

# Obituaries

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EMIL ZATOPEK, 22 November 2000

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was today deeply saddened to learn of the death of legendary Olympic champion Emil Zatopek.

Nicknamed "the Czech locomotive", Emil Zatopek qualified to represent his country at the 1948 Olympic Games in London, where he won his first gold medal over 10,000 m and a silver medal in the 5000 m. It was at Helsinki in 1952 that he made his name by winning the 5000 m, 10,000 m and the marathon in succession.

"Emil Zatopek was an exceptional athlete whose achievements, even today, are a source of enthusiasm and admiration for everyone. The athletics world has lost one of its greatest champions", said the IOC President.

FRANCISCO PERIS VIDAL

On July 24, 2000 Francisco Peris Vidal passed away in Barcelona, Spain only a few days before his 69th birthday. Born July 27, 1931, Peris Vidal was a Catalan journalist, whose first important work was for Radio Barcelona, as chief of the sports department [1974-1979]. His career was then continued in the sports department section of the national television in Catalonia [TVS], where he worked from 1979 to 1982.

Francisco Peris Vidal became manager of the magazine: *Barcelona Olímpica*, during the period of Barcelona's preparations for the Olympic Games in 1992 [1987-1992].

His main interest was focussed on "art in sports". He was manager of the 1985 Biennial *Internacional Esportistes en l'Art*, whose 2000 edition was exposed in the "United States Olympic Hall of Fame" at Colorado Springs.

In 1986 he acted as Secretary-General of the Congress of the A.I.P.S., which was organized in Barcelona. Francisco Peris Vidal was a member of the International Society of Olympic Historians; a member of the "Pierre de Coubertin International Committee"; the Sport Fraternity Association (he was the President of the Spanish section); and the Sport Fraternity International Society.

Juan Fauría Garcia (Barcelona)

DAVID GUINEY

I was saddened to learn of the passing of our Irish ISOH member, David Guiney, who died after a short illness in Dublin on 14 October 2000 at the age of 79. He was a prominent figure in Irish sport, firstly as an athlete and later as a journalist. As a shot putter he topped the Irish ranking lists for fourteen consecutive years [1943-1956], setting several national records in the process. He also won the British AAA title twice [1947; 1948] and represented his country at the 1948 Olympic Games. He was one of only nine ISOH members to have competed in the Olympics.

After his retirement from competitive sport he gave up his job as a civil servant and turned to journalism, an occupation which took him up to most of the major track & field meets in Europe and he never failed to write and tell me who he had met on his travels. After the Barcelona Games, he wrote to say that he had been delighted to renew his acquaintance with Harry Gordon, who he had not seen since 1958 when Herb Elliott broke the World One Mile record at Santry Stadium, Dublin.

During his career as a journalist, he held senior positions with a variety of papers and served as President of the Association of Sports Journalists in Ireland. In addition to his newspaper work, he wrote books on golf, soccer and rugby and his *Gold, Silver, Bronze* was the seminal work in Irish Olympic history.

IOC member, Patrick Hickey, was among the huge crowd who attended the funeral. David's son, Roddy, gave the eulogy and the coffin was draped with the Olympic flag. A fitting tribute to a fine and much loved man.

Ian Buchanan (Burgh-next-Aylsham)

EDITH (EDIE) FRANCES PAYNE

24th September, 1906 - 7th October, 2000

The Olympic community lost one of its greatest stalwarts last week with the passing of Australia's oldest Olympian, Edie Payne.

Born Edith Frances Robinson on 26th September, 1906, she took up running as 14-year-old and by the time the Amsterdam Olympics of 1928 had rolled around, Edie had established

herself as Australia's premier female sprinter. In that year she had won both the 100 yards and the 220 yards titles at the NSW Championship.

Athletics, or track and field, for women, came onto the Olympic program for the first time in 1928 and Edie was selected as our lone representative.

The team travelled to Europe on board the RMS *Naldera*. Many years later she told Harry Gordon, Official Historian of the Australian Olympic Committee: "We couldn't train, we couldn't even walk on the first-class deck. We weren't even allowed to use the tiny canvas pool on board".

Selected to run in the 100 metres, she was run out in the semi-final of that event. She was then encouraged to run in the 800 metres event by her team mates, and in particular, fellow sprinter, Jim Carlton. She then ran in what has been described as the most gruelling race for women and was forced to retire after approximately 600 metres.

Edie Robinson was a very popular member of the small Australian team and because of her dressmaking background, she was much in demand to redress small problems with team uniforms. She was asked by most male members of her athletics section to sew on various items to their running shorts.

Mrs. Payne was lost to the Olympic movement for many years but following Sydney's successful bid to stage the 2000 Games, she emerged to play a major role in the lead-up to Australia's greatest sporting achievement.

On 2nd September, she was asked to officially open the Athletes Village at Homebush. Those who witnessed that ceremony commented on her warmth and friendliness and were touched by her enthusiasm for the upcoming Games.

At the opening of the Olympians Reunion Centre, Edie was a special guest of honour, and although wheelchair bound, she attended with her grand daughter, Ms Kylie Sutton. On that night she met the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, and several other members of the IOC.

Twenty-four hours before the Opening Ceremony, Edie Payne was given the honour of carrying the Olympic torch through the crowded downtown streets of Sydney. She did this, once again, from her wheelchair, and was overwhelmed by the crowds who embraced this most gracious lady of Australian track & field.

Mrs. Payne was a guest of SOCOG at Stadium Australia for the Opening of the Sydney Games. She marvelled at the magnificence of this ceremony and compared it to the modest ritual which took place in 1928. Unfortunately the health of this innovator of athletics in Australia deteriorated during the two weeks of the Olympics and she passed away in the early hours of Saturday, 7th October, a few days after her 94th birthday. She is survived by a daughter, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. (The Australian)

#### NOTE FROM OVE KARLSSON

One issue annually 1997-2000 of our *Journal of Olympic History* has included a compilation of deceased Olympic medallists.

A further list is planned for No. 2/2001. Please send, to the compiler, information on recently deceased medallists, and also corrections (supported by relevant photo copies) and additions to data in *The Golden Book of the Olympic Games* and to the lists in the ISOH Journal No. 2/1997, No. 2/1998, No. 2/1999 and No. 3/2000.

The *Golden Book of the Olympic Games* (by Erich Kamper and Bill Mallon) was published in 1993, and is the reference book concerning - among other things - names (spelling) with dates of birth and (where applicable) death of Olympic medallists.

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Many thanks for your valuable help!

#### Call for More Human Interest Articles

*(Editor's Note: Bill Mallon received the following letter from Ruud Paauw. As editor, I endorse Mr. Paauw's request, and urge members to submit the type of articles outlined below.)*

Dear Bill,

I wish you a new year in good health and especially a good presidential year. . . . It is a good idea to send a presidential message once or twice a year, good for the 'family feeling'. As to the *Journal* perhaps we can ask some of our members to write articles in a specific field, i.e. what happened to the final torch bearers in later years, what happened to the 1936 Olympic Village, what do we know about the medal winners of the art competition. (I am writing at the moment an amazing story about Isaac Israel's Red Rider which won in 1928 the gold medal). A few years ago Tony wrote an excellent piece about the life of Rie Mastenbroek. Can we have more biographies of this kind? In this way we can direct the interesting subjects, the topics a little. I have the feeling that we depend too much on the hobbies of some of us and though they are sometimes interesting I think that we need more than that. As president you can perhaps talk about it with the editor(s).

With kind regards,

*Ruud Paauw*