

Obituaries

Arie van Vliet



Dutch cyclist **Arie van Vliet** died in Woerden (Netherlands) on 10 July at the age of 85 years. Born in 1916, he started his career as a cyclist, when as an 18 year old he won a third prize during the Dutch championships in sprint for amateurs. A few weeks later, he won silver at the World Cycling Championships in Leipzig in 1934. Arie van Vliet was often called "The Professor" because of his glasses, but he was also a very cunning contestant. The top, but also the lowest point of his amateur career came during the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936. That lowest point came for van Vliet in the 1,000 metres sprint final against his German opponent Tony Merkens. Van Vliet had almost overtaken Merkens in the first heat of the final, when he suddenly had to avoid a collision with him, as Merkens had left his own line of sprint, which was a forbidden in that event. Van Vliet protested, but to no avail. Sure, Merkens had to pay a fine of 100 Goldmarks, but was not disqualified and thus won the first heat. After the second run in that final, which a demoralized van Vliet lost again, Merkens indeed received his gold medal with 20,000 loud Germans watching in the stands, while van Vliet only received a silver! But, Arie van Vliet did not get home without that coveted gold medal. He entered the 1,000 metres time trial,

an event which he had never contested before. In spite of his lack of experience he went on to win, and give himself completely over a short distance. A year later, van Vliet became a professional cyclist and had a career that lasted for twenty years. He lost several years in his prime, when World War II prevented the organization of any world championships, but his "palmarès" nevertheless included three world championships in professional sprint in 1938, 1948 and 1953 (at the age of 37). He finished his professional career in 1957, then continued to serve his sport for many years as a trainer, jury member, and even as a member of the Board of the Royal Netherlands Cycling Union.

A. Bijkerk.

René Bondoux

The oldest French Olympic medallist, **René Bondoux**, died on 6 May 2001. He would have been 96 on 26 May. Several days earlier, he had been at the foot of the Eiffel Tower with numerous French athletes to support the Paris 2008 bid. After playing football, Bondoux became a fencer. He was Olympic champion in the team foil event at the Games of the X Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932, and then won silver in the team event in Berlin in 1936. French champion on several occasions, he even finished his career with a championship title in Pans when he was 44 years old! At the same time, he began to study law, becoming a lawyer and specializing in the civil code and corporate law. But after his life as an athlete, René Bondoux lived a second life when he joined the French Resistance in 1941. He then joined the first French Army, participating in the landing in Provence and the Battle of France. He was promoted to the rank of colonel and found himself, as

Principal Private Secretary to Marshal Lattre de Tassigny, in Berlin on 8 May 1945 and present for the signing of the German act of surrender. Upon his return to civilian life, Bondoux was called to the bar in Paris and, in 1963, became chairman of the Paris bar. This, therefore, was his third life. Mr Varaut, one of his young colleagues, noted that: *"He was unbeatable as a lawyer through his eloquence, which included his imposing silences, his calm authority yet attacking temperament, his intellectual integrity, his moral strength and his knowledge of law."* Member of the Academy of Sports, René Bondoux was elected to the French sports hall of fame in 1996. Honorary member of the International Fencing Federation, he was also a member of the IOC sub-commission established by Lord Killanin in 1974 and tasked with examining the issue of the IOC's juridical and fiscal status.

J.F. Renault.

Malcom Cooper



Britain's double Olympic shooting champion **Malcolm Cooper** died on 9 June at the age of 54 in Eastergate, Sussex. Born on 20 December 1947, Cooper took up shooting as a 14-year-old in New Zealand where his father was stationed as a lieutenant in the Royal Navy. He became the finest small bore rifle shot in the world.

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Placed 12th at the Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972 and 18th in the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976, he was disappointed by the boycott of the Moscow Games in 1980. Four years later, in Los Angeles, Cooper won the gold medal and repeated this victory in Seoul in 1988. Furthermore, he won all the five individual titles at the 1985 European Championships and he set five world records at the 1986 World Championships. He competed also in the Commonwealth Games in 1974, 1982, 1986 and 1990 and, with his wife Sarah, won gold in the team event in 1986 in Edinburgh. In all, Cooper was on the British team from 1970 to 1991 and set 19 world records. He was awarded the MBE for services to sport prior to the Los Angeles Games.

Mohamed Zerguini



IOC member in Algeria since 1974, **Mohamed Zerguini** died on 21 June in the capital Algiers. Born on 23 April 1922 in Constantine, he studied at a military academy and became the highest-ranking colonel in the Algerian army. Both Minister and Ambassador, Mohamed Zerguini was president of the Algerian Olympic Committee from 1968 to 1984, vice-president of the Algerian Football Federation (FAFA) and vice-president

of the International Mediterranean Games Committee. In charge of the Mediterranean Games in Algiers in 1975, he also became vice-president of the Organizing Committee for the African Games held in the same city three years later. Elected an IOC member in 1974, Mohamed Zerguini had been a member of the Commission for Culture and Olympic Education since 1982, as well as sitting on the Study and Evaluation Commission for the Preparation of the Olympic Games from 1984 to 1986.

Dan Hanley

The chief physician of the United States Olympic team from 1964 through 1972, **Dan Hanley**, died aged 85 on 6 May in Portland, Maine (United States of America). Born on 27 March 1916 in Amesbury, Massachusetts, he earned, after outstanding academic and athletic careers in high school, a scholarship to Bowdoin College in Brunswick where he was captain of the hockey team, played football and basketball. From 1946 until his retirement in 1980, Hanley was the head physician for his alma mater, Bowdoin College which in 1980 awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science Degree. Specializing in sports medicine, he became active in the Olympic Movement in the 1950's. In 1960, Hanley was an assistant on the USOC medical staff, and from 1968 to 1980 he was a member of the IOC Medical Commission. In recent years, he was the executive director of the Maine Medical Association. It has to be noted that he changed one of his niece's athletic career. When his niece, a ski racer, broke her right leg in a ski accident as a high school sophomore, Hanley recommended that she rehabilitate it by running on

the roads. She did, and she also quit ski racing and became a distance runner. In 1984 in Los Angeles, the niece, Joan Benoit Samuelson, won the first Olympic women's marathon.

Zoltan Nemere



The Hungarian athlete, **Zoltan Nemere**, double Olympic champion epee fencer, died last July, in a traffic accident, at the age of 59. Member of the Hungarian epee team he won two gold medals successively, at the Games of the XVIII and of the XIX Olympiads in Tokyo in 1964 and in Mexico in 1968. He also obtained 6 medals in various World Championships including 3 World Champion titles. Nemere settled down in Germany in the mid-70s and worked as a dentist. After the political changes in Hungary, he frequently travelled between the two countries and received dual citizen ship. The Semmelweis University of Medical sciences erected a marble tablet in honour of their graduates 20 Olympic champion doctors and dentists. Nemere was on the way to this celebration but he never arrived due to the tragic accident. Zoltan Nemere was the 93rd Hungarian Olympic champion who left this world behind and whose name has been carved in the Memorial Wall of the Hungarian Olympic Champions in the Farkasreti Cemetery.