

Hassine Hamouda



Hassine Hamouda, an eminent Tunisian sports leader, died in April in Paris (France), a few days short of his 90th birthday. Hamouda, who followed a career in the army, practised several sports in his youth, especially swimming. As a colonel in the army, he was director of military sports and coached a number of athletes who were successful nationally, internationally and at the Olympic Games. A former national water-polo player, Hamouda fulfilled a number of different functions nationally. He was president of the athletics and boxing federations, secretary general of the Tunisian National Olympic Committee, and chef de mission at the Games of the XVII Olympiad in Rome in 1960. At international level, he chaired the Press Commission of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), which in 1985 became a Communications Commission. He was also a member of the IOC Press Commission as ANOC representative. Serving and promoting African sport, Hamouda created and then edited the magazine *“Champion d’Afrique”* which was created to mark an annual ceremony in honour of sportsmen and leaders who had been awarded the

“Golden Shoe”, the “African Champion” medal and other trophies. He also promoted ANOC’s newsletter which has appeared since 1984. Decorated with the medal of sporting merit in Tunisia, Hamouda also received the Olympic Order in 1978 and the medal of the International Council of Military Sport (CISM).

Haig ‘Harry’ Prieste



Haig Prieste (in wheelchair) presenting the Antwerp flag to the IOC President, in the presence of (from l. to r.) William Hybl, Nicholas La Maina and Carolyn La Maina.

The man who stole the Olympic flag from its pole in Antwerp in 1920 and returned it to the IOC during the 111th Session in Sydney in 2000, **Haig ‘Harry’ Prieste**, died on 26 April in Camden, New Jersey (United States of America) at the age of 104 years old. Born in Fresno, California on 23 November 1896, he moved, after high school, to Los Angeles and was discovered by Mack Sennett and became one of the original Keystone Kops. He appeared in over 25 movies and knew old time great: Charlie Chaplin, Gloria Swanson, Laurel and Hardy. He served in the Navy in World War I before taking

part in a better and peaceful competition at the Olympic Games. Prieste won a bronze medal in platform diving at the Games of the VII Olympiad in Antwerp, and remembers making King Albert laugh when he tripped going up for his medal. While on the team he befriended the great Duke Kahanamoku and Aileen Riggan. He stole the Olympic flag from the flagpole after the Olympics were over, on a dare from the Duke. After the Olympics, he toured Europe with the team. Then he returned to the United States and to California. In 1921, in Hawaii, he won the diving event in the Hawaiian Championships. He stayed in Hawaii for a while with the Duke and his brothers, and the Duke taught him to surf. He went into show business as a dancer, tumbler and pantomime artist, eventually making his way to stardom on Broadway in the days of vaudeville. After vaudeville did, he joined the circus and did a comedy routine and later took his routine on ice and played with the Ice Follies. He adopted the name of Hal when he was in show business and worked small clubs until he was in his 80’s, even returning to Honolulu in 1982. He often skated at the Penn Rink, where the Philadelphia Flyers Hockey team practised, and when they moved to Voorhees, New Jersey, so did Prieste. He ice skated until he was 95 years old. He was married to Hazel, they never had any children, and she died about 30 years ago. In 1996, Prieste ran with the Olympic Torch, after lighting it from the cauldron in Trenton, New Jersey with Governor Whitman, before the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games, in Atlanta and celebrated his own personal centenary on the same occasion.

Obituaries

Waldir Pereira Didi



Former Brazilian footballer Waldir Pereira Didi, world champion in 1958 and 1962, died on 12 May in Rio de Janeiro, aged 72. In 1958, when Brazil won its first World Cup in Sweden, thanks largely to its forward players Garrincha, Vava, Pelé and Zagallo, but also to its midfield maestro Didi. Behind the striking quartet, the experienced 30-year old Didi ran the show against the teams Brazil played in 1958, which included Wales, France and Sweden. Born in 1928, Pereira, nicknamed 'Didi', first played in a World Cup in Switzerland in 1954, where he showed his talents as a midfield leader and playmaker. An outstanding midfielder, he also invented the swerved free kick. His elegance attracted plaudits from football observers: journalist and playwright Nelson Rodrigues nicknamed him 'the Ethiopian prince'. For the international press, he was simply 'Mr Football'. Didi played for Real Madrid in 1959 alongside other legends such as Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas. After his playing career, the player who scored the first goals in the Maracana, when the famous stadium was inaugurated in 1950, trained Peru's national team and qualified for its first World Cup finals in Mexico in 1970. One of his

many admirers, the Editor-in-Chief of the Olympic Review, Fékrou Kidané, named his son 'Didi' when he was born in 1964. The two Didis later met in Stuttgart, Germany. during the 1974 World Cup.

Johanna Maria 'Hannie' Termeulen



The Dutch Olympic Swimmer, Johanna Maria 'Hannie' Termeulen died on 1 March 2001 in Amsterdam (Netherlands). Born on 18 February 1929 in Wiesbaden (Germany), she began her swimming career in the forties under the famous trainer-coach Jan Stender. Already in 1947, during the first European Swimming Championships following World War II, she won a silver medal in the 100 metres freestyle and another one as member of the 4x100 metres freestyle relay team. She was thought to be one of the favourites for the Olympic gold medal in the 100 metres freestyle at the Games of the XIV Olympiad in London in 1948, but she failed, finishing fourth in her heat and not even making it to the semi-finals. However, she still won a bronze medal as a member of the 4x100 metres freestyle relay team. After the Games in London, another Dutch swimmer. Irma

Schuhmacher outflanked her and even took the gold medal away from her at the 1950 European Swimming Championships in Vienna (Austria). However, with Irma and two other swimmers! she won the gold medal in the 4x100 metres freestyle relay. In 1952, at the Games of the XV Olympiad in Helsinki, she won a silver medal in the 100 metres freestyle, repeating this a few days later in the 4x100 metres freestyle relay.

Steven Joseph Blaisse



Steven Joseph Blaisse who died on 20 April at the age of 60, was one of the top rowers from the Netherlands in the sixties. He and Ernst Veenemans formed an exceptional coxless pair. At the age of twenty, they competed at the Games of the XVII Olympiad in Rome. Four years later they reached their best form. They won the European Championships in Amsterdam and later that year they also won silver at the Games of the XVIII Olympiad in Tokyo. In 1968 and 1972, Blaisse was involved in the Olympic Games as a commentator. His uncle, Berndt Blaisse, took part in the IV Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936.