A Letter From Richard Fosbury

U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association President

Dear Olympians and Paralympians,

The year 2020 has been the most disruptive, threatening, and challenging year we’ve experienced in a lifetime. I am blessed to have led USOPA into a new era of “Athletes First” with expanded athlete representation by our Olympians and Paralympians. This past December came the announcement of six new USOPC Board of Directors, four of the new board members were Team USA athletes.

As the role of USOPA has been elevated within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic family, we are expected to represent ourselves at the highest level of standards. We are now appointing several positions on the USOPC committees, including the Athlete and NGB Services, Ethics, NGB Oversight & Compliance, and Nominating and Governance Committees. We are pleased with our collaborative efforts with the AAC that successfully elected the two new at-large athlete board positions with Donna de Varona and John Naber. We shall continue to build that relationship to provide a stronger athlete voice. And we are making a difference as we contribute to the voice given to the Team USA Council on Racial and Social Justice and the USOPC Anti-Doping Advisory Group. The work led by USOPA vice president Carol Brown on the USOPC Governance Reform Working Group is achieving the recommendations made in the Borders Commission Report, raising athlete representation significantly from 20% to 33%!

While I had planned that this would be my last president’s letter, I’ll stay while we hold our officer elections over again this spring. We believed we followed our constitution and bylaws with our Nominating Committee and staff and responded appropriately to the inquiries that resulted in one candidate withdrawing and an ethics complaint being filed against Anne Cribbs, a presidential candidate. While our executive committee had found that Anne did not violate our Code of Conduct or the USOPC bylaws, the USOPC Ethics Committee did declare her ineligible to be a candidate for office. Anne has served the USOPA well, leading one of our strongest chapters in Northern California. I am proud to have worked alongside her for more than a decade and I thank her for her unselfish service to USOPA. So, we shall hold our elections over again with new candidates, including a more rigorous vetting process and background checks to be done prior to ballots being published.

We have named a new Nominating Committee, chaired by USOPA vice president Carol
Lewis and four other members. We are developing a new process and procedures for the officer candidates, including staggered terms, to be presented to the USOPA board at a Special Meeting the end of January 2021. It is vitally important that the candidates for president have leadership experience and can fill the role as required.

We all are praying for a successful and safe Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 this summer! I am amazed as always at the resilience, attitudes, and skills of our athletes who are training to qualify and then demonstrate their performance abilities in this most difficult year.

Our progress and success cannot be achieved without a strong leadership team, and I wish to thank the USOPA executive committee with Charlie, Allison, Carol, Candace, Anne, Carol, Iris, Willie and John, and our staff of Cindy and Christine! The leadership and support provided by Julia, Bahati, Meghan, Sarah, and Susanne and the USOPC Board of Directors has given us the opportunity to make the United States stronger and the most resilient in Olympic and Paralympic sport.

Go Team USA!

Yours in Olympic spirit,

Richard Fosbury
U.S. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC MUSEUM IS HOME FOR TEAM USA ATHLETES

By Josh Barr

As the sun rose over Colorado Springs, the ceremonial ribbons to be cut – in the colors of the Olympic rings and Paralympic agitos – were tied nice and neat as a group of athletes gathered for a photo on the steps leading to the front door of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum. On the morning of July 31, the sun already was rising well into the sky as Pikes Peak loomed to the west and sunlight gleamed off the nearly 9,000 diamond panels that comprise the building’s exterior.

The group smiled and joked and was at ease as they celebrated the opening of the Museum dedicated to U.S. Olympic and Paralympic athletes and their compelling stories, with the artifacts, media and technology behind the athletes who represent the stars and stripes.

“People ask me all the time, ‘How did it feel to compete? How did it feel to win a medal? What did you eat? How did you train?’ ” said Benita Fitzgerald-Mosley, a member of the Museum’s Board of Directors and the 100-meter hurdles gold medalist at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984. “Now, we finally have a place with the answers to the questions. I hope they’ll go for the gold in their lives, literally and figuratively.”

Indeed, the Museum is a home for Team USA athletes. It is 60,000 square feet, with guests traveling the spiraling, downward ramp through 12 exhibition galleries, focusing on topics such as the summer and winter Games, athlete training, and The Lab – an exhibit focusing on the evolution of science, technology and equipment in sports -- as well as collections of torches and medals, and a gallery celebrating the Opening Ceremony Parade of Nations. Each gallery uses a variety of tools and features to ensure that every guest receives a parallel experience. The Museum has been acclaimed for its commitment to accessibility as it honors and tells the stories of the athletes who

Torches: The first gallery guests encounter highlights the history of the ancient and modern Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, and includes a complete collection of torches from the 1936 Olympic Games to Tokyo 2020.
The Olympian: The Atrium welcomes guests with a 40-foot LED sail highlighting images of athletes and the artwork of LeRoy Neiman, and digital pylons display the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Fame.

have represented the United States in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

While the Museum opened during a global health crisis, it has received high marks from local officials for its commitment to safety. Theme-focused days (such as special admission for teachers and veterans) have proven to be a hit within the Colorado Springs community.

A centerpiece for the revitalization of the southwest part of downtown Colorado Springs, the Museum adds yet one more thread to the fabric of Olympic City USA. The Museum was funded through private donations and tax-increment financing. Among the fundraising initiatives was the Diamond Donor Program, which allows supporters to sponsor one of the unique diamond panels that cover the building’s exterior. Several Olympians and Paralympians have taken advantage of this opportunity to build their own personal legacy by sponsoring a panel. The Museum is the first of five projects to open as part of the Colorado Springs’ City for Champions initiative. Other facilities include an ice hockey arena, downtown soccer stadium and a sports medicine and performance center.

“Only here will I wear this medal,” two-time Paralympian John Register said, clutching the silver medal he won in the long jump at Sydney 2000. “Because this medal … is home. Home right here in Colorado Springs. That’s what it means for Olympians and Paralympians.”

Athletes will notice their footprint throughout the Museum experience. Inside the Museum’s front entrance, guests are greeted by Olympus Within, a larger-than-life bronze sculpture created by Peter Schifrin, who was a member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Fencing Team. The sculpture also features the handprint of Paralympian Nathan Perkins. Team USA athletes were involved and consulted throughout the project to achieve the goal of authentic experience and inclusive design.

“We are so happy to have guests coming in, including athletes,” said two-time Paralympian Tyler Carter, who was involved in exhibit testing during the Museum’s development and is now a member of the Guest Experience Team. “It’s great seeing their smiles and the shock when they come in and see themselves. Each athlete’s time here is unique. Everyone has different reactions, from pretty stoic with a bit of softening of the face to tears of joy of the remembrance from when they competed. Everyone leaves with the same thought or reaction: That this place is amazing and it’s home.”

After riding the elevator to the top of the
Museum to begin their journey, guests will find an interactive map that allows them to search for every U.S. Olympian or Paralympian.

“You are immediately connected to the Olympic and Paralympic family with this map,” said swimmer John Naber, who won four gold medals and one silver at Montreal 1976 and is a member of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Fame. “There are lots of exhibits that will either bring back fond memories or open up new realizations about Olympic and Paralympic Games recent and past.”

The displays continue throughout the Museum, telling the stories of Team USA’s athletes and focusing on the core values of the Olympic and Paralympic movements: friendship, respect and excellence; determination, equality, inspiration and courage.

