

Obituaries

Charles Palmer



Charles Palmer, chairman of the British Olympic Association, died on 17 August at the age of 71. Palmer started judo at the age of 16 at Ealing Judo Club and obtained his black belt by the age of 18. On completion of his National service he gained his 2nd Dan at the Budokwai, studying under Gunji Koizumi and Trevor Leggett. In 1951 as a security guard at the British Embassy in Tokyo, he was able to further his judo studies at the Kodokan becoming a special student (Kenshusei), being awarded his 3rd Dan in 1953 and his 4th Dan in 1955. Back to England, he was a member of the the British Judo Team which won the European Championships in 1957, 1958, and 1959, becoming captain for the last two years. After his retirement from competition, Palmer concentrated on teaching the sport at the Budokwai, the oldest club in Europe, in South Kensington. Lord Killanin, the former IOC President, once said: *"He knows his own sport back to front, which is unusual for an administrator."* Then he became chairman of the British Judo Association, a post held for 24 years. In 1965, Palmer was elected president of the International Judo Federation (IJF), a post he held for 14 years. In 1985, he

was elected as chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA) for a four-year term. Charles Palmer received his tenth Dan by the British Judo Association Board of Directors in 1995. In 1973 he was awarded the OBE for his services to international judo.

Don Hume



Olympic rowing champion, Don Hume died on 16 September at the age of 86 in Washington State. Born in Olympia, Hume set the pace as stroke oar for the eight-man Washington crew that won the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title and American Olympic trials before winning the gold medal at the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936. A former president of the West Coast Mining Association, he worked in the oil and gas drilling industry. He was also a member of the University of Washington's Husky Hall of Fame.

*NCAA- National Collegiate Athletics Association.

Yushiro Yagi

Yushiro Yagi, president of the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC)



since 1999, died on 9 September in Osaka (Japan) at the age of 72. After a skiing career which began at an early age, Yagi moved into sports administration. In the 1960s he became a member of the Japanese Skiing Association and the International Ski Federation (FIS). After joining the JOC in 1971, he held various positions within the Committee before being appointed secretary general, in 1995, and president, in 1999. Appointed vice-president of the Olympic Council of Asia in 1999, he was also a member of the working group for the Olympic Winter Games within the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC). After being deputy chef de mission in Albertville (1992) and Lillehammer (1994), Yagi was chef de mission at the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in 1998 in Nagano as well as the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney last year. He was also closely involved in the organizing committees of international sports events such as the Asian Games, the University Games and the 2002 football World Cup. After being a member of the Organizing Committee of the Winter Games in Nagano, Yagi was a vice-president of the Osaka bid committee for the Games of the Olympiad in 2008. Yushiro Yagi received the Olympic Order in 1997.