

Obituaries

In Memoriam:

David Charles Young

By Robert K. Barney

On an early February 2013 morning, the world of sport and Olympic history lost one of its most distinguished and revered historians, David Charles Young. The previous June, he had broken his left femur when he tripped and fell over his faithful canine companion, Hektor. He underwent corrective surgery which was successful but subsequently developed an infection which had complications. He was hospitalized for 28 consecutive days and underwent further painful surgery and suffered further infections. "Fighting like hell", as his widow Judy Turner described his battle against all this, David slipped away in the early evening of 5 February 2013.

The *Journal of Olympic History* has a history of "memorializing" the passing of former Olympians, the heroes and less than heroic of Olympic history. Here, I would like to offer a memorial to an "Olympian of Olympians" in Olympic historical scholarship. David Young was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, on 9 December 1937. The son of a high school chemistry and science teacher, David attended nearby University of Nebraska, graduating with a B.A. in Classics in 1959 (with distinction and Phi Beta Kappa status). His PhD was taken at the University of Iowa (in a joint programme with the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota) in 1963 at the tender age of 25, thanks, in part, to a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

David "cut his teeth" in the classical studies world by immersing himself in the wonders of Pindaric poetry. His doctoral dissertation

on the ancient poet became a landmark and launched his career in the classical world of scholarship. His first publication, appearing in *Minnesota Review* (1964) was entitled: "Pindaric Criticism". There followed almost 30 years of teaching and research at the University of California—Santa Barbara (1962–1989), where he was named Chair of Classics at age 29 (1966).

His work on Pindar and his poetry subsequently appeared in many of the world's leading Classical Studies scholarly journals. It was his association with Pindar's victory odes that, in part, stimulated his fascination for sport in antiquity and the Olympic Games in both ancient and modern times. His first publications on sport, "Croton and the Games" (1977) and "Professionalism in Archaic and Greek Athletics" (1983) led him towards producing what has been widely acclaimed as one of the most ground-breaking and important monograph works in the now abundant corpus of sport history literature, "The Olympic Myth of Greek Amateur Athletics" (1984).

His arguments, based on a mass of scholarly evidence, effectively destroyed the false but nevertheless more than century old conventional wisdom perpetrated largely by early English classical scholars and their more modern disciples worldwide, the belief that ancient Greek athletes were noble amateurs, the exact parallels of the late 19th century British sportsmen who trained and competed for honorable virtue, social standing, and "sport for sport's sake." Indeed, as Young proved beyond doubt, the ancient Greek sporting world was rife with all the qualities of professionalism that we see today – wondrous financial and "in kind" reward and recompense, training and competition as full time life activities, even "unionization" of athletes.

Following the triumph of "The Olympic Myth", a now celebrated he embarked "full speed" on in-

vestigations into the little known evolutionary history of the modern Games. After turning down position offers at Stanford, Michigan, and Texas (Austin) Universities, his career journey finally led him to the University of Florida (1989), where he ultimately finished his career (2009). Along the way he taught, supervised, advised, researched, wrote and published, and lectured domestically in America and internationally at scores of scholarly conventions and symposia (several in keynote perspective) at many of the leading universities in the world – among them, Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Columbia, Pennsylvania, Stanford, and California (Berkeley). Three among several honors conferred, stand out. During his career as a professor of classics David received three "Distinguished Teacher Awards" from the universities at which he taught (1988, 1992, 1996), each one conferred in an "Olympic year." In 1989 the Education Council of the United States Olympic Committee conferred its "Olympic Book of the Year Award" on David for his "The Olympic Myth". In 2007 the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) awarded David Young its highest achievement distinction – the Coubertin Lifetime Achievement Distinguished Scholar Award.

His final research triumph of major consequence was his critically and enthusiastically acclaimed, "The Modern Olympics: A Struggle for Revival" (1996), an elaborate seminal work on the antecedents, evolution, and eventual substantiation of the Olympic Games in modern context. David Young's final publication "Dimitrios Vikelas and Pierre de Coubertin: A Partnership of Destiny", appeared in the *Journal of Olympic History* in 2007.

There was a personal side to David Young's life. Married 33 years to Judy Turner (herself an authority on ancient Greek priestesses), the couple embraced each other's



work, often traveling to England, Continental Europe, and throughout the Mediterranean Basin, including time and again trips to Greece. Yes, always to Greece. Retirement did not slow his efforts. On his computer in his office perched on the end of his Florida residence dock overlooking Lake Santa Fe, David left several unpublished articles, as well as notes for books on the "Collected Works of Pindar" and "The Greek Verb".