“All of the memories came flowing back,” Schifrin said. “You feel like you’re invited to be part of this community. I could go on and on. I need to go through it again. I probably need to go four or five times until I see everything.”

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE MUSEUM

There are several ways for Olympic and Paralympic alumni to be involved with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum:

- Visit the Museum.
- Donate or loan items to the Museum.
- Make a financial contribution to the Museum.
- Participate in the Museum’s oral history projects.
- Follow the Museum on social media.

Are you considering donating or loaning items to the Museum?

The Museum’s collection consists of artifacts, images, manuscripts and document that honor, celebrate, capture and record the history of the members of Team USA, the Olympic and Paralympic movements and the hopes and dreams of future generations.

The Museum’s collection preserves the history of the Museum, provides access to this information through physical and digital exhibition, inspires others and promotes the core values of the Olympic and Paralympic movements: friendship, respect and excellence; determination, equality, inspiration and courage.

It is important that all donations and loans be handled properly to ensure the safety of all items. The Museum does not accept donations or loans at the front desk. To submit a proposal for donation or loan, please fill out the online application at https://usopm.org/artifact-donation or email curator@usopm.org.
Parade of Nations: This gallery provides guests a front row seat to the grandeur of the Opening Ceremony. With 360-degree, floor-to-ceiling video screens displaying iconic moments from what is the most viewed event during the Games, this gallery has received rave reviews from Olympians and Paralympians who have visited.

Are you interested in making a financial contribution?

Philanthropy allows us to continue telling the incredible stories of Team USA athletes in a compelling way. Your gift helps ensure that athletes’ stories continue to be told through the Museum. Opportunities include upgrading your lifetime, individual athlete membership to include family members, making a financial contribution or sponsoring a piece of the building (virtually) through the Diamond Donor Program. Visit https://usopm.org/donate/ or contact Cari Karns at ckarns@usopm.org for more information.

Would you participate in our ongoing oral history projects?

The Museum’s mission is to honor the Olympic and Paralympic ideals; document and share the history of the United States’ Olympic and Paralympic participation; and celebrate the achievements of U.S. Olympic and Paralympic competitors.

To remain focused on this mission, the Museum has initiated an expansive oral history collective of U.S. Olympians and Paralympians. A key partner in this effort is StoryCorps, a non-profit organization whose mission is to “preserve and share humanity’s stories” and whose segments can be heard on National Public Radio’s Morning Edition.

During the 2019 Fall Reunion, several USOPA members sat down with teammates, spouses and/or family members to take part in recording these 40-minute sessions with StoryCorps. Visit https://usopm.org/oral-history/storycorps/ to listen!

However, the work continues! The Museum strives to collect oral histories from as many alumni as possible so that it can build a deep and rich archive to share with Museum guests, Olympic and Paralympic researchers, and fans of the Olympic and Paralympic movements. If you are interested in recording a session, please email athletes@usopm.org to book a timeslot.

Are you active on social media?

The Museum posts a wide variety of content on Twitter and Instagram @usopmuseum and Facebook @USOPMuseum and would like to encourage athletes to follow our accounts and interact.

Josh Barr oversees digital museum content for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum.

Photo Attributions:
Atrium: Courtesy of DS+R, photography by Jason O’Rear
Parade of Nations, Torches, Winter Gallery, The Lab: Courtesy Gallagher Museum Services, by Nic Lehoux
CAROL BROWN – Olympians Made Here

By Elizabeth Wyman

A picture of three-time Olympian and U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association vice president Carol Brown proudly hangs inside the Shea Rowing Center, the boathouse at Princeton University.

There was once a time when Brown herself was not allowed to use the boathouse. She and her fellow teammates on Princeton's first women's rowing team in 1971 would start practice at 5 a.m. and were gone before 7 a.m., getting by with the resources they had.

“I always felt I had to believe the goal was worth it,” Brown said. “In any sport, much less trying to get to the Olympic Games, there are no guarantees; you have to enjoy the people, the personal challenge as well as the physical challenge and get enough out of it.”

Brown took on those challenges for the sport of rowing and the future of women's college athletics. Now, anyone who walks into the boathouse is greeted by the large, black and white photo of Brown with fellow Princeton and Team USA teammate Janet Youngholm.

“Seeing that photo daily through my years on campus and every time I visit, the image reminds me how far women's sports have come and how grateful I am to those great characters,” said Gevvie Stone, Princeton rowing alumna and 2016 Olympic silver medalist.

A trailblazer in her sport and for gender equality in all sports, Brown’s college experience was vastly different than of student-athletes’ today. But the impact she had on women's rowing and the foundation she set for a storied program that has developed nearly 40 men and women rowing Olympians is not one that will be soon forgotten.

The odds were not stacked in the favor of the women's rowing team. They were not the nationally recruited Princeton women's tennis or field hockey players. They did not have access to locker rooms or weight rooms, and in just the third year of women being admitted to Princeton, the idea of women on campus in general was a new one.

But the promise of community and the opportunity to compete was one Brown, who was new to the world of sports and captained the Princeton swim team, was not going to pass up.

Brown took on those challenges for the sport of rowing and the future of women’s college athletics.

“My decision to row was a total new experience,” Brown said. “I didn’t have any role models, but it looks interesting and it’s a challenge. And the more they said you cannot do it, the more I was in and fighting for what we needed to really enjoy the sport and prove that we can be serious and successful.”

Women's college rowing gained momentum with numerous schools on the East Coast adding the sport around the same time Princeton did. Picking up the sport in 1971 proved to be timely for Brown and her teammates, as women's rowing had just been added to the Olympic Games in 1976. Brown's coach, who happened to be training for a spot on the 1972 Olympic Men’s Rowing Team, first mentioned the idea of making a run at the U.S. Olympic Team before Brown ever competed.

“We don’t even know how to get in and out of the boat and we’re looking at this guy like, ‘what,’ but he planted that seed,” Brown said.

Just three years after picking up the sport, Brown and teammate Youngholm placed fifth in the 1974 world championships – the first U.S. women's boat to reach a final.

“Most people today, to set your sights on going to the worlds much less the Olympic Games, it doesn’t just fall into your timeline like that,” Brown said. “It doesn’t mean we didn’t deserve it or work hard for it, but our opportunity was not something someone else could duplicate.”

With the support of the Princeton men's rowing team, the athletic department, a little help from the enactment of Title IX in 1972 and the success of the team proving they deserved to be there, Princeton women's rowing – and women's sports – were no longer kept in the dark.

“People have asked, ‘Were you always a feminist when you arrived at Princeton? Were you involved in other women's rights issues?’ I’m like, ‘No, we didn’t do this thinking we were trailblazers or setting a precedent or paving the way for the women,’” Brown said.


“None of us really believed we had a chance at the Olympic team; that’s not why we’re doing this,” Brown said. “We enjoyed each other, we were getting better and we were learning new things.”
2020 DOROTHY FRANEY LANGKOP AMBASSADOR AWARD
Presented to
Sammy Walker, President
Dallas/Ft Worth Olympians & Paralympians Chapter

The award was established in 2011 to honor speedskating Olympian, Dorothy Franey Langkop. The Dorothy Franey Langkop Ambassador Award recognizes an individual or a program associated with a U.S. Olympian & Paralympian chapter that demonstrates the special spirit of Olympism and has illustrated the Olympic Ideals through their actions or have rendered outstanding services to the Olympic & Paralympic cause.

