The Wright brothers are famous for being the first to fly an airplane but their remarkable accomplishment was almost overlooked. Following that first flight, Orville sent his family a telegram explaining the details of their successful flight and asked his sister to inform the press. At the end of the telegram he added that they would be home in time for Christmas. Katherine was so happy for the brothers that she immediately went down to the local paper and showed the cable to the editor. The editor read the cable and told Katherine that it was “wonderful news!” That next day the headline in the paper read, “Wright brothers to return home for Christmas”.

This story is especially poignant to me because it reminds me that if we are not careful, we can easily miss history in the making. Recently, I was asked to bring together some Olympians to work with the USOC staff to outline a strategy for how to integrate the Olympians and Paralympians into the U.S. Olympic Committee’s overall strategic plan. To my knowledge, this is the first time the USOC has ever asked the Olympians to help identify ways that we can help them be a better organization. Quite frankly, I was excited to be a part of the conversation and proud of the way the Olympians around the table handled themselves. So the first thing I have to report to you is not that we met with staff of the USOC, but that Olympians will be an integral part of the strategic plan moving forward.

Another important piece of news occurred recently of which you all should be aware, the USOC has reorganized and in the reorganization selected 4 more people to sit on the Board of Directors. One of those people selected is Nina Kemppel, an Olympian. Nina served as vice chair of the Athletes Advisory Council (AAC) for several years. She is a four-time Olympian in cross-country skiing. She recently chaired the USOC Working Group for Safe Training Environments, considered to be one of the most successful working groups by all accounts. It is gratifying to see another Olympian named to the Board bringing the total to 6 out of 14.
The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) announced its annual award recipients for Olympic and Paralympic athletes and teams of the year. Each of the 2010 honorees were part of Team USA’s historic performance at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver and all are reigning Olympic or Paralympic champions. Alpine skier Lindsey Vonn (Vail, Colo.) has been named the USOC SportsWoman of the Year; figure skater Evan Lysacek (Naperville, Ill.) was selected SportsMan of the Year; the USA I four-man bobsled team was honored as Team of the Year; mono-skier Alana Nichols (Farmington, N.M.) was named Paralympic SportsWoman of the Year; sled hockey player Taylor Chace (Hampton Falls, N.H.) was named Paralympic SportsMan of the Year; and the 2010 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team has been awarded the Paralympic Team of the Year honor.

"All of these athletes represent the best in Olympic and Paralympic sport for Team USA," said USOC CEO Scott Blackmun. "Their excellence on the field of play is matched by their positive influence in their communities and across our country. Their personal achievements last year and throughout their careers are remarkable, and I am thankful that we have such outstanding ambassadors of excellence."

The 2010 Olympic season was incredible, but what made it so special is that I was able to share it with so many American fans," Vonn said. "It was amazing to see the support and excitement they showed for ski racing and that’s definitely carried into this winter. It means so much to the athletes to hear from them. Win or crash, they keep us excited to compete."
Evan Lysacek, 2010 SportsMan of the Year
Lysacek won gold at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, becoming the first American men’s figure skating champion since Brian Boitano in 1988. He defeated reigning Olympic champion Evgeni Plushenko of Russia to end Russia’s dominance of the top of the podium. Lysacek also won silver at the 2010 AT&T U.S. Figure Skating Championships. He went on to compete in ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars,” finishing runner-up with partner Anna Trebunskaya, and he was nominated for an ESPY award in the category of “Best Male U.S. Olympic Athlete.” Active with several charitable causes, Lysacek becomes the second figure skater to win the SportsMan award, joining Scott Hamilton (1981).

“I was truly honored to represent the United States in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games,” Lysacek said. “Thank you to the USOC for all of their support throughout my career. I am extremely proud to receive this prestigious award and humbled to see my name next to the incredible list of past recipients.”

USA 1 Four-Man Bobsled Team, 2010 Team of the Year
2010 marked a second year of wins for the USA I four-man bobsled team and a second consecutive Team of the Year award. Nicknamed the “Night Train,” the team won gold at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver to break a 62-year medal drought. Pilot Steven Holcomb (Park City, Utah), along with Justin Olsen (San Antonio, Texas), Steve Mesler (Buffalo, N.Y.) and Curt Tomasevich (Shelby, Neb.), notched the first Olympic bobsled win for a U.S. sled since 1948. The team also claimed the 2010 World Cup title after winning gold in Lake Placid, N.Y., gold in Cesana, Italy, silver in Altenberg, Germany, and silver in Koenigssee, Germany.

