

### OLLE ANDERBERG †

13 September 1919-26 September 2003

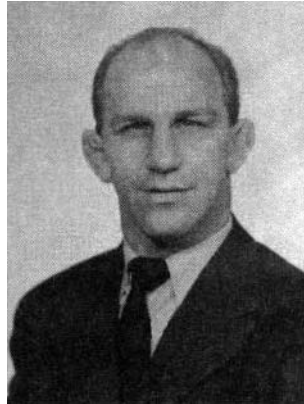
One of Sweden's all-time greatest wrestlers, Olle ANDERBERG, passed away 26 September 2003. He was born at Amundstorp in southern Sweden 13 September 1919. Olympic Silver medallist in featherweight Greco-Roman style in London 1948 and Olympic Gold medallist in lightweight free style in Helsinki 1952.

He came from a sporting family. His father, Frans, was a 1<sup>st</sup> division footballer playing for *Uddevalla*, and so was his elder brother Gunnar, who was Swedish (league) Champion and Swedish Cup Champion with *Hälsingborgs IF* 1941.

Olle started to wrestle at the age of 14. He won his first Swedish Championships in 1942, in featherweight in both Greco-Roman and free style. In all he won 27 individual Swedish Championships, 17 in free style in featherweight and lightweight and 10 in Greco-Roman style in featherweight, lightweight and even 1 in welterweight. In addition he has 3 Swedish team Championships. He won his last Swedish Championship in 1962 in lightweight free style at the age of 42.

His first international appearance came at the first international championships after World War II, the European Championships in Stockholm in free style 1946. He won Silver in featherweight. He then won Gold in featherweight at the European Championships in Greco-Roman style in Prague in 1947 and in free style in Istanbul in 1949.

In 1950 the first World Championships in wrestling since 1922 took place in Stockholm in Greco-Roman style. By 1950 Olle ANDERBERG had outgrown the featherweight class and his natural weight class was lightweight. But Sweden had an



even better Greco-Roman lightweight wrestler in Gustaf FREIJ, Olympic Gold medallist in London 1948 and Silver medallist in Helsinki 1952. To take part in international championships in Greco-Roman style Olle ANDERBERG had to move down to featherweight. He did so to the 1950 World Championships in Stockholm and to the 1953 World Championships in Naples, winning Gold at both occasions.

In free style he took part in lightweight at the World Championships 1951 in Helsinki and 1954 in Tokyo, winning Gold in 1951 and Silver in 1954. His last international championships were the Olympic Games 1956 in Melbourne. There he was hampered by a broken index finger and could not do himself justice, giving away walk-over in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round in free style. He was not selected in Greco-Roman style, Gustaf FREIJ was. But the latter suffered from a concussion and was not allowed to take part. So, Olle ANDERBERG took his place but had to give in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, giving walk-over to the eventual winner, Kyösti LEHTONEN, Finland.

He took part in 10 international championships, Olympic Games, World Championships and European Championships, winning 6 Gold and 3 Silver medals, a truly remarkable feat. He only went empty handed once, in Melbourne 1956 where he had to retire because of injury.

Olle ANDERBERG was a very aggressive wrestler, his non-stop attack usually wore down his opponents. In Sweden Greco-Roman style is favoured but he was one of the few Swedish wrestlers that specialised in free style. His technical skill made him successful in both styles. Later on he took up coaching and was for 3 years national coach of the Iranian wrestling team.

*Ture Widlund*