

Jan Staubo

*1920-09-28 †2003-06-15

Jan STAUBO, who served as the IOC representative in Norway from 1966 to 2000, died on June 15, 2003 after a long illness. He was 82 years old.

STAUBO, born 28 September 1920, was highly respected and multi-talented, as a young fighter pilot against the Germans during World War II, a sportsman of international standard, a businessman and outstanding leader in national and international sports. Friends and colleagues in the Olympic movement around the world will miss the always-enthusiastic and open-hearted Mr. Olympics of Norway.

He fled Norway as a teenager immediately after German invasion in 1940 to join the allied forces and fight for the freedom of his native country. Educated as a fighter pilot, later wing commander at a training camp near Toronto, he was stationed in a squadron (with Spitfires) in the United Kingdom. He survived a long period of air combat, taking part in attacks on German bases in Belgium and France and steadily challenging hostile fighter aircraft. He ultimately was shot down in August 1942 during an attack on Dieppe, taken prisoner and held in



German custody until the end of the war.

During nearly three years as a prisoner-of-war, he earned the respect of his fellow prisoners for spearheading several attempts to escape. He was shot in the lungs after one attempted escape and spent time in a hospital. After the war, he was awarded official British Certificate and Emblems in recognition of his

persistent gallantry in organising and taking part in escapes from Prisoner-of-War camps during the war.

Despite his long period as a prisoner of war, Staubo regained his health. He returned to Norway and embarked on a career as an outstanding sportsman and co-worker in his family's shipping company. He won eight national tennis championships in Norway and played international ice hockey and bandy.

He served as elected president of Norway's Tennis Association from 1962 to 1964.

STAUBO succeeded his uncle, Olav Ditlef-Simonsen, as IOC representative in Norway in 1966. He was well-qualified to do so, primarily because of his international engagements and first-class background as an active sportsman.

He tackled all new challenges, and his IOC work became his lifestyle, always prepared as he was to fight for the IOC ideas and principles.

Strongly engaged as he was, Jan seldom failed to join debates on how to solve occurring international and local problems in sports. He

was a true amateur and feared the consequences of too much money flowing to top athletes – turning international sports, including Olympic Games, to somewhat like a professional circus. Followed by a well-defined misuse of all kind of forbidden remedies.

He was not a man of compromise, and his open-hearted viewpoints often procured him enemies, at least temporarily. All the same he had true Olympic friends in almost any corner of the world.

Jan STAUBO had a strong position in Norwegian sports, throughout years as board member of Norway's Association of sports and the National Olympic Committee. A long time he was chairman of the committee selecting Norway's sportsman of the year. He devoted much attention to the building up of Norway's Olympic Museum in Lillehammer and donated most of his valuable collection of Olympic memorabilia to a particular section of the museum.

Aage Møst