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# Obituaries

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## Jafar Salmasi



Jafar Salmasi, the first Iranian to win an Olympic medal, died last January in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, aged 82. He won the bronze medal for weightlifting (featherweight category - 64 kg) at the Games of the XIV Olympiad in London in 1948. Three years later, at the Asian Games in New Delhi, he won the gold medal in the same event.

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## Sandra Schmirler



Canadian Sandra Schmirler, the first Olympic curling champion at the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, died at the beginning of March in Regina, Canada, aged 36, Three-time Canadian and world champion,

only Sweden's Elisabet Gustafson has won more medals in women's curling.

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## Aeriwentha «Mae» Faggs Starr

American athlete Aeriwentha 'Mae' Faggs Starr, who died at the end of January aged 67, was the first American women's star from Tennessee State University, which saw the rise of the greatest female athletes of the 1950s and 60s. In 1948, when she was only 16 years old, she participated in her first Olympic Games in London. Four years later, in Helsinki, she won the gold medal in the 4 x 100m relay, followed by a bronze medal in Melbourne in 1956. US 100m champion in 1955 and 1956, she also won the national 200m title in 1954, 1955 and 1956. In addition, she won the silver medal in the 100m at the Pan American Games in Mexico City in 1955. 'Mae' Faggs Starr was inducted into the US Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1976.

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## Georges Louis Niels



Belgian Olympic medallist Georges Louis Niels passed away last February in Miami (United States of America)

aged 81. Born in Brussels in 1919, he won the silver medal in the four-man bobsleigh at the V Olympic Winter Games in St Moritz in 1948. His teammates were Jacques Mouvet, Max Houben and Alfred Mansveld. Following his sporting career, he became an international business man.

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## Mabel Robinson MBE

One of Australia's longest serving athletics officials, Mabel Robinson MBE has passed away at the age of 90 years. Born in 1910, she began athletics with the Malvern Women's AAC in 1930. She was Australian 880 yards walk champion in 1933 and finished second in the next three national championships. Mabel's career as an athletics official started soon after she became a competitor. She was a finish judge, recorder, field judge and track and field referee from 1931. With her husband Alf, she officiated at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games and 1962 Commonwealth Games. She was also a State selector between 1954 and 1958. At national level Mabel became Vice-president of the Australian Women's Amateur Athletic Union (AWAAU) from 1950 to 1952 and in 1962 she became President until 1978 when the men's and women's Unions amalgamated. She then became Vice-president of the newly Union (now Athletics Australia) until 1983. In 1971 she received a Merit Award and in 1973 was awarded life membership of Athletics Australia. Mabel also received an MBE for her services to athletics.

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