

Obituaries



Nino Bibbia (ITA), *15 March 1922 in Brianzone, Lombardy; †28 May 2013 in St. Moritz. The Italian moved as a ten year old with his family 50 km away to St. Moritz in Switzerland, where he attended the same school as the later 1948 Olympic champion in alpine skiing Edy Reinalter. For the Winter Games of 1948 Bibbia was originally only selected for the bobs competitions, but after he had set a course record in December 1947 on the legendary skeleton course "Cresta Run", he was nominated for that sport as well, in which he won the first gold medal for Italian winter sports. With the four-man

bob he was sixth, in the two-man eighth. Bibbia was also Swiss champion at the luge, but acquired his greatest fame with 232 victories on the skeleton as "King of the Cresta Run". The greengrocer raced for the last time in 1996 as a 74 year old. (VK)

Vladimir Romanovsky (URS), *21 June 1957 in Slonim/BLR; †13 May 2013 in Minsk/BLR. The canoeist as a 19 year old won Olympic gold with the Ukrainian Sergey Nagorny in the K-2 class over 1000 m, over 500 m both were second. In '981 he became world champion over 10,000 m: 1981 in K-2, 1982 in K-4. From 1993 to 1995 he was head coach of the Belarus national canoe team. (VK)

Edward G. Stevens, Jr. (USA), *15 September 1932 in St. Louis, Missouri; †9 June 2013 in Tucson, Arizona. Appointed from the Naval Academy, the rower won a gold medal in eights at the 1952 Olympics. After graduation he became a naval officer. (VK)

Judit Ágoston Mendelényiné (HUN), *21 January 1937 in Miskolc; †12 May 2013 in Göd. After she had become runner-up in the 1961 World Championships in Turin with the Hungarian foil team under her

maiden name, she was absent in Gdańsk when the team won the title. Her greatest success was the Olympic gold medal in the team competition in 1964 in Tokio. The medical doctor was married to the 1960 Olympic champion in sabre, Dr. Tamás Mendelényi (1936-1999). (VK)

Sharon Marie Stouder (USA), *9 November 1948 in Altadena, Calif.; †23 June 2013 in Pismo Beach, Calif. Fifteen-year-old Sharon Stouder from Glendora High School in California was the surprise swimmer of the 1964 Olympics. She was the unexpected winner of the 100 m butterfly, defeating the highly favored Ada Kok and depriving the Dutch girl of her world record into the bargain. In



Lionel Peters, a member of ISOH, who passed away on 18 July aged 76, was a chartered accountant by profession, but had a wide range of sporting and artistic interests. He was particularly involved for many years in recording the results of junior participants in athletics, publishing World Junior Athletics News which provided detailed results, lists and other statistics specifically about junior age groups worldwide. He later set up a dedicated website to the subject.

However, in March 1999, covering the World Junior Cross Country

Championships in Belfast, he had a bad fall in which he severely injured a leg. During a necessary operation he suffered two heart attacks, possibly brought on by errors in treatment, and nearly died. The doctors wanted to withdraw life support, but his wife, Sigrid, refused to let them. Happily he recovered, but was in poor health for the rest of his life. He had to stop much of his junior athletics research and publication, but always had an abiding interest in the subject. He was also an Arsenal fan, and had other wide interests which included chess,

theatre, cinema, opera and jazz, plus a deep knowledge of the lyrics of Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter etc.

He was a member of the ATFS (Association of Track and Field Statisticians) and the NUTS (National Union of Track Statisticians) Executive Committee.

He was particularly proud of the fact that his WJAN of May 2001 had the first published mention of an Usain Bolt, who finished second in the Jamaican High School Championships under-18 200 m final.

By his good friend and colleague.