“It’s such an honor to win Team of the Year, especially this year, an Olympic year when all the teams are at their absolute best, I’m sure it wasn’t an easy choice,” Holcomb said. “Winning two years in a row is even more amazing. Not only did we have a great year from January to March, but changed the team and continued our winning.

“As U.S. Olympic athletes, we make sacrifices in so many aspects of our lives, and put everything we have into our sports hoping that in four years we might have a medal to show for it. So while winning an Olympic gold medal proves that we were the best, having the USOC recognize and acknowledge our hard work and accomplishments adds the final touch, the icing on the cake, to an incredible year.”

Paralympic Winners: Alana Nichols; Taylor Chace; U.S. Sled Hockey Team

“Practice what you know today along with learning something new, then practice it all over again.”
- Mark Spitz (swimming, 1968, ’72)
Alana Nichols, 2010 Paralympic SportsWoman of the Year
Nichols was the most decorated member of Team USA at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games as she captured four medals in Vancouver in the alpine skiing sitting division. She took home two gold - downhill and giant slalom - silver in the super G and bronze on the super combined. She became the first U.S. female Paralympian to win gold medals at both the summer and winter Paralympic Games, having won gold with the U.S. Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. Nichols also dominated the 2010 World Cup schedule by winning both the downhill and super G titles.

“Receiving the 2010 Paralympic Sports Woman of the Year award is such an honor, and having been selected from a pool of the country’s most elite Paralympic athletes is just so humbling,” Nichols said. “I’m truly honored. This is the cherry on top of an absolutely unbelievable year for me.”

Taylor Chace, 2010 Paralympic SportsMan of the Year
As a member of the 2010 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team, Chace helped the squad to the gold medal at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. He was part of a solid defense that did not allow a single goal in five games in Vancouver. He was named the top defenseman of the Games, and he tied for second among all defensemen with five points (3-2) and tied for first with a +8 rating in the five games. Chace was selected as captain of the 2010-11 U.S. National Sled Hockey Team.

“Receiving this award is a tremendous honor,” Chace said. “While winning the gold medal in Vancouver was the ultimate prize, this award is due in large part to my teammates, the sacrifices made by my family and my passion for hockey that keeps me going on the ice every day.”

2010 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team, 2010 Paralympic Team of the Year
For the second consecutive year, the U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team has captured Paralympic Team of the Year honors. The 2010 U.S. Paralympic Sled Hockey Team earns the award on the heels of winning the gold medal at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in March. Team USA dominated the competition by going undefeated and outscoring opponents 18-0 in five games, becoming the first country not to allow a goal at the Paralympic Winter Games. The U.S. also became the first country to claim a second sled hockey gold medal, also winning at the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games.

In Vancouver, Team USA was the youngest team in the sled hockey tournament by nearly seven years with average age of 23.8 years (Canada’s average: 30.7 years). Steve Cash (Overland, Mo.) was named the top goaltender of the Games, and Chace was named the top defenseman.

Joining Cash and Chace on the team were Mike Blabac (Buffalo, N.Y.), Jimmy Connelly (Galloway, N.J.), Brad Emmerson (Amherst, N.Y.), Joe Howard (Kingston, Mass.), Tim Jones (Mt. Ephraim, N.J.), Nikko Landeros (Berthoud, Colo.), Taylor Lipsett (Mesquite, Texas), Adam Page (Lancaster, N.Y.), Josh Pauls (South Plainfield, N.J.), Alexi Salamone (Grand Island, N.Y.), Greg Shaw (Park City, Utah), Bubba Torres (Riverside, N.J.) and Andy Yohe (Bettendorf, Iowa).

“By shutting out all of our opponents en route to the gold, our team achieved a record in Vancouver that can never be broken,” said head coach Ray Maluta. “The guys’ ability to work together resulted in gold hanging around their necks, and I couldn’t be happier for this group.”
Excellence is achieving the highest honor and remembering the dedication and hard work it took to achieve such an honor.

