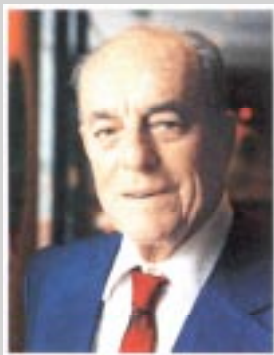


Obituaries

José Dalmiro Vallarino Veracierto



IOC honorary member in Uruguay, **José Dalmiro Vallarino Veracierto** died at the end of October in Montevideo, aged 81. Born on 14 February 1920, he studied law, library science and physical education, which led him to follow a career as a history teacher, an inspector for the National Education Council, a teacher at the School of Dramatic Art and a librarian. He was an accomplished sportsman and practised many disciplines such as athletics, rowing, football, volleyball, basketball, swimming and tennis. In 1933 he was junior basketball champion, and then, in 1936, athletics champion. From 1955 to 1959 he was president of the Physical Education and Sports National Council, and was also secretary of the Uruguayan Rowing Federation, the South-American Rowing Confederation as well as president of the University Sports League and member of the Uruguayan volleyball, swimming and football federations. Honorary member of the Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) Aquatic Federation, José Dalmiro Vallarino Veracierto was president of the Uruguayan NOC from 1976 to 1987, after being secretary of the Pan-American Sports Organisation (PASO) from 1967 to 1975. During the 77th IOC Session in Innsbruck in 1976, he became an IOC member, a position which he held until 1996. From 1980

to 1995, he was a member of the IOC Cultural Commission. It should also be noted that Vallarino Veracierto published many written works relating to sports and history. Furthermore, he was a member of various associations such as the Automobile Club, the National Football Club, the Montevideo Rowing Club, the Tennis Club, the Agricultural Development Commission and the Montevideo Panathlon Club.

Micheline Ostermeyer



The pianist and Olympic champion, **Micheline Ostermeyer**, died on 17 October in Bois-Guillaume, near Rouen (France), aged 78. Born in 1922 in Rang-du-Fliers (Pas-de-Calais), she started piano lessons at the age of four with her mother in Tunis, where she was awarded the Conservatoire's top piano prize at the age of 11. She left for Paris in 1936 but returned to Tunis three years later as a result of World War II. It was then that she discovered basketball and athletics. On her return to France in 1945 she became the French shot put champion, breaking the national record. One year afterwards she was awarded the Paris National Conservatoire's top piano prize, and, one month later, won silver medal in the shot put at the European Championships in Oslo. This was followed by a gold medal the next year at the World University Games. In

1948, at the Games of the XIV Olympiad in London, Micheline Ostermeyer took three medals in athletics: her first gold medal in the discus; a second gold in the shot put; and finally a third medal, this time bronze, in the high jump. This exceptional achievement has never been equalled by a French sportswoman. At the same time, she continued giving concerts in France and North Africa. She ended her sports career in 1950 after the European Championships in Brussels, where she was bronze medallist in both the 80m hurdles and the shot put. This was after being French champion 13 times in seven different disciplines and having broken around 20 national records. A mother of two children and widowed at a young age, she then took up piano teaching whilst performing in concerts and recitals throughout Europe. In 1992, Micheline Ostermeyer received the title of Knight of the Legion of Honour, as well as the Pierre de Coubertin Grand Prix, awarded by the Pierre de Coubertin Committee. A year before she died, she continued to play her piano six or seven hours a day. She once said: *"My strength came from my piano. Also, I sometimes used to go for a jog just before I went on stage so that I was relaxed for my recital"*.

Paul Cummings

American athlete **Paul Cummings** drowned when his canoe overturned while he was fishing at Strawberry Reservoir in Salt Lake City (United States of America). Forty-eight year old Cummings competed in the 10,000 metres at the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1984 but did not qualify for the final. The same year, he set the world best in the half marathon. NCAA (National

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Collegiate Athletics Association) mile champion for Brigham Young University in 1974, he was also the American half-marathon champion in 1987. He also held the American 15-kilometer record for six years after finishing at 42:42 in 1983.