Stan Greenberg

the 100 m freestyle she nearly caused an even greater upset, finishing only 0.4 seconds down to the great Dawn Fraser. In taking the silver medal she became the second woman to break the one-minute barrier. Stouder would later graduate from Stanford. In 1984 she was honoured by lighting the Olympic torch at the Stanford Stadium for the football events that were held there. (OM)

Denis Brodeur (CAN), *12 October 1930 in Montreal; †26 September 2013 in Montreal. Although goalie Denis Brodeur has spent nearly his entire life involved with Canadian ice hockey, his time as a player is probably the least notable aspect of his career. A Montreal, Quebec native, he shifted teams on an almost yearly basis as a senior-level goaltender, suiting up with the Saint John Beavers of the Maritime Senior Hockey League (1950-1951), the Chicoutimi Saguenéens of the Quebec Hockey League (1952-1954), the Kitchener-Waterloo Dutchmen of the Ontario Senior Hockey League (1954-1956), the Buffalo Bisons of the American Hockey League (1957-1958), and finally the Charlotte Clippers of the Eastern Hockey League (1958-1959). With the Dutchmen he won the 1955 Allan Cup, given annually in Canada to the top men's ice hockey team, and earned the right to represent Canada at the 1956 Winter Olympics. After hanging up his skates Brodeur became a professional photographer and spent many years as the official photographer for the Montreal Canadiens. His son Martin became a goalie in the NHL, as well as an Olympic gold medal winner, and was one of the most decorated net minders in hockey history. (OM)

Vasile Tiță (ROU), *21 February 1928 in Bucharest; †24 June 2013 in Bucharest. The high point of his career was at his first major international tournament, the 1952 Olympic Games, where he reached the

middleweight final, where he was knocked out by Floyd Patterson (USA) after a minute of boxing. At the 1953 and 1957 European Championships, he lost in the first round and at the 1955 European Championships, he reached the quarter-finals. Domestically, he won seven consecutive Romanian titles from 1951-57, six of them as a light-middleweight and one, in 1954, as a middleweight. (OM)



Torbjørn Falkanger (NOR), *8 October 1927 in Trondheim; †16 July 2013 in Trondheim. Falkanger emerged as Norway's best ski jumper in 1949 when he was national champion and also won the prestigious Holmenkollen event. In 1950 he repeated his wins and placed fifth at the World Championships in Lake Placid. At the Oslo Olympics in 1952, where he took the Olympic Oath, he was in the lead after the first jump, but eventually finished second behind his teammate Arnfinn Bergmann.

In 1954 he was Norwegian champion for the third time and placed sixth at the World Championships in Falun. He was one of the main candidates for the Norwegian Olympic team in 1956, but was severely injured in a qualification contest in Holmenkollen before the Games and had to give up his ski jumping career.

Falkanger worked with his family shoe firm Falkanger Sko AS in Trondheim as CEO and chairman of the board in his professional career. (OM)

Bernadette "Det" de Beus (NED), *18 February 1958 in Utrecht; †21 July 2013 in Rijswijk. As goalkeeper of the Dutch women's hockey team, she won the Olympic gold medal in 1984, the 1978, 1983 and 1986 World Cups, the 1984 and 1987 European Championships and the 1987 Champions Trophy. She was also a member of the victorious Dutch team at the 1979 IFWHA World Championships. Always competing for Eindhoven, she never won a national title, which was always won by HGC or Amsterdam during her career. De Beus, who played her last international match at the 1988 Olympics, later worked in several manager positions, including the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Dutch inline skating federation (as interim president) and a seal rehabilitation centre. (OM)

Henry William "Bill" Hoskyns (GBR), *19 March 1931 in London; †4 August 2013 in North Perrott, Somerset. A farmer who kept fruit orchards near the tiny Somerset village of North Perrott, Bill Hoskyns vies with his contemporary Allan Jay the title of Britain's greatest ever fencer. A veteran of a British record six Olympic Games between 1956 and 1976, he was the first British man to win a world title when he took the épée gold medal at the 1958 World Championships in Philadelphia. Hoskyns was educated at Eton and Oxford, and later served as a Major in the Army. He was awarded an MBE in 1966 for his services to sport and served as Vice-President of British Fencing. (OM)

Stanisław Szozda (POL), *25 September 1950 in Dobromierz; †23 September 2013 in Wrocław. He is among the greatest ever Polish cyclists, winning two Olympic silver medals in the 1972 and 1976 team time trial, and five medals at the World Championships. In 1973 and 1975 he won gold medals at the Worlds in the team time trial, winning an

individual silver in the amateur road race in 1973. He also won the 1974 International Peace Race, finishing second in that event in 1973. His racing career ended after sustaining a spine injury at the 1978 Peace Race.

