

Carlos Ferrer, tribute to a champion

by Andrés Mercé Varela*

Spanish sport is in mourning. One of the most outstanding figures in Spanish public life, Carlos Ferrer Salat, IOC member and president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, died unexpectedly at his home in Barcelona at the age of 67. His links with the public, economic, sporting and cultural communities of his country made his death all the more tragic.

Many people attended his funeral, including some of the most prominent figures from Spanish sport and society, including the IOC President, he president of the Catalan government, the mayor of Barcelona, the national director of sport, and other senior sports officials. H.M. King Juan Carlos of Spain sent a message expressing his deep sympathy. On Saturday, 17 October, Carlos Ferrer arrived home and went to bed, and at 2 o'clock in the morning, he died in his sleep.

In his student years he had already demonstrated his taste for discipline, his love for study and his intelligence, which led to his obtaining university degrees in economic science, philosophy and arts, and chemical engineering. On the sporting side he became Spanish tennis champion in 1952, a Davis Cup player in 1953 and captain of the Spanish team in 1954. After his studies he gave the sporting life a rest and dedicated himself to business, managing several chemical,



export, pharmaceutical and automobile companies. In 1973 he founded the Bank of Europe and was president of the FTN, the umbrella group for Catalan businesses, and the CEOE, the Spanish business organization.

In the '80s, when he was about to embark on a political career, the IOC President convinced him to join the

Olympic Movement. Carlos Ferrer, as president of the federation of Catalan businesses, persuaded them to finance Barcelona's bid to host the Olympic Games in 1992. He was made president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, and was vice-president of the Barcelona bid for 1992, bringing extraordinary dynamism to the Spanish NOC. At the Berlin Session in 1985 the IOC made him a member.

As soon as Ferrer Salat took Spanish sport in hand things changed completely. The 1992 Games were a success, and the Spanish delegation won three gold medals, seven silver and two bronze. Spanish sport had considerable resources, both financial and

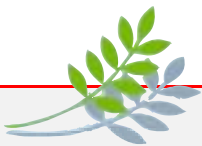
technical, and Ferrer Salat set up the ADO business grants for the promotion of elite athletes. Hence, the world of sport in Spain underwent a major and decisive change. In 1990 he was elected president of the European organization UNICE, and re-elected in 1992. He was a firm supporter of the Maastricht treaty. His most recent important charge was as president of the European Union's Economic and Social Council, in April 1997. Within the IOC he was made vice chairman of the Finance Commission, and he dedicated himself totally to active work for the Olympic organization.

Carlos Ferrer was considered a "universal Catalan" who did a tremendous amount for sport, industry, finance and the image of his country.

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Carlos Ferrer, competing in the Davis Cup.



Alexandru Siperco



Alexandru Siperco, doyen of the international Olympic Committee members, died on 26 October in Bucharest (Romania) at the age of 78. Alexandru Siperco was

coopted as an IOC member in 1955, was elected on to the Executive Board in 1979 and was IOC vice-president from 1982 to 1986. He was a militant devoted to the Olympic cause. In his own country, he was, among other things, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Organization of Sports (1948-1949) and vice-president of the State Committee for Physical Education and Sport (1949-1957). He also led the Romanian Olympic Committee from 1952 to 1959. Within the IOC, he was a member of the following commissions: Olympic Aid (1962-1967), Coordination and Supervising Committee for

IOC/NOC Relations (1968-1971), Amateurism, Eligibility (member 1965-1980), International Olympic Academy (1967-1980), Publications (1974-1976), Juridical and Revision of the Charter (1982-1990), Preparation of the XII Olympic Congress (1985-1994); Eligibility (vice-chairman 1980-1990), Joint Commission for Amateurism (chairman 1968-1971), Bureau of the Olympic Movement (from 1987), and Olympic Movement Commission (from 1982). An arts graduate, Alexandru Siperco published novels, short stories, screenplays and studies on sports. history.

Jean-Pascal Delamuraz



The former President of the Swiss Confederation and Mayor of Lausanne, **Jean-Pascal Delamuraz** died on 3 October in Lausanne at the age of 62. Born in 1936, he

graduated in political sciences from the University of Lausanne and began his professional career as an assistant to the administrative director of the "Expo'64" national exhibition in Lausanne. Elected onto the city council in 1965, he went on to become mayor from 1974 to 1981. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz was acquainted with all levels of Swiss political life, as a local councillor, councillor of the State of Vaud, member of the national council and then of the federal council in 1984. In 1989, he was elected President of the Swiss Confederation, a position he held again in 1996. He was also a member of the Council of Europe's Standing Conference (now Congress) of Local

and Regional Authorities of Europe. The Swiss statesman Jean-Pascal Delamuraz always supported the development of Olympism, particularly in 1981 when he wrote, "the joyous battle I fought to get the Federal authorities [...] to grant the IOC the status it rightly merited and which it now holds: that of international non-governmental organization of the first order". A faithful attendee at all the major Olympic events held in the Olympic capital, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz took part in the Olympic Day celebrations on 23 June this year in Vidy. President Samaranch awarded him the Olympic Order in 1981.

The Russian coach **Stanislas Jouk** died suddenly on 1st November in Moscow. He was 64. This national coach made a name for himself by training the pair Ekaterina Gordeeva and Serguei Grinkov, who won two Olympic golds in 1984 and 1988, and four world titles. A former skater and medallist at the 1958 and 1960 European championships, Jouk also coached Irina Rodnina and Alexandre Zaitsev, several times European, world and Olympic medallists.

Larry Ellis, who in 1984 coached the American 'men's athletics team at the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles, died at his home in Skillman, New Jersey (USA), at the beginning of November. He was 70. Ellis was the coach of Olympic long jump champion Bob Beamon when Beamon was at Jamaica High School in New York. He was also athletics coach at Princeton University for 22 years. From 1992 to 1996, he was president of the United States Track and Field Association, and his athletes included the current USATF president Craig Masback. His final mission, just two months ago, was to organize the men's team for the athletics World Cup in South Africa.