NOMINATIONS
After 10 years of serving as an officer of the USOPA from 2006-2016, I have not met a person that lives and breathes more of the Olympic and Paralympic spirit than Sammy Walker. We were honored to be on the same Olympic Team in 1976, but in my opinion, the accomplishments that Sammy achieved as an athlete are just a small part of his lifelong accomplishments as an Olympian.

For as long as I can remember, Sammy has led the organization of Olympians and Paralympians in Texas, inspiring them to unselfish service in their communities. He was one of the first Olympians to embrace the addition of Paralympians into our organization. He has raised funds for many charities both locally and nationally and has encouraged his chapter to raise money for the OORF. He has attended every meeting that I can recall for our organization. He was the originator and inspiration for the founding of the Dorothy Franey Lankop award. He is one of the most upbeat and positive people I know, perpetually smiling, no matter what the situation or when.

This brief summary does not do Sammy justice. I can only say that if Sammy were to receive this award, Dorothy would smile down from heaven.

Respectfully,
Gary Hall, Sr. USOPA Immediate Past President

Leadership - His leadership of the Dallas/Fort Worth Olympians/Paralympians Association. Sammy has for over a decade led a highly successful USOPA chapter with many engaged athletes.

Mentoring - Mentors new chapter presidents, offers open communication to provide help and advice for new programs.

Integrity - Possesses a high degree of moral character, is honest, and forthright.

Compassion - Always available to help, is enthusiastic, empathetic, and caring.

He is an inspiration to other athletes on how to live life, to care, and to be successful as an athlete, family man, and businessperson.

He has promoted the legacy of Dorothy Franey Langkop for many years through his personal example, his dedication to Olympic-related service to others, and his passion for expanding and extending the Olympic & Paralympic ideals to today’s young hopefuls.

Randy Lipscher, President Austin-San Antonio Chapter President
Tom Lough, 1968 Olympic Team Leader
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TWO NEW AT-LARGE ATHLETE USOPC BOARD MEMBERS

Donna de Varona and John Naber will join the USOPC board in January.

For the first time, U.S. Olympian and Paralympian Association members participated to directly elect two new at-large athlete representatives to the USOPC board. We would like to thank the joint nominating and governance committee – made up of USOPA and Athletes’ Advisory Council representatives – as well as the full membership, for their participation in the process.

Over the past two years, the USOPC has extensively reviewed its bylaws and governance with the help of the Governance Reform Working Group, which included athlete representatives from the AAC and USOPA, NGB representatives, as well as other USOPC constituents. The USOPC board passed the third phase of these reforms in October.

Part of the reforms include a revamp to the USOPC board structure. The changes include two new at-large athlete positions, which increases athlete representation on the board from three to five directors and reaches the recommended threshold of 33%. Additionally, constituent voices are elevated through the changes that call for the direct election and re-election of athlete and NGB representatives to the board by the AAC, National Governing Bodies’ Council and USOPA. Finally, two new ex-officio members now bring experience to the board, with seats for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Foundation chair and International Paralympic Committee Governing Board member.

Donna and John began their terms on Jan. 1, 2021. Learn more about their experience below.

Donna de Varona
A two-time Olympic champion, de Varona began her career as a swimmer, and at age 13 she became the youngest world record holder to compete at the 1960 Olympic Games. She returned to the Olympic stage four years later in Tokyo, where she set an Olympic record in the women’s 400-meter individual medley and aided Team USA’s world-record-setting performance in the women’s 4x100-meter freestyle. For her historic achievement, she was named the most outstanding female athlete in the world by both the Associated Press and United Press International in 1964.
After setting a combination of 18 world records and fastest times, she retired from competitive swimming at the age of 17 in 1965. That same year, she became one of the first female and the youngest sportscaster to appear on a national network with her debut on ABC’s Wide World of Sports, paving the way for women in sports journalism and broadcast television. She went on to cover 18 Olympic Games, serving as an on-air analyst, commentator, host, writer and producer.

Her impact extended beyond the broadcast booth as she dedicated her time to five terms on the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and served as a consultant to the U.S. Senate. There, she was a driving force behind the promotion and protection of critical legislation, including Title IX and the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. These two pieces of legislation—one prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded educational program or activity, and the other restructuring how Olympic sports are governed in the United States—deeply impacted generations of Olympic and Paralympic athletes, and women in particular. Her work also notably included assisting in the establishment and funding for both the United States Anti-Doping Agency and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

In the mid-1970s, de Varona joined Billie Jean King in establishing the Women’s Sports Foundation and served as the organization’s first president and chair from 1979–1986. She remains a leading advocate of women and athletes worldwide, having served on the International Olympic Committee’s Women and Sport Commission. In 2020, she was appointed to the IOC’s Communications Commission. She is the founder and advisor for the Women Athletes Business Network mentoring program and has served as a member of Special Olympics International since its inception.

In 2000, the IOC recognized her with its highest honor, the silver Olympic Order, and she was also named a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient of the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition in 2019. A member of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Fame, she was inducted into the Seneca Falls Women’s Hall of Fame and International Swimming Hall of Fame, and in 2003, was named the Theodore Roosevelt Award winner by the NCAA Honors Committee. She has been the recipient of six honorary doctorates. In 2019 she was recognized by the USOPC as the Olympic Torch award recipient for outstanding service to the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movements.

**John Naber**

Naber is a five-time Olympic medalist and former world-record holder in multiple swimming events. The Evanston, Illinois, native was the most decorated U.S. Olympian at Montreal 1976, winning four gold medals—each in world-record time. He won five total medals at the Games, becoming the first swimmer in history to earn two individual medals on the same day of Olympic competition. Naber was named the 1977 James. E. Sullivan Award winner as the nation’s top amateur athlete. He would later serve as the president of the U.S. Olympic Alumni Association (now USOPA), and president of the Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund. Naber was also an Olympic flag bearer and four-time Olympic torchbearer.

Prior to his Olympic career, Naber competed at the University of Southern California, where he led the Trojans to four consecutive NCAA titles (1974-77). Impressively, Naber only began swimming competitively as a freshman in high school.

After his retirement from swimming, Naber shifted his efforts to broadcasting. He has served as an expert analyst for local, national and international events, and as a reporter and play-by-play announcer on radio and television for over 35 sports at ten Olympic Games. Additionally, Naber was a board member for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee and currently serves as chair of “Ready, Set, Gold!,” which places Olympian and Paralympian role models in local public schools to promote healthy living and physical exercise. He also serves on the board of the Los Angeles Sports Council, the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games, and the Pasadena’s Rose Bowl Aquatics Center. He is the volunteer president of both the Koroibos and the Swim with Mike Foundations.
This past year, with the pandemic and the postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, has been difficult for many Olympians and Paralympians. Throughout it all, the OORF has remained steadfast in our promise to help our Olympic and Paralympic brothers and sisters to tackle the challenges of accidents, illness or injuries. We have welcomed a Paralympian to the OORF Board, and we are updating our bylaws to be more forward thinking and proactive as well. If you wish to provide some support for an Olympic or Paralympic alumni in their time of dire need, please consider making a gift, today.

ITOS!

JOHN
John Naber
Naber & Associates, Inc.
Post Office Box 50107
Pasadena, CA 91115
626.795.7675
John@JohnNaber.com

Hi all! Just wanted to take a quick moment to introduce myself as the new archivist and collections curator for the Crawford Family U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Archives, based at the USOPC headquarters building in Colorado Springs, CO. In addition to being an Olympic and Paralympic trivia fanatic, I'm also an athlete myself.