After his competitive retirement, Szozda moved to the USA where he worked as a trainer. He later returned to Poland where he was successful as a businessman. (OM)

Sergey Belov (URS), *23 January 1944 in Nashkovo; †3 October 2013 in Moscow. Belov was for 15 years a member of the Soviet national basketball team, with whom he became 1972 Olympic champion and



won three bronzes (1968, 1976 and 1980). He was also with the same team twice world champion (1967 and 1974) and four times European champion (1967, 1969, 1971 and 1979). From 1974 to 1980 he was team captain. The Soviet Army captain played for the team CSKA Moscow, with whom he won the national championship eleven times. At the 1980 Games in Moscow he lit the Olympic Flame in the Lushniki Stadium. (VK)

Nobuyuki Aihara (JPN), *16 December 1934 Takasaki, Gunma Pref.; †16 July 2013 Takasaki. The gymnast, only 1.53 m tall, studied at the Nihon Sports University, where he was coached by Masao Takamoto. After Olympic silver medals in team competition and on the floor in 1956 in Melbourne he was a member along with his coach of the Japanese team that won the gold medal in



1960 in Rome (photo). Besides that Aihara was Olympic champion in floor gymnastics, where he was the first to perform the reverse double salto stretched as well as the triple tempo-flick-flack. In 1962 he was also world champion in Prague on floor. Aihara married the gymnast Toshiko Shirazu, who in 1964 in Tokyo under the name Aihara also won an Olympic team silver. Their son Yutaka won an Olympic bronze in 1992 with the Japanese team. (VK)

Faith Yvonne Leech (AUS), *31 March 1941 in Bedingo, Victoria; †14 September 2013 in Bendigo. Faith Leech, who won gold in 4x100 m metres freestyle relay and bronze in the 100 m freestyle, took up swimming as a way to help her recover from scoliosis. She won two titles at the Victorian Championships in 1955 and at age 13 won the 1955 Australian title in the 110 yard freestyle. In 1956 she could not swim in the nationals because of illness, but won the Australian age group 100 m title that year in 1:04.6, only 1/10th of a second off Dawn Fraser's world record. Leech retired from swimming in 1957, at age 16, after a very short career and on doctor's advice. Then she worked as a model before returning to her native Bendigo where she ran the family jewelry business. (OM)

Igor Romishevsky (URS), *25 March 1940 in Zhukovsky, Moscow Oblast; †28 September 2013 in Moscow. He started to play hockey with SKA Kuybyshev in 1960. In 1961 he joined CSKA Moscow and played there until the end of his career in 1972. With CSKA he won nine national titles and four European Champions Cup titles

(1969-72). Internationally he won two Olympic golds (1968, 1972) and four World Championships (1968-71). After his sporting career Romishevsky worked from 1974-79 as the head of the physical culture and sports department at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. From 1995-2006 he was Vice-President of the club and in 2006 was named club President. (OM)

Robert Albert "Bob" Kurland (USA), *23 December 1924 in St. Louis, Missouri; †29 September 2013 in Sanibel Island, Florida. Bob "Foothills" Kurland was the first dominating seven-footer (2.13 m) to play college basketball; so dominant, in fact, that he caused the rule-makers to outlaw goal-tending, because he could block almost every shot from going into the basket. He is also recognised as the first hooper to dunk a basketball in competition. In 1945 and 1946 he led his Oklahoma A&M team to the NCAA championship and then went on to play for six years with the Phillips 66ers, being named AAU All-America every year he played. He never played in the NBA, despite multiple offers. While playing with Phillips, he became the first man to play on two Olympic winner teams in 1948 and in 1952. After the Olympics he joined Phillips Petroleum's marketing division and spent a 40-year business career with them. (OM)

James Edward Bradford (USA), *1 November 1928 in Washington, DC; †13 September 2013 in Silver Spring, Maryland. Bradford won the AAU heavyweight title in both 1960 and 1961, but he had the misfortune to compete against some of the greatest lifters in history. At the 1952 Olympics and 1951 World Championships, he lost out to America's John Davis. At the 1954 Worlds he was second to Norb Schemansky, while Paul Anderson defeated him in 1955. In the 1959 World Championships and 1960 Olympics, the great Soviet

lifter, Yury Vlasov, won both competitions over Bradford. (OM)