What have been David Young's legacies to sport and Olympic history? There are several! First, his research method stands as a model for historians bent on the empirical process, the deep mining and gathering of evidence of the most fundamental and primary nature to support an argument. He did this with tenacity, persistence, ingenuity, and yes, much grace.



Andrew Simpson (GBR / photo left), *17 December 1976 in Chertsey, Surrey; †10 May 2013 in San Francisco Bay. 2008 Olympic gold sailing medallist was killed in an accident whilst training for the Americas Cup. He had been part of the Swedish syndicate Artemis racing and died when the catamaran capsized. Simpson was born inland but began sailing at the age of six with his father. It wasn't long before his talent was spotted. He sailed Finn and Laser, but such was the strength of British sailing, he did not make it into the Olympic team until he was 31. He had been a training partner for both Ben Ainslie and Iain Percy, a childhood friend. He partnered Percy in the star class at the Olympic regatta at Qingdao in 2008. The pairing strung an impressive series of races together to win gold despite a fierce challenge from Brazil and Sweden. They won the World Championship in 2010. At the 2012 Olympics, held on their home water in Weymouth, they took silver. Inevitably dubbed "Bart" after the cartoon character by those in the sailing world, his death has shocked

Through all this, there stood a fundamental motivation in David Young's scholarly pursuit: for his work to be meaningful, to do research and writing that would stand the test of time a 100 years from now. Second, his method of writing became legendary – sharp, concise, to the point, without obfuscation, absolutely no nonsense, clear to all readers, student and scholar alike, the empiricist and the theorist. Third, his sense of sharing and helpfulness. David Young lived for the scholarly mission, whether in the form of the projects and efforts of colleagues across the globe or undergraduate and graduate students just beginning their careers. Which brings me to a final notation on David Young's legacy, one difficult to measure, yet apparent in all respects – his life work and

the wider sporting community. "Andrew was a fantastic sailor who got the best out of everyone he sailed with. He was much loved and will be sorely missed", said Olympic manager Stephen Park. Four time gold medallist Ben Ainslie paid his own tribute: "He was a great person, a terrific sailor and a good friend." (PB)

Sabine Bischoff (FRG), *21 May 1958 in Koblenz; †7 March 2013 in Weikersheim. The former hairdresser Emil Beck developed the Tauberbischofsheim Fencing Club from the start of the 1970s into a "medal production line". From it emerged among others Olympic champion Thomas Bach, who is now seeking to be IOC President. Specially prominent were the female fencers, who at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles won the team gold medal with Sabine Bischoff, who was seventh in the individual event. A member of the FC Tauberbischofsheim since 1963, she won bronze at the World Championships in 1979, 1981 silver, 1982 bronze, 1983 silver, 1985 gold and in 1986

demeanor as an inspiration. There is a popular commercial refrain on American television embellishing the attributes of Wall Street's most prestigious investment firm: "When E. F. Hutton speaks, I listen!" In the world of sport and Olympic history scholarship, "When David Young speaks, we all listen!"

All areas of scientific inquiry embrace their pantheon of greats, just as the Greeks embraced their heroes above the massive entrance to the Acropolis's Parthenon. In antiquity they served as reverence, celebration, and inspiration. Sport and Olympic history in the modern sense will at one time in the future construct a similar pantheon for similar reasons. When this occurs, we can be assured that the countenance of David Young will be present. Honour to his name!

again bronze with the team. At the 1985 World Championships she lost in the individual final to her compatriot Cornelia Hanisch. (KL)

David John Were Bond (GBR), *27 March 1922 Falmouth, Cornwall; †23 March 2013 Falmouth 1948 sailing gold medallist David Bond, who has died, a few days before what would have been his 91st birthday. He was the last surviving British Olympic champion from those Games. He was born in the Cornish fishing town of Falmouth, so it was inevitable that he would have such a connection with the sea. He was taught to sail by his father Cyril who was an enthusiastic sailor. Sadly, Cyril Bond did not live to see his son's greatest sporting triumph.

