

OBITUARIES

Mr Gilbert Schwaar

Secretary General of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), Mr Gilbert Schwaar, who was just about to celebrate his 69th birthday, was first and foremost a leading Lausanne personality. A lawyer by profession, he was head of the Tourism and Congress Office of the Olympic capital, and as such was familiar with all the cultural, sporting, economic and commercial life of the city. The IOC's natural interlocutor in Lausanne, he was part of the Olympic family, and as a former athlete and great lover of competition, his heart was never far from it. Nor would he have wanted to miss his time in Lillehammer. For in this city, he was one of the instigators of Athlétissima, the athletics grand prix meeting in Lausanne, over whose fortunes he presided for several years. Warm and enthusiastic, Gilbert Schwaar was a natural talker, with a spirited Mend of courtesy and humour. This strong character trait made him a person of contact and dialogue. A contented man, he happily acknowledged that he was doing exactly what he wanted. It was doubtless for this quality that the IOC President, who shares this immense advantage, entrusted to him the job of secretary general of the CAS ten years ago. It was certainly also because the thesis by this doctor of law was specifically on permanent arbitral tribunals within associations. With this new legal body to be created from scratch, Mr Schwaar was in his element. And so it was he, with Judge Kéba Mbaye, who developed the structure of the CAS, with the result that, in ten years, it has become an independent and respected court increasingly called upon to settle disputes arising within the sports world. Institutions are in the image of those who run them, and the success of the CAS is in large part due to a man whose spirit naturally combined commitment with openness.



Paul Libaud

Founder and president of the FIVB from 1947 to 1984 has died at the age of 89. A volleyball fanatic, a sport in which he found his physical fulfilment, the Frenchman quickly went on to become an administrator. At the end of the war, he took over as president of his national federation, and quickly sought to give his sport an international structure. In 1947, he brought together the presidents of the other national federations to found the FIVB, leading to the creation of championships and then the recognition of volleyball as an Olympic sport in 1964. In Tokyo, the first Olympic volleyball tournament was staged, and this had the immediate effect of producing spectacular growth. In 1984, he left a rapidly-expanding federation with the satisfaction of having accomplished a considerable task.

John Curry

The Olympic ice skating champion in 1976, he has died at the age of 44, from an AIDS-related illness. The only Briton to win all three major men's titles, European, World and Olympic, he was nicknamed the "Nureyev of the ice", as the pioneer of a more artistic style of skating. He loved ballet and classical music and his success enabled him to set up his own company, a 'Theatre of Dance' which performed works by top choreographers.

Helen Stephens of the USA, who in 1936 took Olympic golds in the 100m and in the relay, has died at the age of 75. She won the

dash by beating the favoured Stella Walsh with a world record of 11.5 seconds that stood until Wilma Rudolph broke it in 1960.

Another American medallist at the Games in Berlin, **Dave Albritton**, who won silver in the high jump, has died at the age of 82. He set a world record of 2.02 m in 1936. He was a close friend of Jesse Owens, with whom he led East Tech in Cleveland to victory in the state high school track championships in 1932-33.

Helmuf Kaeser, former secretary-general of FIFA, has died at the age of 82. A lawyer by profession, he was elected secretary-general of the Swiss Football Federation in 1942 and went on to serve as a member of FIFA from 1961 to 1981. FIFA vice president **Mr Nicola Skorjic** also passed away recently.

