

## OBITUARIES

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### Sinan Erdem

\*1927-05-08 †2003-07-24

The death of this noble gentleman came unexpected and is a loss not only to the Olympic movement but also to sports in general. Through the last 20 years we have met around the world in our national and Olympic duties. In November 2002 was the last time we sat down in Mexico in the cafeteria o El Camino Real. We found out that we had one big dream in common – to have Olympic Games in our countries. Sinan fought valiantly and with some success for Summer Games – three times among the final bidders.

*"Wolf, he said, "we would have [or will as we still have a chance] organized extraordinary Games, just think – Olympic Games on two continents."*

It is astonishing (sometimes) how little we knew about our Olympic friends. Perhaps we never boasted about our personal qualities. I of course knew that Sinan had been NOC-

member 1965-81, Secretary-General in the NOC 1982-1989, advanced to President and was co-opted IOC-member 1988. Of the members he was one of the "steady" – never missing a session (21) But I had no idea that he played such an important role in volleyball. He was member and leader of the national team at the European Championships 1957 and organized them in Turkey 1967. He became one of big men within FIVB being its delegate at all Games 1976 – 1988.

Sinan was unscrupulously correct and he had one habit which I as a keen writer of letters would wish that more IOC-members had: answering letters. He was a good speaker at meetings, never exaggerating or using too strong words. What he said he really stood for... and how man can do that in these days?

*"See you in Prag July next", he said...*

But there was not to be a 22nd session for him – and his dream never came true.

Wolf Lyberg