In 1948, Olympic sport was strictly amateur. Bond was forced to take unpaid leave from his job as a flight test observer with the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) to take part in the Games. "They weren't the slightest bit interested why I wanted the leave. You practised your sport after work and

at weekends and you funded yourself. There was no sponsorship." His partner in the Swallow class was Stewart Morris, some 13 years his senior. They came together at short notice, but the pair performed impressively at Torquay to win.

When he returned to work at BOAC, many of his colleagues did not realise he had won until he produced the "evidence", his gold medal. Curiously, Great Britain's three gold medals in 1948 were all won in water sports. The Morris/Bond combination never sailed together again, but both continued to take part in the sport and Bond built up a successful company in market gardening.

As 2012 approached Bond was unwilling to step into the spotlight. "Hard of hearing but sharp of memory, he has turned down most of the interview requests he has received" wrote Clive Ellis in the *Daily Telegraph*. In the build up to 2012, Bond met Ben Ainslie, the most successful British sailor of the modern era. The attention both received was in sharp contrast to the lack of coverage in 1948. "There were a number of battleships in the harbour. Holidaymakers at the seaside were heard to ask 'who are these young people from different countries and why are they here?' People weren't really aware of the Games." (PB)

Hjalmar Andersen (NOR / photo above), *12 March 1923 in Rødøy community (Nordland); †27 March 2013 in Oslo. Norway's most popular and celebrated sportsman ever passed away at the age of 90 at Oslo University Hospital after a tragic fall in his home in Tønsberg on 25th March. He was the only boy, with five younger sisters. His father was a seaman on the Norwegian coast. After a few years the family moved to Trondheim where he grew up under poor circumstances at the workers' quarter of Lademoen. Before he turned 16 years he had a job as delivery boy at the harbour, where he later became a truck-driver.

Andersen took up speed-skating, but had to stop for five years during the Second World War. In 1946 he entered the Norwegian Championship for juniors and placed 42 among 45 skaters. The next year he won the championship. Andersen was a member of Falken Sportsklubb, where two other members – Sverre Farstad (1948) and Jan Egil Storholt (1976) – also were Olympic champions over 1500 m.

In 1948 Andersen qualified for the 10,000 m at the Winter Games in St. Moritz. He could not deal with thin air and stopped in the middle of the race. One year later he achieved his first world record over 10,000 m in 16:57.4 min during the European Championship in Davos. Andersen won all nine consecutive titles in Norwegian, European and World Championships from 1950 to 1952. He also won three Olympic gold medals in Oslo in 1952: 1500 m, 5000 m and 10 000 m. He was unbeaten in 56 races in 5000 m in this period.

At the age of 29 he was on top of his glorious career. He was nicknamed "Hjallis" and "King Glad" (King Happy). In 1951 – after skating 18 out of 25 laps in the 10,000 m in the European Championship at Bislett Stadium – Andersen fell dramatically due to a flash from a photographer. He was permitted to start again – alone – after 20 minutes rest. Andersen managed to win the distance and the championship. The spectators in the crowded stadium were overwhelmed by this incredible skater. Even King Håkon VII and his royal family waited to see the national hero fight against the clock. It was an amazing moment.

Andersen set up three more world records after 1949. His most famous record was 16:32.6 for 10,000 m at Hamar Stadium two weeks before the Winter Games in 1952. This time is the best known result in Norwegian sports ever. The record was not beaten till 1960. In 1953 he stopped skating and opened a sport shop in Trondheim. In the same year

fantastic Russian skaters came back on the international scene with world records and also won the World Championship in Helsinki.

The Norwegian people again demanded action from Andersen, and he made his comeback in 1954. He was still at a high level till 1956, but his dominant period was over. His last race was at the World Championship in Oslo 1956 – finishing the 10 000 m in 7th place.

After his active career Andersen was national coach for Sweden during the Games in Squaw Valley. Then he moved to Tønsberg in 1961. For more than 30 years he worked for the Norwegian Merchant Navy. He was extremely popular among Norwegian sailors all over the world.

Bronze statues of Hjalmar Andersen are to be seen at four different locations in Norway – Trondheim, Oslo, Hamar and Rødøy. The national sports icon was buried in Tønsberg on April 4th. 600 people attended the funeral ceremony in the church – among them His Majesty King Harald VII and Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, who made a speech. (AD)

William Oscar Guernsey Grut (SWE / photo right), *17 September 1914 in Stockholm, †20 November 2012 in Östersund. Not directly involved in World War II, neutral Sweden had many advantages compared to most other countries when it came to the Olympics three years after the war.