- Jackie Joyner-Kersee (athletics, 1984, ’88, ’92, ’96)
Tommy Kono will mark his 81st birthday on June 27, 2011, and surely he’ll do it with all the forever-youthful vigor that carried him to three Olympic medals (gold-1952 and ’56, silver-1960), 21 world weightlifting records spread over four different weight classes, and election to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1990 and the International Weightlifting Hall of Fame in 1993.

Kono continues to travel the world, promoting the causes of strength, health, competition and the ideals inherent in his lifetime status as an Olympic icon.

An important annual stop now is the gala reunion dinner of The Association of Oldtime Barbell and Strongmen, and surely he'll be there at the association’s 28th event in October 2011. He certainly made his presence felt at the association’s 27th annual event staged at the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel.

Among the early afternoon features of the 2010 AOBS event was a historical and collector’s meeting. A seminar was conducted by Dennis Rodgers, who regaled his audiences with the story of how he used weights, diet and specialized strength training to transform his boyhood 4-foot-11, 79-pound body into a powerhouse of a man. He went on to become a U.S. and World Arm-Wrestling champion, and a performer of such feats as holding Air Force T-34 aircraft from taking off, bending half-inch steel bars around his neck, and twisting an adjustable wrench into S-shape.

At the banquet that followed, the association’s “Highest Achievement Award” presentations were made to Rodgers, past Mr. America and lifelong natural bodybuilder Chet Yorton, and Fred Lowe, one of the most decorated U.S. Olympic and international weightlifters. Lowe represented the nation at the 1968 (Mexico City), 1972 (Munich) and 1976 (Montreal) Games, setting six American records and recognition as the first middleweight lifter ever to hoist more than 400 pounds in the clean and jerk.

Along with Tommy Kono, U.S. Olympic lifting greats as John Grimek, David Mayor, Peter George, Paul...
Anderson, Isaac “Ike” Berger, Chuck Vinci, Dave Sheppard, Norbert Schemansky, Frank Spellman, Jim Bradford, Gary Cleveland, Dr. Jim George and Bruce Wilhelm were prior recipients of the “Highest Achievement Award,” now named for AOBS founder Vic Boff. Other sport barbell advocates are Al Oerter (track and field), Bruno Sammartino (wrestling) and Frank Stranahan (golf).

The AOBF also introduced its own Hall of Fame in 2005 and its membership includes such late-great individuals as Bob Hoffman. Bob's tireless advocacy of “The Iron Game” spurred America's rise from world lifting to global prominence from the late 1940s through the 1960s. The marvelous John Henry Davis won his first world championship at age 17 in 1938, and stayed on top of the Olympic lifting universe through his gold medals at London in 1948 and Helsinki in 1952.

Amid all this, Tommy Kono continues to occupy a pedestal position of his own.

“If only we had a lifter like Tommy now, we'd still be up there on all the Olympic charts,” was a common lament of AOBS banquet attendees. But the undeniable fact is that recent American lifters cannot be compared to the lifting greats of the Tommy Kono era.

Kono himself has done all he can in the “keep America strong” campaign.

He collected his third and final Pan American Games gold medal in 1963, but soon immersed himself in the role of encouraging others to emulate his own feats.

Kono was selected to coach Mexico's lifters at the Olympic Games in 1968. He played a similar role, tapped by Germany to coach its lifters at the Munich Games in 1972.

And then he focused on his fellow Americans.

He coached America's lifters at Montreal in 1976 and has held major coaching assignments in USA weightlifting virtually ever since. He helped coordinate plans for the inaugural Women's World Weightlifting Championships of 1987, which eventually paved the way to the introduction of women's lifting to medal status at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

When not coaching or inspiring other lifters, Kono has been a prolific writer, photographer and designer of lifting and strength-building equipment.

“Some people train to win. I train to eliminate the possibility of defeat.”
- Steve Redgrave (rowing, 1984, '88, '92, '96/Great Britain)
As Kono has always insisted, hoisting vast poundages in the proper Olympic form is as much mind over matter as it is of superb strength.

Just off the presses (published by the HKC/ Hawaii Kono Company) is “Tommy Kono’s Championship Weightlifting,” and subtitled “Beyond Muscle Power, the Mental Side of Lifting.”

