



AN EXEMPLARY OLYMPIC CAREER

HOMAGE TO CORNELIS KERDEL

As we announced in our last issue of 1986, Cornelis Lambert Kerdel died on 8th November last after a long illness which prevented him from attending the 91st IOC Session.

The life of Cornelis Kerdel was lived largely under the sign of sport. In his youth, he was an excellent swimmer. Later, he was to coach the young swimmer Ria Mastenbroek, who returned from Berlin after the Games of the XIth Olympiad with three gold medals and one silver. An all-round sportsman, Cornelis Kerdel already possessed the Olympic spirit. Athletics, tennis, boxing, riding, yachting — he had a go at them all, finally emerging as Netherlands skiing champion, a somewhat banal title for such a flat country. It was to help him, however, in giving an impulse

to the development of that sport. But first came the war and then the reconstruction. As an importer of coal, Cornelis Kerdel contributed to the relaunching of industrial activities in a devastated Europe, a huge undertaking which, in the more than precarious conditions which prevailed, demanded truly Olympian qualities of those who attempted the task.

His desire for union and reconciliation, shared by others of his stamp, eventually gave rise to the creation of the Coal Importers' Committee — of which he was Chairman from 1954 to 1965 — that remains one of the foundation stones of the European Economic Community.

This stubbornness, this tenacity, and a great faith in man's ability to surpass himself were reflected equally in Cornelis Kerdel's commitments to sport. With his taste for risk and challenge, he chose to wage a crusade for the creation of a Dutch Skiing Federation. Rapidly, he became President of the Netherlands Skiing Association, then of the "Lowlanders" Ski Committee (BEL, DEN, GBR, HOL). In that capacity, he became a member of the NOC in 1963, soon becoming an invaluable element thanks to his sense of responsibility and his understanding of athletes. Becoming Vice-President in 1965, he was elected President in 1970, when Jonkheer Herman van Karnebeeck retired to devote himself to his activities within the IOC. Always in direct contact with the athletes, he led his first Netherlands delegation to the Olympic Games in Rome in 1960 as Chef de Mission. He was subsequently present in Innsbruck in 1964, then in Sapporo and Munich in 1972. Finally, in 1976, he was to return to Innsbruck and was also at his post in Montreal. In 1970, he arranged the 69th IOC Session in Amsterdam as Vice-President of the Organising Committee.

The following year, he was elected to the IOC when Jonkheer van Karnebeeck became an Honorary Member. He immediately took a passionate interest in communications issues. As a member of the Radio Commission and of the Commission for the Olympic Movement, he unceasingly sought the ways of dialogue. His experience of the difficulties faced by Europe in establishing a union was to be of great value to him in his efforts to bring about better understanding between men. His openness of mind was equalled only by his critical intelligence, as the members of the candidate cities for the

organisation of the 1992 Games discovered when they encountered him as "Inspector" of their plans. Having participated in the Games as an administrator, responsible for the wellbeing of a national team, he was fully aware of the demands of the post when he accepted the chairmanship of the Study and Evaluation Commission for the Preparation of the 1992 Olympic Games. His methodical and orderly approach, his sense of diplomacy and his perfect knowledge of the "Charter" and Olympic usage made him an obvious choice for the post of IOC Head of Protocol, which he occupied for five years until his last illness obliged him to lay down the burden of a difficult task which he had performed with great ease.

H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, in the desire to bear witness to the great esteem in which he was held by all his colleagues in the Committee, awarded him the Olympic Order posthumously. The IOC President presented the decoration to Mrs. Elisa Kerdel, widow of the deceased, during a ceremony which took place on 17th January in Amsterdam.

DECEASE OF JACKSON SCHOLZ



Scholz (at left), Charles Paddock and Emerson Norton in 1924

Jackson Scholz, one of the greatest sprinters in American sports history, world record holder over 100 m in 1920 with a time of 10"6 and over 220 yards on a straight track in 20"8, has died in Miami at the age of 89.

He was the first athlete to qualify for three Olympic finals : 100 m, 200 m and 4 X 100 at the same Games. It was in Paris in 1924, during the Games of the VIIIth Olympiad at the Colombes stadium. After winning the gold medal in the 200 m, he placed second in the 100 m behind British runner Harold Adams, after a memorable race which is one of the highlights of the film "Chariots of Fire". He was selected again for the Games in Amsterdam in 1928 before giving up the sporting life for a successful writing career in the United States.

□ **Erik Bylehn** (SWE), who would have been 89 on January 15th, died last November after having been struck by a car when taking his daily cycling tour of ten kilometers. A champion runner, he won two silver medals: one in the 4 X 400 m in Paris in 1924 and the other in the 800 meters in Amsterdam 1928.

□ The French wrestler, **Louis François**, has died at the age of 81. He obtained a bronze medal in Greco-Roman wrestling, bantam weight category, in Los Angeles in 1932.

□ **Willy Favre**, Swiss skier aged 43, died of a heart attack on 19th December 1986. A specialist in the giant slalom, he was one of three Swiss to mount the rostrum at the Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble in 1968, as silver medallist in the giant slalom. After a serious road accident in 1970, he gave up competition but not skiing, becoming a professional instructor,

□ The American swimmer **Kim Peyton-MacDonald** has died of a brain tumour at the age of 29. She was part of the 4 x 100 m relay team which won the gold medal and beat the world record in that discipline at the Games of the XXth Olympiad in Montreal in 1976.

