third at the

world championship. When Maxi HERBER became Olympic champion, she was only 15 years old. To this day, she has been the youngest female Olympic champion in winter sports. Then the pair became world champions from 1936 to 1939 and European champions from 1935 to 1939. They also won seven German titles. In 1940 they married. They had three children. During the war they became professionals and like many artists they entertained the soldiers behind the front lines. In 1947 they began a new career starting at ice shows. A year later, they founded the *Eisballett Baier* (ice ballet Baier). Whenever and wherever they started they competed with *Holiday on Ice*. In August 1963 their tent burnt down, probably due to arson. In the same year they divorced. After that Ernst BAIER worked as a coach from 1965. Maxi BAIER became an ice skating instructor for people who went to Garmisch-Partenkirchen for a health cure. Later she lived on welfare and on the *Deutsche Sporthilfe* (German Sports Foundation). She spent her last years in an old people's and nursing home.

She sold her gold medal and gave the proceeds to an Israeli foundation to aid the surviving victims of the Holocaust.

*Karl Lennartz*