Sweden had very successful 1948 Games: best nation in Sankt Moritz and No. 2 in London. With 21 titles (4+17), the jury for Sweden's Athlete of the Year award had several candidates. In the end, the gold medal of the daily paper *Svenska Dagbladet* went to Grut, still the most dominant winner of an Olympic modern pentathlon competition. He won the riding, fencing and swimming, was fifth in shooting and eighth in running for a total of 16 points. His father was the architect Torben Grut, creator of the 1912 Olympic Stadium.



Wille, the name he used, was a multi-talented sportsman. He won ten individual national titles: five in modern pentathlon (1938, 1939, 1940, 1944 and 1948), and five in swimming (1932–35). In addition 15 team titles, including one each in water polo and winter pentathlon. In 1938, he was the individual winner in the modern pentathlon international Germany vs. Sweden.

A substitute for relay swimming at the 1936 Olympics, Grut had to wait until 1948 for Olympic starts. In Sankt Moritz, he was second in the exhibition sport winter pentathlon and in the summer he clinched the gold medal in modern pentathlon.

Grut, named "The world's best soldier" by British newspapers after his Olympic triumph, retired from competitive sport after the 1948 season. He became an official in the national pentathlon association (1949–52 and 1958–60), including coaching Lars Hall to Olympic titles in 1952 and 1956. In 1960, he carried the Swedish flag at the Olympic Opening and was, in the same year, elected Secretary-General of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon (UIPMB), a post he held until 1984. In 1998, Grut was awarded the Olympic Order in silver. After 27 years of active military duties, he retired in 1964 as Lieutenant-General. (OK)

William Melvin "Bill" Smith, Jr. (USA / photo left), *16 May 1924 Honolulu, Hawaii; †8 February 2013 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Bill Smith, who attended Ohio State University, was the world's outstanding swimmer from 1941 to 1949. But his greatest years coincided with the Second World War. He set seven world records and won fourteen US national, seven NCAA, six AAU indoor and one AAU outdoor titles. At the 1948 Olympics in London, Smith won the gold medals in the 400 m freestyle and the 4x200 m free relay. After retiring, he served as the Water Safety Director, Department of

Parks and Recreation for the City and Country of Honolulu. (VK)

Angela Voigt (GDR), née Schmalfeld, *18 May 1951 in Weferlingen; †11 April 2013 in Magdeburg. The trained telecommunications technician began her career in Leipzig as a pentathlete. But as she was classed as talentless, she moved to Magdeburg, where from 1973 she concentrated on the long jump. In 1974 she won silver at the European Indoor Championships. After establishing world records in 1976 indoors (6.76 m) and outdoors (6.92 m), she became Olympic champion with 6.72 m. After a break to have a baby, she returned in 1978 and was runner-up in the European Championships. She completed a course in sports studies and worked as a coach. Her last job was as a social educationist in a retirement home. (VK)

Hartmut Briesenick (GDR), *17 March 1949 in Luckenwalde; †8 March 2013 in Berlin. The trained locksmith began as a breast-stroke swimmer. In 1968 he won the shot put in the European Junior Championships, and in 1971 and 1974 he also became European senior champion. After Briesenick had improved the European record to 21.54 m on 27th August 1972, he gained the Olympic bronze medal just a few days later in Munich. The gap between gold and bronze was only four centimetres. The qualified sports teacher trained young athletes after his active career, and later worked for a sports equipment company. In 1984, he married the 1980 Olympic shot put champion Ilona Slupianek, from whom he was later divorced. (VK)

Nicolae Martinescu (ROU), *24 February 1940 in Vișani, Brăila; †28 March 2013 in Bucharest. Martinescu, who came to wrestling in 1959 and was trained by Ion Cernea at Dinamo Bucharest, was between 1962 and 1976 among the best classical wrestlers in the world. He competed

four times in the Olympic Games, at which he won gold in 1972 (heavyweight) and in 1968 bronze (light-heavyweight). In 1964 he was fourth, and in 1976 seventh. From 1961 onwards he was Romanian champion in consecutive years. At the World Championships he gained two silver medals (1963 and 1971). When the European Championships were re-introduced in 1966 he won gold. (VK)