I was fortunate enough to represent the U.S. at three Paralympic Games (2008 Beijing, 2012 London, and 2016 Rio) as a member of the track and field team. While training for Rio, I made the decision to apply to graduate school in library and information science.

I graduated from the University of Illinois in 2018 with my master's degree in LIS, and a certification in museums, archives, and special collections. Immediately after classes concluded, I made the (temporary) move to Colorado Springs to begin a six-month internship under Teresa Hedgpeth, former USOPC archivist extraordinaire.
The experience was incredible, and I finally felt as if I had found my niche – combining my passion for the Olympic and Paralympic movements with a lifelong love of organization and preservation. I returned to Illinois at the completion of my internship to focus on training for 2020 and continue gaining experience in the field, with the hope of someday returning to the archives in Colorado Springs. I had planned to compete in Tokyo this past summer before retiring and focusing on my professional career, but when Teresa announced her retirement and the position became available, I knew it was too good of an opportunity to pass up. After a lengthy application process, I received an offer in mid-June (one day after my birthday!) and began the process of relocating to the Springs for my dream job!

As a Paralympian, one of my major goals as archivist is to bring the Paralympic collections up to an equitable level while continuing to honor the movement and tell stories from our entire population of amazing and diverse athletes. We are, as always, actively collecting artifacts related to the Games from all athletes, and in particular, very interested in uniforms, equipment, ephemera, and any items that help tell your story as an Olympian or Paralympian. If you’d like to learn more about the archives and what we do, or have artifacts you may be interested in donating, please feel free to reach out to me via email (amanda.mcgrory@usopc.org) or by phone (719.500.2257) at any time.

Title IX Changes

Federal Title IX regulations were recently updated on August 14, 2020. Learn about these new regulations and how they differ from the SafeSport Code. Watch our video overview, read through our helpful FAQs, and listen to our latest podcast episode. Stay aware on how these changes affect you, your athletes, and your organization!

www.uscenterforsafesport.org/titleix

Check Out the Center’s Podcasts!

Everyone has a role to play in keeping athletes safe in sports programs. Listen to podcasts geared towards youth protection for tips on distinguishing discipline from abuse, discussions on age-appropriate sport experiences, and more. Listen and explore topics now at www.uscenterforsafesport.org/podcasts.
LINDSAY DARE SHOOP  
Olympian, Coach, Author, Speaker

Lindsay Shoop is a coach, author, speaker, and lifelong athlete. She is an Olympic gold medalist, a three-time World Champion, five-time World Cup medalist, and a National Rowing Hall of Fame inductee.

With a focus on performance optimization and longevity throughout sport and life, Lindsay hosts camps, clinics, and workshops for coaches, athletes, and teams of all ages and skill levels.

She is a speaker for events at major universities and corporations, presents on various topics across the spectrum of her expertise as elite athlete, coach, exercise physiologist, and author, and is a commentator for USRowing.

Lindsay lives in Florida, where she daily seeks to mentor, inspire, and improve the lives of others by sharing her knowledge of health and wellness along with her journey of self-discovery from ultimate defeat, to Olympic gold.

Some Previous Clients Include:  
Johnson and Johnson, The United Way, Southern Wine and Spirits, United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, Brown and Brown Insurance, Axiom Law, USRowing, US Olympic Committee, Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Olympic, Paralympic, Collegiate, High School, and Masters Athletes, Summer Camps, Schools (elementary and up); Conferences, Meetings, Banquets

Contact & Social  
Lindsay Dare Shoop, OLY, MSEd  
Lindsay@LindsayDareShoop.com  
www.LindsayDareShoop.com / @LindsayDareShoop  
www.BetterGreatThanNeverBook.com / @BetterGreatThanNever

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BELIEVING IT’S POSSIBLE IS WHERE CHAMPIONS BEGIN

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BELIEVING IT’S POSSIBLE IS WHERE CHAMPIONS BEGIN
BOOK REVIEW

These are some of the reviews by early readers!

“A truly inspiring, humbling story of realizing greatness. This is one story you won’t be able to put down. And when you do, you’ll have been given a timeless gift of remembering the importance of dedication, focus, teamwork, coaching, and the unstoppable spirit inside all of us.”

--Dottie Donnelly Brienza, chief human resources officer

“This is a story about the journey, not the destination. Lindsay puts to words what so many elite performers wrestle with, in their own way. Reminding the reader of the truth that binds us all. Beautifully narrated, I savored every moment of this talented human’s story. “

--Kate Johnson, Athens 2004 Olympic silver medalist

“An absolute must-read for any athlete who aspires to greatness and wants to gain that mental edge in competition.”

--Dr. Mickey Witte, neuroscientist, university lecturer, two-time Ironman triathlete

“Lindsay is real, down to earth, a beautiful storyteller, and a truly remarkable human being. Her message--that with determination, perseverance, and teamwork, anything in life is possible--leaves readers feeling like they can tackle the world!”

--Lisa Minutoi, principal, Harford County Public Schools

“Lindsay provides great insight into one of the most rewarding and least understood sports in the Olympic program. Her journey from complete novice to Olympic champion is inspirational and educational.”

--Tom Terhaar, head coach, United States National Women’s Rowing Team

“Lindsay is the first coach I have worked with in 30 years, who embodies a true warrior spirit. She brings a holistic and intuitive insight into training, coaching, and helping athletes fulfill their potential.”

--Dan Rosenberg, former VP, Fortune 500 company, author, Return of the Uchi-Deshi

“Lindsay has a way of breaking your problems down to their elements and reassembling them in a way that makes you feel like there’s nothing you can’t do. Trust me, you need Lindsay Shoop on your team!”

--Caryn Davies, Olympic champion, three-time Olympic medalist, lawyer

“What does it take to be an Olympic Gold medalist in rowing for the USA? You will find the answers in Better Great Than Never. Lindsay Shoop shares her experiences with clarity.”

--Anita DeFrantz, president, Tubman Truth Project, 1976 Olympian, IOC member

“One of Lindsay’s qualities is to use the power of positive reinforcement and belief in oneself. Her energy, positivity, and enthusiasm is a gift to all.”

--Andre Perez, CEO, Horseshoe Group
A HOME FOR THOSE ETCHED IN ETERNITY.

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WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE YOU.
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Richard “Dick” Buerkle
(track and field, 1976, 1980)

Richard “Dick” Buerkle died on June 22, 2020, at the age of 72.

Life was a race and Dick had something to prove. A walk-on to Villanova’s track team, he had only started running track the year before as a senior in high school at Aquinas Institute in Rochester, New York. When Dick had figured out that he could win a race, he usually did. One time in particular, Dick called his family urging them to come to the CYO Invitational at the University of Maryland in 1978. No one came. Even his wife stayed back to save money to wallpaper the dining room. But Dick had already made up his mind and ran the indoor mile at 3:54.93, breaking the world record, despite reportedly eating nine Oreos and two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches a few hours before the race.

It was the running that fed him in a way that the rest of his life couldn’t. He raced between careers. Bringing his family down to Atlanta in 1979 through the Olympic Job Opportunity Program with Coca-Cola. The job ended just as quickly as the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team’s dreams with the boycott by President Jimmy Carter. The Olympic Games Montreal 1976 hadn’t been kind to Dick, and he spent four years training for the Moscow Games. 1980 was supposed to be his year. Until it wasn’t.