Kono writes: “The book is for those who want to make weightlifting in the U.S. an international sport and not keep it as a hobby, or practice it as a means to keep physically fit, or to make the workout site a social club. The mission of this book is to instill ‘The Champion Lifter’s Attitude’ in you, so you think, you believe, you act - and become a great weightlifting champion.”

He continues, “any caveman can lift weights, moving tons of rocks like a day laborer. That isn’t championship lifting. It is mindless work exhibiting strength but nothing of the character required to be a competing athlete, one who can win medals by rising to all important occasions on the platform.”

Kono’s foremost dream would be to see Team USA rise to its prior lifting heights, but he realizes it’s going to be a hugely challenging uphill journey. “One can only wonder what other countries think of American lifting today, if they think of it at all,” he writes. “When American lifters knew how to exert and did just that, other countries kept one eye on our national scene. They took notice when the American team entered the training hall at the World Championships. We were center-stage, and now we are hardly even stagehands for the others.”


Kono tells those who really, truly want to reach weightlifting’s medals stands:

“The secret of improving on the two Olympic lifts is to (focus almost completely on) snatch, and clean and jerk, making them complete movements, working in perfecting the technique so that you have maximum efficiency from the lifting muscles you employ. Think of yourself as a finely-tuned athlete with smooth, flawless, efficient lifting technique.

“After each repetition, erase any flaw detected, so the next repetition will be even smoother in performance. Constantly focus in correcting any mistake you make in your lifts so the succeeding one will be a better lift.”

Tommy Kono’s words flow. The many messages he imparts are truly heartfelt. And they should, because Tommy Kono, a great of all weightliftinggreats, is an Olympian’s Olympian, too.

USOC’s Team USA Career Program Announcement!

We are pleased to announce the operational launch of the USOC’s Team USA Career Program, created in partnership with Adecco, PowerAde and hopefully many more USOC Sponsors.

Overview
The USOC has been working diligently since early 2009 to create a program to replace the former Olympic Job Opportunities Program (OJOP) which employed many Olympians, Paralympians and hopefuls at The Home Depot and other companies throughout its 30+ year history. While the OJOP was beneficial for athletes from an income-earning perspective, the Team USA Career Program has been created with the following parameters to better serve qualified athletes both while they are training and competing and when they have retired from sport.

- Athletes will be provided employment opportunities that are not only flexible in schedule, but also have potential for future career advancement.
- Athletes will only be paid for the hours they work to prevent the abuses that occurred in the OJOP.
- All athletes in the Team USA Career Program will be paid the same hourly rate of $14/hour to prevent any job-hopping among USOC Sponsors and create more stability for both the employer and the athlete-employee.
- A basic health benefits package will be provided by Adecco who will also handle all the employment administration services. While qualified athletes will work at a USOC Sponsor, they are actually temporary employees of Adecco so that USOC Sponsor companies do not have to increase their head count given the current economic times.
- To apply for a Team USA Career Program position with a USOC Sponsor Company, qualified athletes will work with a career coach from Adecco until they are considered “job ready” for program participation. While qualified for the program athletically, athletes in the Team USA Career Program must go through a job interview process, sometimes with other athletes in the program, and will be selected for hire by the USOC Sponsor Company. This means that a job in the Team USA Career Program is NOT guaranteed. It is the hope of the USOC that this process will force athletes to be better prepared for job interviews and career planning both during their athletic careers and upon retirement from sport.

Team USA Career Program Eligibility Criteria
Athletes must:
- Be currently training and competing in Olympic and Paralympic events/disciplines.
- Be a member of the U.S. National Team (Senior Level), or the equivalent, if the athlete’s sport does not have a National Team.

Program Administration
Keith Bryant from the USOC and Carissa Gump from Adecco will serve as the liaisons for athletes and NGBs interested in more information regarding the Team USA Career Program. Also, please keep in mind that the USOC’s Athlete Career Program is available to both athletes who are still training and competing as well as athletes who have retired from sport. The USOC Athlete Career Program can provide personal career consultation and coaching as well as job placement assistance for all elite athletes Olympians and Paralympians at various stages in their athletic and professional careers. We look forward to working with you!