Mirja Kyllikki Hietamis (FIN), married name Eteläpää, *7 January 1931 in Lemi, South Karelia; †14 March 2013 in Savitaipale. At her debut in the 10 km cross-country ski event she won the silver medal in 1952 in Oslo at the Winter Olympics behind her compatriot Lydia Widemann. Four years later in Cortina d'Ampezzo she crowned her career with a relay victory. At the 1954 World Championships in Falun she gained a silver medal (relay) and a bronze (10 km). In 1954 and 1955 she won the 10 km race at the Salpausselkä Games in Lahti. In 1955 she was chosen as the Finnish "Sportswoman of the Year". After her sporting career she was a board member of the Finnish Skiing Federation from 1965 to 1967.

Soraya Jiménez Mendivil (MEX), *5 August 1977 Naucalpan; †28 March 2013 in Mexico City. One of twin sisters, she was the first Mexican female to win Olympic gold in any sport. Soraya competed in basketball, badminton and swimming before she began weightlifting in her teenage years. Her first success was third place at the 1994 NORCECA Cup in Colorado Springs. She first participated at the World Championships in 1996. In 1998 she won at the Guatemala Cup, the Central American and Caribbean Games. In the next year she was the silver medalist in the Pan American Games and placed eighth at the World Championships.

After her Olympic victory in the 58 kg class at the 2000 Games in Sydney she had to end her sporting career prematurely because of health



problems. She started to work as a TV sports reporter. At the age of 38 she succumbed to a heart attack. (VK)

Stanley Frank "Stan" Vickers (GBR), *18 June 1932 in Lewisnam, Greater London; †19 April 2013 in Downham. Vickers, who was a member of Belgrave Harriers in Wimbledon, had made an impressive Olympic debut in 1956 in the 20 km walk, followed by two successful years: in 1957 and 1958 he was the best British walker, climaxing in the European Championships of 1958 in Stockholm, when he was able to leave the Soviet Olympic champion Leonid Spirin almost two minutes behind him. An Olympic bronze medal followed in 1960. Vickers worked at the London Stock Exchange. (KL)

Hans-Joachim Walde (FRG), *28 June 1942 in Gläfersdorf/Silesia; †18 April 2013 in Horumersiel. At the end of the Second World War the three year-old fled with his mother from Silesia, and the family found a new home in Friesland. As an 18 year-old Walde set a new German youth record in the high jump with 1.93 m, whereupon the decathlete and later SPD politician Friedel Schirmer realised his talent. Schirmer (8th in 1952) led a considerable number of decathletes to world class in the early 1960s. The most important were Werner von Moltke, Willi Holdorf, Kurt Bendlin and Hans-Joachim Walde. Holdorf became Olympic champion in 1964, Moltke won the European Championship in 1966, Bendlin set a world record in 1967. The only one who won two Olympic medals was Walde: 1964 bronze, 1968 silver behind Bill Toomey (USA). In 1972 he again took part in the Games, but after four events he had to drop out through injury.

The well-qualified surgeon, who specialised in shoulder surgery, lived in Jever in Friesland. He reached the level of head doctor for sports medicine at the North-west Hospital in Sanderbusch, and even after his

official retirement he was regularly at the operating table. (KL)

Ottavio Missoni (ITA), *11 February 1921 in Ragusa di Dalmazia; †9 May 2013 in Sumirago. Like Carlo Pedersoli, who took part in the Games as a swimmer in 1952 and 1956, his compatriot Missoni, sixth in 1948 in London in the 400 m hurdles and fourth with the 4x400 m relay team, only acquired celebrity after his sporting career. Pedersoli became an acting legend under the name of Bud Spencer, and Missoni developed into a fashion czar.

The good-looking Missoni initially worked as a model. After the Second World War he founded a textile firm along with the discus-thrower Giorgio Oberweger (1936 bronze), and the company produced among other things the azure blue tracksuits for the Italian Olympic teams. At the 1948 Olympic Games Missoni met the beautiful Rosita Jelmini. This daughter of a textile manufacturer was studying English at the time in London. They became a couple and in Gallerate founded a small knitwear and textile factory. In 1953 the Fashion House was established. Typical were the bright colours and the zig-zag patterns of their knitwear collections.