Finding his footing after retiring from running in 1981 was difficult. Dick started the Dick Buerkle Running Show in Atlanta, but never got enough stations for syndication. His running career had been sponsored by Nike, when he started the sports-talk radio show, his sponsor was the local wing joint Taco Mac.

Dick became a TV reporter, a newspaper journalist, a copier salesman, and finally and most consistently, he taught. With a love for languages, he had majored in Spanish and minored in Russian at Villanova. He taught Spanish and coached track, where he soon realized for all the hours he put into it, he was making less than a dollar for each one. But he loved it. He loved coaching and he was good at it. Getting his kids to state meets and teaching them the love for running, he spent most of his career at Grady and Dunwoody High Schools. The same large poster hung on the wall in all of his classrooms – the image of Tommie Smith and John Carlos with fists in the air on the podium during the Olympic Games Mexico City 1968. Dick trained with a local blind Paralympian for years as a guide.

His children remember their first funeral. Dick took them out of school to pay their respects to Martin Luther King Sr. who had long outlived both his legendary son and wife, both murdered years earlier. Dick’s belief in the civil rights movement was lifelong; taking his young son to the Selma-to-Atlanta Relay organized by the Sub-40 Running Club in 1985. It was a 315-mile race starting at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the brutal site of the Bloody Sunday beatings in 1965, stopping in Montgomery before passing through Birmingham to lay a wreath at the 16th Street Baptist Church that was bombed in 1963. The group kept the baton going the whole time, only resting when it was placed at the gravesite of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta.

The New York Athletic Club got a taste of Dick’s sense for right and wrong too. They were ticked to see Dick wearing a German jersey on the February 1978 cover of Sports Illustrated winning the Wannamaker Mile at the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden. Runners commonly swapped singlets on the road and he had an affinity for a German one he had gotten because of his German surname. He had been tormented by the NYAC’s decision not to allow Black runners into the club. He had a good feeling about that race, and so instead of wearing the NYAC jersey, he opted for the German one in protest.

He ruffled feathers everywhere he went. In the early days of U.S. - China relations, Dick was on the U.S. track and field team competing in what were then called Canton, Peking, and Shanghai. He was personally responsible for the “white short ban” established after the May 1975 race at the Peking Workers’ Stadium. Dick wore white shorts in the rain with his whole jockstrap on display.

His parenting was as unpredictable as every other part of his life. Bedtime stories were never routine, once opting to read the entire book “Alive” to his
kids about the Uruguayan rugby team who crashed into the Andes resorting to cannibalism to stay alive.

His need for self-improvement was never ending. Dick was an integral part of the 12-step community in Atlanta.

To his family, the most coveted running moments were always off the track. There was the time he came home from work in the middle of the day to find a burglar in the house. Dick, still in a suit, chased him through the woods for miles where he thought they had run into construction workers building where he thought they could help apprehend him. But it was lunchtime, no one was there, so Dick decided to let him go not wanting to risk confronting him alone. The man made off with Dick’s Olympic ring in his pocket. There was the time Dick chased down a purse-snatcher in Seattle during a family wedding. Again, in a suit, this time he caught the man and got the lady’s purse back. His oldest daughter once begged him to go to a spot on I-85 where the hubcap for her prized 1973 Cadillac lay on the inside shoulder across all six lanes of highway back when the highways were not lit at night. Dick sprinted across both ways in the dark, gave her the hubcap, and decided it had been a terrible idea. Dick said, “You never know how wide a highway is until you’re running across one.” But he was always willing to insert himself into a bad situation. He once pulled a guy off the Marta train tracks at Lindbergh just in time.

Dick, who had once beaten running legend Steve Prefontaine - breaking his four-year winning streak, was always kept grounded at home by his wife, Jean, of nearly 49 years. With all his accomplishments, Jean wonders about the more mundane stats. Like how many times has he locked his keys in his car or lost his wedding ring? How many times has he run out of gas?

Dick never stopped pushing. There was no such thing as a relaxed family run around the block. Every run ended in a sprint. Dick’s elbow would always find a way to edge out the person next to him, even if it was his young daughter. Birthdays were never a day of rest, Dick was known for running his age up to his 50th, going 50 miles.

Dick’s restlessness, his running and his constant racing to the next thing would be only stopped by a rare form of Parkinson’s called Multiple System Atrophy.

Dick, two-time Olympian, carrier of the Olympic torch in Barcelona in 1992 and again through Atlanta’s Old Fourth Ward in 1996, has finally passed the baton. Dick, forever thankful to Michael Jordan for shaving his head and ultimately making bald look cool, was shrouded in an old Jordan tracksuit, surrounded by family, finally at rest, the wild race over. Dick is survived by his wife, Jean; his children, Gabe (Hope), Lily (Eric Geshekter), and Tera Buerkle; grandchildren, Rose and Mae Geshekter, August and Emmett Buerkle; 7 siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

Paula Girven (track and field, 1976, 1980)

Paula Girven died on Oct. 17, 2020, at the age of 62.

Born in Virginia, she was the daughter of Elijah H. Girven Jr. and Queen Elizabeth Girven.

Among her many accomplishments, Paula represented the United States in the high jump at the Olympic Games Montreal 1976 and she qualified for the Olympic Games Moscow 1980. Throughout her life, she was devoted to God, a loving mother to two daughters, a loyal sister, and friend to many.

Paula attended Garfield High School in Dale City, Virginia, where she won nine individual state championships and participated on three state championship relay teams in track and field. In 1976, she tied the national record in the high jump, becoming the first high school girl in the state to jump 6 feet. Girven’s program records in the high jump (6’2”) and 55-meter hurdles (7.97) still stand in the Maryland record books. In 1998, Paula was inducted into Garfield’s Hall of Fame.

Paula attended the University of Maryland, where she was one of the
first African American woman to receive an athletic scholarship, graduating with a Bachelor of General Studies in 1981. In 1999, Paula was inducted into the University of Maryland’s Hall of Fame. When the Olympic Games came to Atlanta in 1996, Paula was honored to participate as an Olympic torchbearer. A great lover of God and her community, Paula was an active member of her churches. She served whenever she could and especially enjoyed offering sign-language interpretation for the deaf community. In 2011, Paula was certified as a lay minister by the Atlanta Revival Center.

When relaxing, Paula enjoyed movies with family and friends, birdwatching in her neighborhood, and checking in with her five beloved grandchildren.

Continuing to bring the joy of movement and fitness to those around her, Paula served as a master personal trainer with Samantha Taylor Fitness in Tampa, Florida from 2015-2019.

Paula is survived by daughters, Jasmin Pittman Morrell and Summer Segura; former spouse Craig Pittman; sisters, Janis Girven and Marcia Green; and grandchildren, Jubilee, Madison, Adolfo, Nova, and Karsyn. The family would like to express their gratitude to the Solace Hospice Center in Asheville. Paula will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

James “Jim” Grelle
(track and field, 1960)

WJames “Jim” Grelle died on June 13, 2020, at the age of 83.

During his illustrious career, Jim set U.S. records in the mile with a time of 3:55.4 in 1965, the indoor mile with a time of 4:03.6 in 1961, and in the 2-mile—distance he rarely ran, but in 1966 tied with Jim Ryun to record a time of 8:25.2. He was one of the first track and field athletes to have a running career after college and benefited from being coached by two world-renowned and innovative running coaches, Bill Bowerman and Mihály Iglói.

