

Olympic Gold Medallists



VALERIY BORZOV

This five-time Olympic medallist is one of the few athletes to have brought home two gold medals from a single edition of the Games: in the Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972, Mr Borzov was champion in both the 100m and 200m races, in addition to taking the silver medal in the 4x100m relay. In 1976, at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal, he added to his collection the silver medal in the 100m and the

bronze in the 4x100m relay. Mr Borzov is the founder of the National Olympic Academy of Ukraine. He has been president of the National Olympic Committee since 1991 and serves as vice-president of the Ukrainian athletic committee. Also, he sits on the council for the European Athletic Association (EAA).

Mr Borzov was elected as an IOC member in 1994 and he currently serves on the Eligibility Commission.

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OR : What is your earliest image of the Olympic Games?

Long before I first took part in the Games of the Olympiad, in 1972, I participated in many high-level competitions. But it was at the Olympic Games that I felt the great sense of unity among the peoples of our planet: the representatives of five continents formed a tight column.

OR : What is your best memory or favourite anecdote from the Olympic Games?

In Munich, I fulfilled my most cherished dream of becoming an Olympic champion when I outran the world's greatest sprinters and took two gold medals. Standing on the podium as an Olympic champion was the happiest moment of my life as an athlete.



In addition, at the Games of the Olympiad in Montreal, I was endowed not only with medals, but also with another happy moment when I met Liudmila Turischeva, who became not only my closest friend but also my wife.

OR : In your opinion, what is the significance of the Centenary of the Olympic Games?

The Centennial Olympic Games are most of all a shining example of the Olympic Movement's unity.

OR : What role do you feel sport and Olympism play in modern society?

Olympism is a stabilizing force which has gained considerable influence in world politics. Sport plays a significant role in promoting both a heal-



Valeriy Borzov pulls ahead for the Olympic victory in the 100m.

thy way of life for youth and the many ways in which athletes can develop, thanks to modern scientific achievements.

OR : What message would you like to give to today's youth?

Youth is the future of our planet. Young people must work on their physical and spiritual development. Practising a sport and respecting human values is a pledge to the harmonious growth of young people.