Their breakthrough came in 1967, when at a Florence fashion show attractive models appeared who were almost naked under the knitwear. In 1973 they received the Neiman Marcus Award, a sort of "Oscar" of dressmaking. Missoni with the label "M" became a world-renowned firm as Menswear Missoni or Missoni Sport. In 1997 the management of the firm was handed over to their daughter Angela. Their son Vittorio was killed when the plane he was in crashed into the sea near Venezuela in 2013.

Ottavio Missoni remained an active athlete until a great age. In 2011 he became Masters World Champion in the shot put in the over-90 class. (KL)

Pietro Mennea (ITA / photo right), *28 June 1952 in Barletta; †21 March 2013 in Rome. After Livio Berutti, the 1960 200 m Olympic champion, he was the best Italian sprinter. The "Freccia del Sud" (Arrow of the South) had only a moderate length of stride, but to make up for that a high stride frequency and endurance. At 17 Mennea was already a member of the national team. With many successes and several reverses he had a long and successful career. Here are the most important achievements: 1971 European Championships: bronze in the 4x100 m relay; 1972 Olympic Games: bronze over 200 m, eighth 4x100 m; 1974 European Championships: gold over 200 m, silver over 100 m and in the 4x100 m relay; 1976 Olympic Games: fourth over 200 m and 4x100 m; 1978 European Championship: gold over 100 m and 200 m; 1980 Olympic Games: gold over 200 m, bronze in the 4x400 m relay. After that he retired so as to have more time to finish his studies, then came his comeback: 1983 World Championships: bronze over 200 m; 1984 Olympic Games: seventh over 200 m, fourth in the 4x100 m relay; another retirement and second comeback: 1988 Olympic Games: knocked out in the 200 m heats.

On 12 September 1979 Mennea set a world record of 19.72 sec at the Universiade in Mexico City, which was not improved until the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta by Michael Johnson (19.66). Even at sea level he set a year's best time in 1980 of 19.96.

Mennea, who had studied physics and political science, became a director of the Italian football club Salernitana Calcio in 1998. From 1999 to 2004 he was an MEP, representing the Democratici, but was not re-elected. He died from cancer. (KL)

James "Jim" Lloyd (GBR), *5 July 1939 Liverpool, Merseyside; †22 March 2013 in Skelmersdale, Lancashire. The youngest of a trio of boxing brothers, he won the welterweight



bronze medal at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. Victories over Faragalla (SUD) and Neagu (ROU) were followed up by a triumph over the US team captain Phil Baldwin in the quarters. But in his semi-final with the home favourite Nino Benvenuti, Lloyd lost out in a 3-2 decision. On his 1962 European Championships debut, he was eliminated at the quarter-final stage. In the same year he won his only national amateur title and, after completing his compulsory military service, he switched to the professionals. He retired in 1969 having won 10 of his 20 bouts. Lloyd worked as a truck driver and security guard. After his retirement he trained young fighters in a local boxing club in his adopted hometown. (VK)



Alain Mimoun O'Kacha (FRA/on the photo left), *1 January 1921 in Le Telagh/ALG, † 27 June 2013 in Saint-Mandé, Île-de-France. A native Algerian, he volunteered for the French Colonial Army aged 18 when war broke out in 1939 and adopted the name "Alain". He started running in regimental competitions. In 1941 he became Algerian army champion over 5000 m and North African cross-country champion in 1942. At the end of that year, he fought in Tunisia against Rommel's army, thereafter taking part in the invasion of Sicily and in the battle of Monte Cassino. He was wounded several times, and almost had to have a leg amputated. After his demobilisation he began to train seriously. In 1947 he joined the Racing Club de France and for the first time became French champion.

In his best years Mimoun had the bad luck to stand in the shadow of the Czech Emil Zátopek. At the 1948 Olympic Games he finished behind him over 10,000 m and in 1952 over 5000 and 10,000 m, and over both distances at the 1950 European Championships, being second on each occasion. In 1954 an attack of sciatica held him back, during which the small, wiry runner put on

nine kilos. But with six hard months of training he managed to get back to his fighting weight.

He harvested his reward in 1956 in Melbourne, where he became Olympic champion in the marathon. His margin of victory was more than a minute and a half. Shortly before the start he had received a telegram from his wife Germaine, telling him that he had given birth to a daughter called "Olympia".