Jaroslav Drobny

The Czech tennis player **Jaroslav Drobny** died on 13 September in London (Great Britain) at the age of 79. He was a double winner at Roland-Garros in 1951 and 1952, and Wimbledon champion in 1954. Drobny

was a member of the World Champion-winning Czechoslovakian ice hockey team in Prague in 1947, who were runners-up the following year at the V Olympic Winter Games in St Moritz, before he left Czechoslovakia. He won his Wimbledon title whilst having an Egyptian passport. He had lived in Great Britain since 1955.

Edith Ijeoma Nzuruike

The Paralympics gold medallist **Edith Ijeoma Nzuruike** has died after a brief illness on 3 September in Osina (Nigeria). Born on 13

December 1975, Nzuruike, known as 'Queen of the Field' in Nigeria, started her sports career in 1996 at the inter-ministerial Games where she won gold. At the National Sports Festival 'Imo'98', she became a national champion in javelin and discus. A year after winning the javelin gold at the All-African Games in Johannesburg (South Africa) in September 1999, Nzuruike shattered the women's F58 (wheelchair) javelin record by more than eight metres with a throw of 25.54 metres and became a gold medallist in the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games.

Olympic Quiz

Olympic Ceremonies

Answers

1. Prince Albert de Monaco. He was flagbearer at the Olympic Winter Games in Calgary in 1988, Albertville in 1992 and Lillehammer in 1994. He also competed in the bobsleigh events at these three consecutive editions.
2. This first occurred at the 1932 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid. The podium was first used internationally at the 1930 British Empire Games in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. IOC President Baillet-Latour liked the idea and suggested it be used at the Olympic Games.
3. This occurred in 1920 at Antwerp, when the oath of the athletes was spoken by Belgian fencer and water poloist Victor Bouin.
4. This first occurred in 1972 at the XI Olympic Winter Games in Sapporo, where the officials' oath was spoken by Fumio Asaki, a ski jumping official. At Munich, later in 1972, the oath was spoken at the Olympic Games by Heinz Pollay, an equestrian official.
5. This was in 1936 in Berlin, where the final torchbearer was the German runner, Fritz Schilgen.
6. No. The flame for the Olympic Winter Games has not always been lit in Olympia. In 1952 and 1960 the flame for the Olympic Winter Games was lit at the hearth of Sondre Nordheim, the father of modern skiing, at his ancient home in Morgedal, Norway. The idea was suggested by a teacher in Morgedal, Olav S. Bjaaland, who had been a member of the 1911 South Pole Expedition with Nordheim. Bjaaland lit the torch from Nordheim's hearth and then handed it to the first relay runner. In 1956 it was lit at the Temple of Jupiter in Rome for the Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Since 1964, the flame for the Olympic Winter Games has been lit in Ancient Olympia.
7. This custom did not begin until 1960 in Rome. Prior to that time, the medals were handed to the athlete's in specially designed boxes.
8. Yes. In 1956 at Cortina d'Ampezzo the torch was brought into the stadium by a speed skater, Guido Caroli. But this was the dawn of the television age and planning was not so precise. Caroli's skates hit a television cable on the ice track and he fell while holding the torch. He later noted proudly and correctly, that he had not let the flame go out.
9. In 1996 at Atlanta, one of the torchbearers within the stadium was the Greek female hurdler, Paraskevi "Voula" Patoulidou. She was chosen because of her Greek heritage in honour of the Centennial of the first Modern Olympic Games in Athens. In 1998, at the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, in the framework of an initiative of the organising committee to benefit the victims of anti-personnel landmines, Chris Moon from Great Britain was also a torchbearer.
10. In 1956, a young British boy of Chinese origin, John Ian Wing, suggested to the Melbourne Organizing Committee that the athletes should march at the Closing Ceremony without regard to their affiliations. It has since become standard policy.