

## **OBITUARY**

Former football champion and coach, Alfredo Foni died in January at the age of 74. A 13-year veteran of the Turin's Juventus, he was a member of the gold medal team at Berlin in the 1936 Olympic Games and the winning squad in Paris at the 1938 World Championships.

He began coaching in 1947, working with several Italian teams - local, national and Olympic (1952, Helsinki) - and ended his career in 1968 after four years as director of the Swiss team.

Michaly Kocsis (HUN) died on the 18th of January 1985 in his sixty-seventh year. A major contributor to the Museum of Physical Education and Sport in Budapest and a member of the International Olympic Academy, Professor Kocsis will be remembered by all for his remarkable service to the Olympic ideal by his work in one of the fundamental areas of the Movement : education through sport.

The Olympic Review offers its sincerest condolences to Mr. John Rodda, sports journalist on "The Guardian" and member of the IOC Press Commission, upon the recent death of his father.



## FAREWELL TO GASTON MEYER

Gaston Meyer would have been eighty years old on the 1st of May this year. He was born in 1905 in Savignac-les-Eglises, a small village in the south west of France. A keen sportsman, he was active in athletics – high jump and 110 m hurdles – and very soon, on leaving school, he felt the desire to write on sport.

At the age of nineteen, he joined “Aérosports” then “L’Echo des Sports”, and in 1932 he became athletics editor with “L’Auto”. A specialist in this discipline, he was one of the pioneers of the Metropolitan Club, along with the greatest trainers of the time.

In 1935, with the aid of fellow enthusiasts, he founded the Club d’Athlétisme Français, the CAF, which was a great motivating force in the development of middle-distance running in France. This club boasted a large number of international sportsmen in all disciplines of athletics, one of whom is Marcel Hansenne, bronze medal in the 800 m at the London Games, in 1948, who gave its greatest success with the world one thousand meter record.

After the war, back from captivity, Gaston Meyer devoted himself once more to the profession of journalism. He joined “L’Equipe” to become assistant editor in chief and then editor in chief in 1954, the post he occupied until his retirement in 1970.

Through his writings, he defined with precision what athletics and its organisation should be. He was the first to launch the idea of a technical commission, set up in 1936, and introduced the collection of comparative statistics to trace the development of each discipline.

The books he left us : “L’Athlétisme”, “Les Jeux Olympiques”, “Le Phénomène Olympique”, “Le Grand Livre de l’athlétisme français”, bear witness to his passionate clear-sightedness and the place he occupied in the sports world and the Olympic Movement for over half a century.

### A TRIBUTE FROM THE SPORTS WORLD

**H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch :** “He was one of the most prestigious figures in international sport. His writings will remain with us and we shall find in them a frequent source of inspiration”.

**Mr. Alain Calmat,** French Minister of Youth and Sports : “An accomplished journalist and a writer of quality, Gaston Meyer will leave behind the image of a great figure in French Sport”.

**Mr. Rime Nebiolo,** President of the IAAF: “The death of Gaston Meyer deprives the world of Olympic sport, and athletics in particular, of a great expert, a talented journalist and a peerless poet”.

**Mrs. Monique Berlioux :** “... He was first and foremost a visionary, a creator. Because of this, his writings had an often decisive influence on the men who shaped the policy of the IOC”.

**Mr. Michel Marmion,** President of the French Athletics Federation : “The death of this friend, who was one of the great promoters and trainers in our sport, is sad news for our federation”.

**Mr. Marcel Hansenne,** former 1000 m record holder, trained by Gaston Meyer :

“There could not be a better (master) than Gaston Meyer... His authority came from his immense knowledge, his devouring passion for athletics in general and for middle-distance in particular... He was very keen that the athletes he took in hand should not be content only with the success they achieved on the cinder tracks. Patiently, calmly, he tried to bring out the best in them to enable them to achieve something in another parallel career...”.



## **JOHN B. KELLY, Jr. LIVED LIFE AT FULL SPEED**

**W**hen he received the gavel of the Presidency of USOC from William Simon almost two months ago, he affirmed his willingness and desire to be an "Athlete's President", saying "I still like to think of myself as an athlete".

These were not just empty words. In spite of his many responsibilities, Jack Kelly found the time to practice sport and to quite an extent. He rowed six months out of the year, training "almost as hard as years ago" when he was a world champion. His jogging shoes went with him everywhere. Sport was a way of life for him, and it is difficult to imagine that he was running when death befell him.

The loss of Jack Kelly, which strikes a family extremely kind to the Olympic Movement and already sorely affected by the death of Princess Grace of Monaco, his sister, is a blow to the entire brotherhood of sport. Born on 24th May 1927 in Philadelphia, Jack caught the fever when still an infant. His father John, masonry contractor, accomplished prototype of the self-made man and without a doubt the greatest American rower of this century (three times Olympic champion) did not fail to pass his passion on to his offspring.

The son affirmed himself early on : at the age of twenty, he had already won the precious Sullivan Award that crowns the best amateur sportsperson of the United States. His career was monumental: participating four times in the Olympic Games, from 1948 to 1960, culminated by a bronze medal in the single skulls in 1952, a world title in 1949, eight American and six Canadian titles, ten times champion of Pennsylvania, twice winner in the Diamond Skulls at the famous Henley regattas and two victories at the Panamerican Games.

As a veteran, John Kelly stayed loyal to his physical endeavors and to the image of the fighter and the winner that was his own : five Masters titles in rowing and another in a tremendous triathlon contest attest to it.

Parallel to this superb trajectory, Jack pursued his launching into the family business. His father, typically, made him begin as an apprentice mason in 1950, giving him indispensable experience and education, before he ascended to the top of the John B. Kelly, Inc.

But Jack Kelly distinguished himself, as well, as a great sports leader : President of the Philadelphia Athletic Club (1962 to 1985), former American Athletics Union (AAU) national President, Swimming Chairman and Board member, chairman of the Rowing Committee of the Maccabiah Games (1961 and 1965), head of the International Swimming Hall of Fame (1980-1982). Vice-President of USOC (1980-1984), all of these positions bear witness to a constant, quasi-atavistic interest in sport. We expected great things of him as President of USOC.

Jack Kelly, married, father of six children, five of them girls, belonged to many sports clubs among them the Bala, Perla and Seaview country clubs, the Vesper Boat Club and the well-known New York Athletic Club.

He appeared to be exceptional in everything. We saw him to be on a long and steady track of service to Olympism and to sport. His death will leave a painful void, for in as much as his personality and his experience and the radiance which he has taken with him, John B. Kelly may well be irreplaceable.

The International Olympic Committee offers its deepest condolences to his wife Sandy and his children, as well as to every American sportsman.

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It is with great sorrow that we learned of the death, following a heart attack at the age of eighty four, of Mr. Alejandro Rivera Bascur, IOC member in Chile. The IOC extends to his wife and his three children its deepest sympathies. The next issue of the Olympic Review will carry an account of the career of this great Chilean sports leader.