The 1950s and ’60s was the time for the mile in track, runners inspired by Roger Bannister’s breaking the four-minute barrier in May 1954. Grelle ran his first sub-four mile in 1962. By 1967 he had broken the four-minute barrier on a prodigious 21 occasions, the most “sub-fours” of any athlete in the world at that time. He was part of a golden era for American “miling” when, in 1962, six of the top ten milers in the world were Americans. This global success has never been matched since.

It was in 1952, as a freshman at Portland’s Lincoln High School that Grelle really discovered he could run competitively. On the track, he chose the 880-yard run and ran well, but in that era, a freshman could not run for varsity or in the state championships. In his sophomore year he recalls that he was, “third or fourth in the 880 at state.” He improved to take his first state title as a junior in the 880, in “about 2:01.” He successfully defended his state title in 1955, his senior year, reducing the state meet record time from 1:59.9 to 1:58.0. The fourth-place finisher was a Cleveland High School senior, Phil Knight.

Bowerman recruited Grelle to run at Oregon, where he was moved – unwillingly at first- to race the mile. As an Oregon Duck, he quickly developed, having many well-known runners and track and field athletes around him, including Knight, a three-year teammate and fraternity brother. Grelle learned through his own experience that Bowerman, “... really knew how to get people ready for May and June. All my best races, the whole four years of college, were at the national championships.”

When the UO milers finished first or second, or both, in the NCAA championships during nine straight seasons, Grelle played a significant part in that heritage. He was called the most durable of the Ducks’ string of distance standouts. He was at his best in big meets, placing second in the 1957 and 1958 NCAA Championships, both times behind Ron Delany, the 1956 Olympic 1,500-meter champion. In 1959, he crowned his collegiate career by winning the NCAA mile championship in 4:03.9.
In 1960, Grelle won the national championship in the 1,500 and later qualified, with a second place at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Palo Alto, California, for the U.S. Olympic Team to compete in the Olympic Games Rome 1960. In this introduction to the Olympic cauldron, he made the nine-man 1,500 final by placing second in his heat in 3:43.5. The final, however, was intense from the gun as Herb Elliott of Australia ran to the title and a 3:35.6 world record performance. Grelle finished in eighth place, with 3:45.0 and set his sights firmly on future seasons and the Olympic Games Tokyo 1964.

Following graduation from Oregon, Grelle had remained in Eugene to train with Bowerman before deciding in 1961 to make a move to Los Angeles, the new epicenter for the mile. He joined the Los Angeles Track Club to be trained under the secretive and punishing regime of Hungarian coach, Mihály Iglói. According to author and fellow Oregon runner Kenny Moore, Iglói welcomed Grelle with 35 quarters in his first workout. It is difficult to imagine, in these days of sponsored professional track and field athletes, what it must have been like to train so intensely and at such a volume twice a day, each day and work. Jim absorbed the training and was still able to hold down a demanding, full-time job with Colgate-Palmolive. It proved productive when, in 1962, Iglói took his Los Angeles Track Club for a fabled tour of European meets, Grelle running a personal best 3:56.7 in the mile. “Everybody said the American runner is lazy, don’t work,” Iglói told Sports Illustrated. “Now the American distance runner is the best in the world.”

He was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 1981, the only Lincoln High School track athlete to achieve this honor. He was also inducted into the Mt. SAC Relays Hall of Fame in 1991 and to the University of Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jean and their two children, Jim and Leslie, and two grandchildren.

Sheila R. Ingram
(track and field, 1976)

Sheila Ingram died on Sept. 1, 2020, at the age of 63.

While a senior at Calvin Coolidge High School, Sheila and her teammates won a silver medal in the 4x400-meter relay at the Olympic Games Montreal 1976 after taking 6th in the 400 finals. She set four national high school records in the 400, plus two American women’s records.

The Olympic experience in Montreal was the culmination of years of training with coach Adrian Dixon and the Pioneer Athletic Club in Washington, DC. The club was providing opportunities to girls in the sport before the days of Title IX, and Sheila soon became one of the sport’s most outstanding talents. As an eighth grader, she was already running 10.8 in the100-yard dash, 24.8 in the 220-yard dash, and 54.5 in the 440-yard dash. At the age of 15, she qualified for the 1972 U.S. Olympic Trials in Frederick, Maryland.

By Sheila’s sophomore year of high school, she was down to 53.01 in the quarter, the fastest high school female time that year. Also, that same year, she was a member of the USA Junior National Team that competed against Russia in Houston, Texas, where she placed first in the 400. As a senior, she gained more speed with a 100-yard dash personal best of 10.6. She placed second in the 400 with a time of 52.52 at the AAU Senior National Championships and then, remarkably, she won the 400-meter dash at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon, with a time of 52.69.

Then it was off to Montreal, where Sheila ran a dream series of races in qualifying for the quarterfinals, the semis, and the Olympic final. She obtained four personal bests and new HS records of 51.83, 51.31, 50.90 and another 50.90 for sixth place in the final. The 51.31 and the first 50.90 times were American women’s records.

After several years off from running, in 1982, Sheila went to St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, and competed. There, she was coached by George Williams.

Sheila was a Class of 2019 Inductee into the National High School Track
and Field Hall of Fame. She was also
inducted into the District of Columbia
State Athletic Association High School
Hall of Fame in 2020.

Gilbert “Ron” Larrieu
(track and field, 1964)

Gilbert “Ron” Larrieu died on June 1, 2020, at the age of 83.

Ron had a splendid athletic career, beginning with his days at Palo Alto High School and throughout his collegiate, national, and international competitive career. Ron competed for Mt. San Antonio College and Cal Poly Pomona. In 1994, Ron Larrieu was inducted into the Cal Poly Pomona Hall of Fame.

Post college, Ron competed for the Los Angeles Track Club under Hungarian coach Mihaly Igloi. He placed third at the 1964 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 10,000-meter behind Gerry Lindgren and Billy Mills. Between the trials and the Olympic Games, Ron ran a 27:54 6-mile, becoming the first American to run sub-28:00 for that distance. Disappointed with his performance in Tokyo, Ron went on to win the 1965 and 1966 AAU National Cross-Country Championship. Also, in 1965, Ron set the American record at 3-miles.

His time of 13:11.4 broke the previous record by 4.2 seconds. Ron’s best times include: 1500-meter – 3:49.2 (1960); mile – 4:03.6 (1966); 2 miles – 8:32.0 (1967); 5000-meter – 13:43.0 (1964); 10000-meter – 28:54.2 (1966).

Following his retirement from PolyOne Corporation, Ron turned to volunteering with the Mountain Ridge High School Cross Country team in Glendale, Arizona. Born in San Francisco, California, on May 29, 1937, Ron was the oldest of nine children.

Ron is survived by his devoted wife of 43 years Judy Larrieu, four brothers and four sisters, including five-time U.S. Olympic Team member Francie Larrieu Smith.

In their spare time, the duo constructed homemade boats along the Hudson River using tar paper and barrel staves. They soon joined a local rowing club after their talent caught the attention of the members. There John met James O’Rourke, who was to become his partner at the Olympic Games Berlin 1936.

