

# OBITUARIES



**Douglas F. Roby**, IOC member in the United States from 1952 to 1985 and subsequently an honorary member, has died at the age of 94.

A member of the football team which won the American championship in 1921 and 1922, Douglas Fergusson Roby was above all an excellent squash player. Born in the American south, he enjoyed a long career in this sport, already widely practised in America, in Michigan and Detroit where he went to study and eventually settled. For over ten years, he won cups and tournaments with the Detroit Squash Rackets Team. Upon arrival at the University of Michigan, he immediately began to play an active part in sports organization, in particular as a member of the Control Board for Physical Education. After the Second World War, by now an experienced industrialist, he was elected president of the Michigan Association of the Amateur Athletic Union. His managerial qualities were soon noticed, and he joined the federal board of the prestigious Amateur Athletic Union of the United States (AAAU) of which he was president from

1952 to 1953. At this time, when the great fencer and IOC member James Parker died, Avery Brundage, Roby's illustrious predecessor as AAAU president, could not fail to call him into the IOC.

The embodiment of top level American athletics, he also gave the IOC the benefit of his extensive knowledge of continental American affairs, gained at the end of the 1950s as president of the PASO, especially within the Olympic Solidarity commission on which he sat from 1973 to 1975, after being a member of the Press and Public Relations sub-committee. A highly-qualified sports administrator, he was an ex officio member of the USOC, of which he was elected first vice-president until 1965, when he became president, a position he held until 1969. The 1960s were a decade of upheaval for America and the rest of the world, which first of all saw the Games in Japan, yesterday's defeated enemy, enjoying the miracle of a new beginning, then in Mexico, the neighbour experiencing the explosion of a young generation-in search- of a future. Throughout this period, Douglas Roby strove to keep amateur competition sport out of the various conflicts while allowing it to develop.

We have also learnt of the death, at the age of 73, of **raja Bhalendra Singh**, IOC member in India since 1947. We will return in our next edition to a loss mourned by the Olympic family.