Mimoun also competed in the 1960 Olympic marathon in Rome, finishing 34th. He remained active for a long time after that. As a 50 year old he could still run the 10,000 m under 31 minutes. In France, several streets and numerous sports arenas and stadia were named after him. (VK)

Ingrid Louise Visser (NED), *4 June 1977 in Gouda, †14 May 2013 in La Hurlona/ESP. The Dutch volleyball player has been violently murdered in Spain. She was only 35. She had been on a visit to Murcia with her partner who also died in the attack.

Her playing career began in 1984 as a youngster with VC Nesseland. In 1994 she joined VVC Vught with whom she won national championships in 1996, 1997 and 2008.

Her international debut came in 1994, the first of 514 caps, a national record in any sport. The following year she was a member of the national team that won the European Championship, beating Croatia 3-0 in the final. In 1996 she was chosen for the Dutch team at the Olympics in Atlanta. They finished fifth overall.

In all Ingrid Visser represented her country in five World Championships and nine European Championships. In 2007, she was a member of the Dutch team that won the FIVB World Grand Prix, beating Russia in the final over five sets.

Her club career was as distinguished. In 1997, she joined the Minas Tennis Clube in Brazil; then in 2000 went to play for Vicenza Volley in Italy. In 2001, she moved to Spain and played first for CV Las Palmas

from 2001 to 2003 before joining CV Tenerife. Over the next four years, she enjoyed great success, winning successive Spanish titles in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. She also collected the 2004 Champions League under coach Avital Selinger. She returned to the Netherlands for one season with TVC Amstelveen and then headed to Russia, where she played one season with VK Leningradka. In 2009 it was back to Spain. This time she stayed until 2011 and turned out for CAV Murcia 2005. She played her final season in Azerbaijan in 2011/2012 in the colours of VK Baki Bakoe.

She was originally married to the Brazilian-American volleyball player Rico Guimarães but early in May 2013, she and current partner Lodewijk Severin (57), visited Murcia. On May 13, both suddenly went missing. On May 24, the Spanish police found traces of a violent crime in a house near Murcia. Two days later, following the arrest of the owner of the house and two Romanians, the remains of two people were found in an orchard in Alquerias, 12 km from Murcia. After a DNA test, the police confirmed that the remains were those of Visser and Severin. Both had been brutally murdered. (AB)

John Wood (CAN), *7 June 1950 Toronto, Ontario; †25 January 2013 in Oakville, Ontario. Wood, from the Mississauga Canoe Club, represented Canada at the 1968 Olympics in the C2 1000 m event alongside Scott Lee, but they were disqualified in the first round. Four years later the duo was eliminated in the semifinals. Wood's next stop was the World Championships, where he finished 6th in the C1 1000 m in 1974 and 5th in the C1 500 m in 1975. His hard work finally paid off when he was selected to represent his team at its home Olympics in 1976. Wood won an Olympic silver medal in the 500 m C1 competition. After this Olympic success, Wood went on to win another silver with Gregory Smith at the 1977 World Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria

in the C2 500 m. Then he retired from active competition. His next endeavour was business. In 1986 he founded a financial company and brought its value from zero assets to over \$4 billion through innovative investments. The company was sold in 1995. There ensued years of depression, until Wood ended his life through suicide. (VK)

Henri Carel Willem "Hans" Schnitger (NED), *5 August 1915 in Enschede; †2 March 2013 in Delden. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest Dutch Olympian and Olympic medal-winner. During the 1936 Games, he was still student. Later he became director/owner of an import firm for machinery for textile factories.

During the Berlin Games, he played right inside forward in all games. The first match against Belgium ended in a draw 2-2; Schnitger scored both goals. The second match was against the Swiss team and the Dutch team won 4-1; Schnitger scored again two times. In the third match the Netherlands beat the French team 3-1 (no score for Schnitger). In the semi-final the German team beat the Dutch team with 3-0. Finally, in the match for the bronze medal the Dutch team won again from the French team, but this time with a narrow victory: 4-3; Schnitger scored the third Dutch goal in this match and as such ended with five goals in the tournament.

With his Enschede hockey club team P. W. (Prinses Wilhelmina), Schnitger won the national championship in 1933 in the first division for the first time. In 1968 and 1972 he acted as Chef d'Équipe for the Dutch hockey team. (AB)

(AB = Anthony Th. Bijkerk, AD = Åge Dalby, KL = Karl Lennartz, OK = Ove Karlsson, PB = Philip Barker, VK = Volker Kuge)

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