On their journey to Berlin, John and O’Rourke destroyed much of the equipment in the ship’s gymnasium and were prohibited from entering it for most of the trip. John competed with O’Rourke in men’s folding kayak doubles, 10k, on a lake just outside the capital city. The duo did not win a medal, placing seventh in the competition.

While observing some of the athletic events, he claims to have witnessed Adolf Hitler refusing to congratulate or shake the hand of Jesse Owens. On the return journey to the United States, John encountered Owens and inquired about the incident. According to John, Owens responded that “that kind of thing had been going on his whole life. He’d gotten used to it”. After the Games, John never returned to Europe. Lysak returned to the U.S. and graduated from Springfield College in Massachusetts, where he met his wife, June. He served as a United States Marine during World War II in the South Pacific. After the war,
Lysak moved to California to work as a painting contractor, until he retired at the age of 62. His wife, with whom he had two sons, died in 2001. Lysak was able to kayak until 2002. At the time of his death, he was living in Fremont, California, with his sons.

Angela Madsen died on June 22, 2020, at the age of 60.

Angela was in the Marines when she had an accident falling on her back while playing basketball. The surgery at the Marine base did not go as planned, and she lost the use of her legs. The military would not pay for her medical bills, and for a while she was homeless. Angela turned to competitive rowing in 1997 and became an inspirational athlete, winning gold at the World Rowing championships three times. She also competed in shotput, winning a bronze medal in that sport at the Paralympic Games London 2012. Madsen was the first woman with a disability to twice row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. In 2009, she and Helen Taylor became the first women to row across the Indian Ocean. She was an LGBTQ activist and is survived by her wife, Deb.

Angela died on her attempt to become the first paraplegic, first openly gay athlete, and oldest woman to row solo across the Pacific Ocean. She was on day 60 of her journey, about halfway between Los Angeles and Hawaii.

Richard “Mike” Moran died on July 7, 2020, at the age of 78.

Mike Moran, who served as sports information director at the University of Colorado for 11 years and went on to a prestigious career as the chief communications officer and the principal spokesman for the United States Olympic Committee, passed away after a short illness and pneumonia Tuesday afternoon, July 7, 2020, in Colorado Springs. He was 78.

His professional career in athletics would span some 55 years, highlighted by being the chief spokesman for the USOC for a quarter century (1978-2003) and the Olympic games starting in Lake Placid in 1980 through Salt Lake City in 2002. He previously had served as the SID at Nebraska-Omaha and Colorado, and for the last 17 years, was involved in major consultant work, including as the senior media consultant for the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation as well as serving as a keynote speaker and emcee for numerous sports events.

In 2002, the USOC honored him with its highest award, the General Douglas MacArthur Award, as he joined a select group of recipients that included Nobel Peace Prize Winner and former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger, former USOC President and Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon, New York Yankees principal owner George Steinbrenner, former USOC President William Martin, and 1936 Olympic sprinter Marty Glickman.

That same year, he was inducted into the College Sports Information Director’s (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame, for a combination of his work in the SID and media relations field along with the opportunities he afforded dozens of SID’s around the nation to work both Summer and Winter Olympic games. He was inducted into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, and received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the United States Sports Academy.

He was born January 2, 1942, in Omaha and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1966. He worked in television and radio in his hometown from 1963-67, with his background including stints as a TV sportscaster, radio announcer and disc jockey and photography. He played college basketball and baseball at both South Dakota University and Omaha as an undergraduate following his graduation from Omaha’s Westside High School in 1960, where one of his teammates was actor Nick Nolte. After graduating from UNO, he became the school’s sports
information director for two years before accepting the similar position at Colorado, where he replaced a legend in the late Fred Casotti who had held the position for 16 years.

He took over as CU's SID in August 1968, just ahead of the football season. The '68-69 men's basketball team, led by the late Cliff Meely, won the Big Eight title and provided his first extended opportunity to work with the national media. Then the '69 football team gained national notoriety for defeating Bear Bryant's Alabama Crimson Tide in the Liberty Bowl, with Bobby Anderson earning All-America honors under Moran's promotional abilities. In 1971, the Buffaloes opened with road wins at LSU and Ohio State in the first three weeks of the season en route to a 10-2 year and a final No. 3 national ranking behind Nebraska and Oklahoma, to this day the only time the same conference has had the top three teams in the final polls.

In 1973, he managed the transition of Eddie Crowder from football coach to athletic director, enjoyed official scoring for Irv Brown's baseball teams, and saw the likes of Cliff Branch and George Daniels set the track world on fire. And prior to leaving for the USOC, his final challenge was managing the news that broke on Monday Night Football by Howard Cosell: the University of Colorado was hiring Chuck Fairbanks away from the New England Patriots to coach the Buffaloes.

Moran was at CU during a golden age for Big Eight Conference SID's, most of whom made it into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame. He worked for Casotti (inducted in 1996) and with Harold Keith (Oklahoma, inducted in 1969), Harry Burrell (Iowa State, 1970), Bill Callahan (Missouri, 1972), Don Bryant (Nebraska, 1975), Pat Quinn (Oklahoma State, 1977) and Bill Hancock (Big Eight Conference, 2005). Moran joined the group in 2002, and his co-SID for two years in the mid-1970s, Steve Hatchell, was inducted in 2018.

He had moments that captured the entire world at the USOC, topped by the U.S. Hockey team's win over the Russians and subsequent gold medal in 1980.

Don Porter

Don Porter died on June 7, 2020, at the age of 90.

A long-time figure in the world of softball, Don helped bring the sport to the Olympic Games beginning in 1996 and spearheaded its return for 2020 after it was removed by the International Olympic Committee in 2008.

Don previously held the title of executive director of the Amateur Softball Association, which would become USA Softball, from 1963 to 1997.

The former executive helped the ASA relocate to OKC, and the sport's flagship stadium was briefly named Don E. Porter ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. Now known as OGE Energy Field at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium, it has since been expanded to host 13,000 fans and is home to the Women's College World Series.

In addition to his duties with USA Softball, Don also worked as president of the International Softball Federation from 1987 to 2012, and he was later co-president of the World Baseball Softball Confederation from 2013 to 2014.

A veteran of the Korean War, Don is survived by his wife, Jean, three children, 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Thomas “Peter” Rademacher

Thomas “Peter” Rademacher died on June 4, 2020, at the age of 91.

Rademacher won gold at the Olympic Games Melbourne 1956 by knocking out Russian Lev Mukhim in the title match. A college lineman at Washington State, Rademacher then set out to win the heavyweight belt as a pro and persuaded Floyd Patterson to fight him.
Rademacher knocked down Patterson in the second round, but then took a pummeling and was eventually counted out in the sixth round after being dropped seven times. Rademacher is the only boxer to fight for the heavyweight title in his pro debut.

Rademacher was intensely proud of his Olympic title and carried his gold medal to events, where he shared it with crowds.

Peter was born in Tieton, Washington, and took up boxing while serving in the military. He spent most of his life in Medina, some 30 miles south of Cleveland.

Rademacher and his wife, Margaret, were married 57 years before her death in 2007. The couple had three daughters, Susan, Helen and Margo.

Kurt followed up his breakthrough at the 1978 championships by winning five world championship individual medals in 1979, including gold in the floor exercise once more and in the horizontal bar, at Fort Worth.

He joined with Bart Conner as trailblazing figures among American men in a sport in which women had garnered most of the attention and in which China, France, Japan, and the Soviet Union had dominated men’s international gymnastics.