Vladimir Vikulov (URS), *20 July 1946 in Moscow; †9 August 2013 in Moscow. He began his ice hockey career with CSKA Moscow and played there until 1979, when he played one season with SKA Leningrad before finishing his playing career. With CSKA Vikulov won 12 Soviet titles and nine European Champions Cup titles (1969-74, 1976, 1978-79). In 1972 he was the best scorer of the Soviet Championships with 34 goals. Internationally he played 195 games with the national team and scored 109 goals. He was Olympic champion in 1968 and 1972, was a world champion seven times (1966-71, 1975). (OM)

Judit Temes (HUN), *10 October 1930 in Sopron; †11 August 2013 in Budapest. The Jewish swimmer was on the Hungarian team from 1944-56, after which she retired to pursue a medical career. In addition to her two Olympic medals (gold in the freestyle relay, bronze in the 100 free), she won a European Championship in the 4x100 m freestyle relay in 1954 and added a silver medal that year in the 100 free. During her career she won 29 Hungarian titles. She earned her medical degree in 1955 and later worked for the Budapest University's pathology department and cancer research institute. She continued studying and earned a philosophy of teaching degree in 1975 and a law degree in 2000 from the Eötvös Loránd University. Furthermore she worked in the Hungarian NOC and in the swimming association, where she served a term as President. (OM)

Keith Eyre Carter (USA), *30 August 1924 in Akron, Ohio; †3 May 2013 in Asheville, North Carolina. The American swimmer, who served 2½ years as a bombardier in the Air Force during World War II, attended Purdue in electrical engineering.

At the 1948 Olympics he finished second to Joe Verdeur. He later worked for Reliance Electric, which was purchased by Rockwell Automation, starting out as a sales engineer, and eventually moving up to general manager of all international operations. (OM)

Donna Hartley-Wass, née Murray (GBR), *1 May 1955 in Southampton; †7 June 2013 in Sheffield. The "golden girl" of British athletics (because of her blonde hair) first came to prominence in 1972 when she won the national 200 m title shortly after her 17th birthday and was chosen for the team for the Munich Olympics. From 1974 onwards she began to specialize at 400 m. Her best year was 1978 where she won the Commonwealth Games 400 m gold before running the anchor leg for England's victorious 4 x 400 m relay team. Her final major championship appearance came at the Moscow Olympics where, after a season blighted by illness and poor form, she helped Great Britain to win the bronze medal. She married fellow athlete Bill Hartley in 1977 but divorced in the 1980s. She later married comedian Bobby Knutt, whose real name is Wass. She then turned to competitive bodybuilding and had a successful career in her new sport which culminated in her placing 2nd in the Ms. Universe Physique competition. (OM)

Ronnie Ray Smith (USA), *28 March 1949 in Los Angeles; †31 March 2013 in Los Angeles. In the semi-finals of the 1968 AAU 100 m, Jim Hines and Smith both ran 9.9 to set a new world record. At the Final Trials, Smith placed fourth in the 100 m and ran only in the relay in Mexico, where the USA set a world record of 38.2 (38.24). Smith was a graduate of San Jose State in sociology and later competed for the Southern California Striders. He spent his professional career as an employee of the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department. (OM)

Dezső Gyarmati (HUN), *23 October 1927 in Miskolc; †18 August 2013 in Budapest. He was the most successful water poloist in Olympic history. His feat of winning medals at five successive Olympic Games (gold 1952, 1956, 1964; silver 1948; bronze 1960) has never been matched. He



also captained winning Hungarian teams at the 1954 and 1962 European Championships. Gyarmati was an excellent swimmer with a best time of 58.5 s for 100 metres and he played a total of 108 matches with the national team. He coached the Hungarian team that won the Olympic title in 1976, and also won medals in 1972 and 1980, and later became a Member of Parliament in 1990. He married the 1952 Olympic 200 metres breaststroke champion Éva Székely. The couple emigrated to the USA in 1957, but returned a year later to Hungary. They were divorced in 1972. Their daughter, Andrea was an Olympic silver medalist in the 100 metres backstroke in 1972 and she later married Mihály Hesz, the 1968 Olympic canoeing champion. (OM/VK)

Stanislav Stepashkin (URS), *1 September 1940 in Moscow; †4 September 2013 in Moscow. He took up boxing in 1955, and rose to fame in 1960, when he took silver at the Soviet Championships as a featherweight. After taking bronze at the national championships in 1961, Stepashkin won the Soviet title from 1963-65. Internationally, he won



gold at the 1964 Olympic Games and was European champion in 1963 and 1965. After retiring, Stepashkin worked as a boxing coach of the Moscow region and of several African national teams. (OM)

