

Olympism in mourning



Vienna 1974: Hugh Weir, I hind the President of the IOC, attending the official opening of the IOC's 75th Session.

Tribute to Hugh Weir

Surprised at the absence of their elder, Hugh Weir, on 6th March, the members of the Australian Olympic Federation began to worry. One of them went to his home where he discovered his death. He had been ill for years and pain constantly sapped this experienced and wise sports leader. Yet he never considered giving up his responsibilities.

Born on 21st July 1894 in Melbourne, Hugh Weir was to devote more than fifty years of his life to

sports administration. In 1923 he became Treasurer of the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association and in 1927 Secretary General of the Victorian Olympic Council. In 1936 he joined the Board of the Amateur Athletic Union of Australia and became its President from 1944 to 1957, in which capacity he was elected Vice-President of the IAAF (1956-1958). His organising talent ensured the success of the Centenary Games (Melbourne, 1935), the British Empire Games (Sydney, 1938) and, of course, the 1956 Olympic Games celebrating the 16th Olympiad in Melbourne. Entering the IOC in 1946, he gained President Brundage's confidence and carried out several missions.

From 1966, he enjoyed working on the tricky amateurism files. This is why Mr. Brundage entrusted him with the chairmanship of the Eligibility Commission, a position which Lord Killanin ratified and which he filled very conscientiously. Further, all the NOCs are indebted to him for his efforts in strengthening relations between the IOC and the NOCs.

On behalf of his many Olympic friends, the *Olympic Review* sends its heartfelt condolences to his son and all Australian sportsmen.

● **Robert Fein** (Austria), Olympic light-weight weightlifting champion in 1936, passed away at the age of 67 in Vienna after a long illness.

● **Valeri Popenchenko** (USSR), 37, 1964 Olympic middleweight boxing champion, was killed in an accident in Moscow.

● **Maurice Blitz** (Belgium) 83, an eminent figure in Belgian Olympism, passed away

on 2nd February. He was a member of the national water polo team which came second in the Olympic tournament in both 1920 and 1924, a judge in the Olympic final in 1928, a trainer, administrator and co-founder of the Club Méditerranée.

● **Dr. Albert Michallon**, President of the Organising Committee for the Xth Winter Games (1968), has died at the age of 62. Renowned surgeon, Dr. Michallon was Mayor of Grenoble from 1959 to 1965.

**Doctor Messerli,
pioneer of Olympism, is no more**



Medical student and sportsman, Francis Messerli met Pierre de Coubertin in 1908, while the latter was visiting a gymnasium in Lausanne. Close collaboration commenced between these two when the IOC was established in the capital of Vaud in 1915. A loyal friendship kept

them in contact until the Renovator's death, after which Dr. Messerli devoted himself to the memory of Coubertin.

Doctor at the University, he held the post of Chief Medical Officer for the Health Service of the town of Lausanne, a position which led him to teach at the Faculty of Medicine. In spite of his many professional duties, he never ceased to be involved with sport and Olympism.

In 1912, he initiated the creation in Switzerland of a National Olympic Committee, of which he was its Secretary General until 1937. General Commissioner of the IInd Winter Games (1928), founder of many sports clubs and societies, he remained an advisory member of the Swiss Olympic Committee.

The IOC chose him as its official historian in 1946. By this appointment he was called upon to be a real writer, and it is to him we owe "A History of Sport and Olympism" (1950) and an anthology of poems "To the Glory of Olympism and Sport" (1956).

The announcement of his death on 15th March at the age of 86 shocked all those who ever came in contact with him. The "Olympic Review" would like his family and the Swiss Olympic Committee to know that it shares their deep sorrow.

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● **Joseph Guillemot** (France), 75, died on 9th March following an incurable illness. He was Olympic champion in the 5000 m. in 1920 after overtaking the magnificent Paavo Nurmi.

● **José Navarro Morenes** (Spain), Olympic champion in the 1928 team show jumping event and second in the same event twenty years later, died in Madrid last December. He was head of General Franco's cabinet.

● **Vladimir Sawine**, distinguished figure in world volleyball, died on 18th March in Moscow. After being one of the best Soviet players of his time, he helped found the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball and was one of the Executive Committee's most influential members. Member of the USSR NOC, Mr. Sawine had just been nominated as a member of the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games in Moscow.



Vladimir Sawine



Joseph Hayot

● **The Lausanne photographer, Joseph Hayot**, very attached to the IOC and one of its most faithful photographers, died at the age of 75 just after his retirement.

● **Masanori Yusa**, brilliant Japanese swimmer, holder of two Olympic gold medals (1932 and 1936) in the 4 x 200 m. freestyle and a silver medal in the 1936 individual 100 m. freestyle, died in Tokyo from stomach cancer.



Masanori Yusa



Kurt Helbig

● **Kurt Helbig**, the German lightweight weightlifter, Olympic champion in 1928, died in Berlin (GDR) at the age of 73.



José Navarro Morenes