Kurt was known for his daring and innovative moves in what came to be called the “Thomas Flair” on the pommel horse and the “Thomas Salto” in the floor exercise. In the “Flair,” he flew into a series of wide-swinging leg moves in which he would kick his feet high into the air. The “Salto” involved a dangerous backward move in a tucked position.

But he never won an Olympic medal. He had yet to reach his prime when he competed at the Olympic Games Montreal 1976. He was a favorite for the Olympic Games Moscow 1980, he did not get a chance to compete: the American team boycotted the Games in retaliation for the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan.

Kurt took part in professional gymnastics shows and worked as a TV commentator at gymnastics events later in the 1980s, when the Games were still limited to amateurs. He tried a comeback, at 36, when the Olympic ban on professionals had been lifted, but he was unable to get past the U.S. trials for the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992.

Kurt Thomas
(gymnastics, 1976)

Kurt Thomas died on June 5, 2020, at the age of 64.

Kurt became the first American to win a world championship event in men’s gymnastics when he captured gold in the floor exercise at Strasbourg, France, in 1978.

Conner, who won the gold medal on the parallel bars at the 1979 world championships and at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984, wrote on Twitter that “Kurt was a fierce rival, who went on to become a cherished friend.”

Kurt played on a newly formed gymnastics team at his high school and won a scholarship to Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

He was a multiple NCAA champion, winning the parallel bars and all-around in 1977, and parallel bars, horizontal bar and the all-around in 1979. He helped take the men’s gymnastics team to the 1977 national collegiate championship and ranked behind only Larry Bird, the future basketball Hall of Famer, as a campus celebrity.

Kurt received the Sullivan Award as the nation’s leading amateur athlete in 1979 and was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 2003.

In addition to his wife, Rebecca (Jones) Thomas, his survivors include their children, Hunter and Kassidy, as well as a son, Kurt, from a previous marriage.

John Thompson, Jr.
basketball coach, 1976, 1988)

John Thompson, Jr. died on Aug. 30,
ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM (continued)

2020, at the age of 78.

John starred for Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington before leading Providence to the 1963 National Invitational Tournament championship and serving as captain for the school’s first NCAA tournament team in 1964.

John, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1999, was a pioneer credited with opening the door for a generation of minority coaches. His national title run in 1984 was the first by a Black head coach and altered the perception of Black coaches.

Never afraid to speak his mind, John walked off the court in 1989 before a game against Boston College to protest Proposition 42, an NCAA measure that would ban academically ineligible freshmen from receiving scholarships. John said he protested because he believed the proposition aimed to limit opportunities for minority students.

The Boston Celtics’ Red Auerbach selected 6-foot-10 John in the third round of the 1964 NBA draft. John was used sparingly as backup to Bill Russell but won championships with the franchise in 1965 and 1966.

John’s stint in the NBA ended after two seasons. He had an opportunity to join the Chicago Bulls but chose to pursue an opportunity to work with kids.

He accepted a post as the head coach at the prestigious St. Anthony Catholic School in Washington in 1966. He was 122-28 during his six-year prep coaching career before Georgetown hired him in 1972.

John coached the USA men’s basketball team at the Olympic Games Montreal 1976 and the Olympic Games Seoul 1988.

John’s survivors include his sons, John Thompson III and Ronny Thompson, and daughter Tiffany Thompson.

Donald Francis Whiston
(ice hockey, 1952)

Donald Francis Whiston died on July 11, 2020, at the age of 93.

Don was the husband of the late Marie Bailey Whiston, father of Wendy Whiston, Dawn Whiston, Kim Pickul, Meg Whiston, Mark Whiston and Paige Coleman, grandfather of 13, great-grandfather of four.

In lieu of flowers, donations “in memory of Don Whiston” may be made to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 30 Jeffrey’s Neck Road, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Donald Francis Whiston died on July 11, 2020, at the age of 93.

Don was a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Brown University. He was a goalie on the silver medal winning U.S. Olympic Hockey Team at the Olympic Games Oslo 1952.

His hockey accolades include MVP of the 1951 NCAA Tournament and First Team All-American in 1951. He was inducted into the Brown University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1971 and the Massachusetts Hockey Hall of Fame in 2012. Don served as President of The First National Bank of Ipswich, previously as a Vice President of State Street Bank of Boston, and also as President of the Massachusetts Bankers Association for one term. He was an avid skier and made Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine his alpine base for 50+ years.

William Yorzyk
(swimming, 1956)

William Yorzyk died on Sept. 2, 2020, at the age of 87.

Bill graduated from Northampton High School in 1950 at the age of 16 and Springfield College in 1954. He won a gold medal at the Olympic Games Melbourne 1956 in the 200-meter butterfly.

Bill attended medical school and coached at the University of Toronto, where he met Carrol, his wife of 59 years. He served as captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps and was stationed in Japan. During the Olympic Games Tokyo 1964, he called the Games on U.S. Armed Forces Radio.
Bill’s innovation did not end with the butterfly. In the 1970s, he used his swimming skills, knowledge of physiology and diving experience to assist in forming dive tables that are still used today. The longtime anesthesiologist also changed his field. He simplified epidural techniques to minimize side effects and pioneered the addition of the ICU and pain clinics at what is now Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Bill continued his career as an athlete well into his 50s. In 1985, at the age of 52, he beat his winning Olympic time. Throughout the ’80s he continued to set records for his age group while participating in master’s meets.

Bill spent the past 25 years living on Lake Quacumquasit in East Brookfield. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, making many canoe trips on the Connecticut River north of Northampton. He taught his children to swim at an early age.

Bill is survived by his wife Carrol, their children Jenn and Jeff, and their families.

Anthony Zahn
(Para-cycling, 2008, 2012)

DAAnthony Zahn died on Aug. 7, 2020, at the age of 45.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Liz Bernstein, his loving parents, Connie and Larry Zahn of Riverside, and his cherished siblings, Will (Monterey), Patrick and wife, Hilary (Santa Rosa), and Diana Zahn (Rohnert Park).

Anthony was born in Riverside, graduated from Poly High School, and owned Anthony’s Cyclery in Riverside for fourteen years. He became a consummate mechanic and bike builder, and he was an avid cyclist himself. He was an enthusiastic storyteller and loved meeting new friends. He was working on a soon-to-be-published memoir recounting his development as a cyclist, experiences as a shop owner, and accomplishments as a Paralympic competitor.

Faced with several significant challenges, Anthony met them all with great courage. For thirty years he battled Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a progressive neuropathy which reduced the strength and function in his hands and lower legs. As a member of the U.S. Paralympic cycling team for six years, he competed on the world stage with elite athletes who also had physical challenges. He competed in the Paralympic Games Beijing 2008, winning a bronze medal, and in the Paralympic Games London 2012. He gave 100% in every race. Over the course of his career, Anthony also raced in Australia, Colombia, Mexico, Canada, France, Italy and Spain.

He succumbed to pancreatic cancer after a short but brave battle. Anthony is survived by numerous friends and family members. He was remembered at a private family memorial service on Mt. Tamalpais, Marin County, the site of his 2015 wedding. Friends who wish may honor Anthony with a donation to the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (https://www.cmtausa.org), the organization which does research into finding a cure for Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, the Challenged Athletes Foundation (https://www.challengedathletes.org), or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (https://www.pancan.org).
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