Claude Arabo (FRA), *3 October 1937 in Nice; †3 July 2013 in Villefranche-sur-Mer. Arabo fenced sabre and was a five-time French champion from 1960–65. His first major podium appearance was at the 1958 World Juniors. He also won four bronze medals with the sabre at the World Championships, in the 1962 individual and in the team event from 1965–67, in addition to his silver medal in individual sabre at the 1964 Olympics. After his sporting career ended, he worked as a physiotherapist on the Côte d'Azur. (OM)

Todd Anthony Bennett (GBR), *6 July 1962 in Southampton; †16 July 2013 in Southampton. The 1984 Olympic 4x400 m silver medalist has died of cancer at the tragically early age of 51. Bennett grew up on the South Coast, and was a member of Southampton and Eastleigh Athletics Club. At the time, with coach Mike Smith, the club was almost a "production line" for British one lap runners. Representing England, he won Commonwealth Games gold over 4x400 m in 1982 and 1986 and took individual 200 m silver in 1986. He was outstanding in indoor athletics and took silver at the 1985 World Indoor Games. Later he became a coach and promoted athletics for young people. At the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony appeared alongside many contemporaries as the crowds paid tribute to a golden age in British athletics in which he played an important role. (PB)

René Sparenberg (NED), *3 December 1918 in Semarang, Nederlands Oost Indië; †1 July 2013 in Brevard County, Florida. Sparenberg was a member of the Dutch hockey team, which won the bronze medal in 1936

Olympics. Then after finishing his studies, he went back to Indonesia to work in the timber trade. After the Independence of Indonesia, he changed over to Curaçao in the Dutch West Indies and worked for a commercial firm. He lived partly in the USA and in the Netherlands. (AB)

Henry Rebello (IND), *17 November 1928 in Bangalore; †27 August 2013 in Gurgaon, Haryana. The triple jumper was one of only five Indians to qualify for the final of an Olympic field event. Sadly, he tore his hamstring while attempting his first jump in the final at London in 1948, independent India's first Olympics. Rebello served in the Indian Air Force and was the first director of the Sports Authority of India from 1984 to 1988. (GE)

Masae Nakamura (JPN), married Kassai, *14 July 1933 Minami-Alps, Yamanashi; †3 October 2013 in Tokyo. She was the captain of the Japanese volleyball team, world champion in 1962 and Olympic winner in 1964. She joined the Nichibo fiber spinning company right out of high school, first playing for corporation's Ashikaga (Tochigi) team, later for the one from Kaizuka (Osaka). The latter team dominated the women's sport in the late 1950s and 1960s, and when the Japanese started playing according to international rules, Nichibo Kaizuka's players formed the national team. Her team debuted at the 1960 World Championships, finishing behind the USSR. Two years later, the Japanese won the title, defeating the Soviet squad before a Moscow audience. When volleyball made its Olympic debut in Tokyo, they lived up to high expectations by again beating the Soviet Union in the final round-robin match, in straight sets.

She later went on to become a coach in Japan and China, and sat on the board of the Japanese Volleyball Association. In 1998, she participated in the Nagano Olympic

Torch Relay. In 2004, she was head of the Japanese team at the Athens Games. In 2008, she was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame. (VK)



Petrus Kastenman (SWE), *15 August 1924 in Bälinge, Södermanland; †10 June 2013 in Stenstorp, Falköping. A cavalry sergeant (in Skövde, SW Sweden) and the only non-commissioned officer in the 1956 Swedish equestrian team, the modest Kastenman later retired as a Captain. A member of Skövde Fältrittklubb, Kastenman also won the national title in 1956 with his Olympic horse, Iluster, a brown gelding born in 1948.

After the gold medal in eventing at the Olympics in Stockholm, Kastenman was given the horse by the army for personal, unrestricted use, also outside military activities. In 1969, he moved to Borgunda, where he built a championship eventing course. During the 1970s and 1980s, he was the national coach for juniors, young riders and pony riders, and also coach of the Norwegian and the Finnish national teams. (OK)

(AB: Anthony Th. Bijkerk, GL: Gulu Ezekiel, OM: Olympedia, OV: Ove Karlsson, PB: Phillip Barker, VK: Volker Kluge)

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