

Obituaries

Louis Guirandou N'Diaye

by Lassana Palenfa*



"Dearest Guirandou,

"You have reached the end of a journey shared by all of humankind, each following his own path and destiny.

"Just a few days ago, we still enjoyed your calm and comforting presence and your wise advice. Today we are filled with sadness and emotion because *Sensei* (or "master" in Japanese), as we affectionately used to call you, has gone on a journey from which there is no return. We must face the truth: each hour that strikes marks a departure.

The journey of your life, which traversed almost the entire century, was characterized by success in many areas. But I shall limit myself to your sports career. In your youth you played football and basketball, but your sports career was indelibly marked by martial arts (and in particular judo), 8th Dan in judo, 8th Dan in taekwondo, 7th Dan in karate and 5th Dan in Aikido.

Between 1968 and your death - an uninterrupted period of more than thirty years you presided over the Ivorian Olympic Committee.

"It would be tiring of me to list all the posts you have filled. Suffice it to say that you have been: deputy secretary general and vice president of the French judo federation, president of the Ile de France league, vice president of the World Taekwondo Federation, an IOC member since 1969, vice president from 1980 to 1984 and chief of protocol from 1985, chairman of the International Committee for Fair-Play, president of the OlympAfrica International Foundation, and a member of the Academic Française des Sports since 1999.

"There can be no more eloquent tribute to your commitment to sport in general, and to martial arts in particular, than your innumerable titles and the duties you performed in all fields where sport heralds friendship between people.

"There can be no greater sign of recognition, or greater loyalty and friendship than shown by those who have flocked to pay tribute to you since the fatal *lppon* was dealt to you by death. Yet those who knew you as a man, sportsman and diplomat know that it had to be thus.

"We shall all remember with emotion your sense of justice and how you helped all those who approached you.

"We shall all remember with nostalgia the warm and convivial atmosphere your merry jokes created.

"We shall all meditate, in the silence of our own consciences, on the lessons in humility and dignity taught by you, a gentleman generous in friendship.

"We are forced to continue our journey through life without you. But we will carry our memory of you deep within our hearts as we journey, following Malraux's example when he said that, 'the hero's tomb is the hearts of those who live on'.

"Farewell, dear Guirandou, and may peace be with you on your journey. 'You, God of the Universe, grant your forgiveness to Louis Guirandou N'Diaye, place him amidst the ranks of the faithful and make his tomb welcoming and bright.'"

*President of the Ivorian Olympic Committee; president of the African Judo Union.

Roberto Guillermo Peper



Honorary IOC member Roberto Guillermo Peper died on 3 July in Buenos Aires at the age of 86. As a swimmer, Peper was

South American record holder, and represented Argentina at the Games of the X Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932, in the 4 x 200m freestyle relay. He later participated in the Pan American and South American Games. He also rowed and played water polo, in which sports he won several titles, and was a member of the Club de Gimnasia y Esgrima ("gymnastics and fencing club") of Buenos Aires. He was secretary of the Argentine Sports Foundation, a life member of the Belgrano Athletic Club (swimming), the Teutonia Rowing Club and the German Club de Buenos Aires. Following his election as an IOC member in 1977, he sat on the Commission for the international Olympic Academy from 1983 to 1988, before becoming an honorary IOC member in 1988.

David Dixon



Secretary general of the Commonwealth Games Federation since 1982, David Dixon died in May at the age of 73. While he was a student at Oxford, Dixon took part in the heats for the hurdles event of the Games of the XIV Olympiad in London in 1948. He was elected president of the Oxford University Athletics Club in 1950. His involvement with the Commonwealth Games dates back to 1974, when he was appointed legal advisor to the Commonwealth Games Council for England. Three years later Dixon accepted a similar post with the British Olympic Association (BOA), and in 1978 he added the Commonwealth Games Federation to his sports and legal responsibilities. He was also a member of the executive committee of the BOA from 1977, and of its foundations for education (from 1982) and medicine (from 1986). In 1990 he was made a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

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João Carlos (João do Pulo) da Oliveira



Brazil's bronze-medallist in the triple jump at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976, João Carlos de Oliveira, died recently at the age of 46. After winning several national and regional championships in the long jump and triple jump, he gained an international reputation on setting the triple jump world record at the Panamerican Games in Mexico City October 1975.

Marshall Wayne



Marshall Wayne of the United States, Olympic champion in 1936, died in June in Hendersonville, North Carolina, at the age of 87. At the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin he won the gold medal for the platform dive and silver for the three-metre springboard. In 1996, at the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games, in Atlanta, Wayne took part in a ceremony organized in

Hendersonville as the Olympic torch passed through the town.

Ernst Nievergelt



Ernst Nievergelt, who won a bronze medal for road racing at the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936, has died at the age of 89. He was the first Swiss cyclist to win an Olympic medal, at the age of 26.

Olympic Quiz

Answers

- At the Games of the first Olympiad in Athens in 1896. The swimming competitions took place in the Bay of Zea in the Aegean.
- Johnny Weissmuller (born Petr Janos Weismüller on 2 June 1904) was of Austrian origin. His parents emigrated to the United States in 1908.
- Oliver Kirk (USA). He won the gold in the bantamweight (52 to 56 kg) and featherweight (56 to 70 kg) categories at the Games of the III Olympiad in St. Louis in 1904.
- Richard Gunn was born on 16 February 1871. He was 37 years old in 1908 when he became the oldest Olympic boxing champion by winning the featherweight category (56 to 70 kg).
- Leon Stukelj of Slovenia, born on 18 November 1898. He won gold medals in 1924 and 1928 and a bronze medal in 1936 at the age of 38.
- In both 1908 and 1912 Australia and New Zealand entered with a single delegation.
- In 1968 in Mexico, thanks to particularly favourable climatic and competition conditions (altitude, temperature, "tartan" track, etc.) the triple jump record was broken five times:
 - Giuseppe Gentile (ITA): 17.10 m
 - Giuseppe Gentile (ITA): 17.22 m
 - Viktor Saneyev (URS): 17.23 m
 - Nelson Prudencio (BRA): 17.27 m
 - Viktor Saneyev (URS): 17.39 m
- Naïm Suleymanoglu (TUR) won gold medals at the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in Seoul in 1988, the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona in 1992 and the Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta in 1996.
- Mixed doubles; badminton.
- Horse riding.
- Rhythmic gymnastics and synchronized swimming.
- 1.5 km swim, 40 km cycle and 10 km run.
- The Soling is the only Olympic class with three crew, and they need to be well-built (no less than 200 kg per crew).
- Beach volleyball first appeared on the beaches of California, USA, during the Second World War.
- At the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936 the French cox Noël Vandernotte (born on 25 December 1923) won two bronze medals in the rowing competitions (pair-oared shell with coxswain and four-oared shell with coxswain) at the age of 12.
- Paris (1900 and 1924), London (1908 and 1948) and Los Angeles (1932 and 1984).