Contact Information
Keith Bryant, Communications Director, USOC, Keith.Bryant@usoc.org
Carissa Gump, Athlete Liaison & 2008 Olympian, Adecco, Carissa.Gump@adeconca.com
Ohno recalls grueling climb to top in ‘Zero Regrets’

As America’s most-decorated winter Olympian, speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno has won medals streaking ahead of the pack, stumbling across the finish line and nipping the competition at the end. He’s won races he should have lost and lost races he might have won. As he always says — win or lose — “That’s short track.”

Now, the 28-year-old has written a book with former Los Angeles Times reporter Alan Abrahamson, “Zero Regrets,” that takes readers from his early rebellious days to the grueling training sessions that led up to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Ohno called in for a brief chat while on a 23-stop book tour.

Q Ten years ago, you wrote, “I want seven world championships, six gold medals and to be a legend in speed skating.” You have eight world championships, eight Olympic medals — two of them gold — you’re the most decorated U.S. Winter Olympian and you won “Dancing with the Stars.” Are you satisfied?

A I’m always looking for the next challenge in my life. With this book, I’m excited about what’s to come. I’m very excited about inspiring people, speaking to kids, trying to get them inspired, doing every single thing I can to try to get people to be the best they can be. And it’s not just within skating. It’s in business, in life, in whatever path, whatever direction I’m trying to go in next. As long as I’m passionate about it, that’s what I’m all about.

Q Your description of each of your memorable races is vivid. Did you have to go back and watch the video tape or are you like a world-class pitcher who remembers each classic confrontation?

A It was important for us to watch every, single race and we actually did that. It was awesome. I’m a very analytical person so when I re-watch something I notice a lot of different technical aspects I was doing wrong, some hesitation, always things I can improve on. Sometimes I don’t like watching myself, but obviously it was a necessity.

Q You say you have zero regrets, but do you have an desire for a do-over or two?

A There are a lot of things in my life that on a first look, I wish I had done differently. But on a second look, you know what? I don’t think I would change anything. Everything happened in my life for a reason. It shaped me to be who I am today. Out of every single bad decision or mistake I learned from it and came out stronger. I think it was all worth it.

Q Your description of training for Vancouver is painful to read. You lost a dozen pounds from an already buff form, dropped your body fat from 6 percent to, like, 2 percent and lifted insane amounts of weight. Does that hurt for you to read about it now?

A It’s awesome, it’s awesome. It’s almost like, ‘Wow, I really did this.’ It’s wild. I don’t have time to work out now because I’m so busy. I was reading through the notes of what John [Schaeffer] and I were doing in training and literally, in the morning, the 45-minute warm-up, is what I get in for a work out today. So I’m missing eight hours of training.

Q I’ve seen the Oreo commercials you made with Shaquille O’Neill, Venus Williams and Eli Manning. How many cookies did it take for you to nail that 19-second, “Twist it, lick it, dunk it, enjoy it” demonstration?

A (Laughing) Eight. It’s my lucky number, too.

Q You’re known for explaining the intense, split-second world of your sport with a shrug, a smile and two words: “That’s short track.” In Salt Lake City in 2002, you won silver in the 1,000-meter final by being able to scramble to your feet after a massive pile-up to finish behind Aussie Steve Bradley — the last man standing. In Vancouver — same distance — you skated brilliantly but finished third. Also in Vancouver, in the 500-meter, you were the victim of a disqualification that really wasn’t. Which race best describes the craziness of your sport?
A There’s not one race that defines the sport. Those are not typical short-track races. Before that, 1,000 in Salt Lake City, I had never seen anything like that happen before. In the Olympics, some unforeseen circumstances can happen. You just have to be mentally prepared to handle them. If you can, you do well. If not, you don’t.

Q You’d think with all of that speed, all of that mayhem, all of those split-second tactical decisions, the sport would get more love on TV. It would seem to be a natural in even non-Olympic years.

A I think the sport has the potential to do amazing things. I think it’s got to be marketed the right way and the right people have to be involved. I’m passionate about the sport and I think it’s amazing. I think it’s just going to take time.

Q Simon Cho, one of your teammates, grew up in Maryland and now trains in Salt Lake City. He won a bronze medal in Vancouver in the 5,000-meter relay and this year has medaled at world championships and World Cup events. At 19, what’s his future with the team?

A Simon is an amazing skater. He’s growing and showing some impressive leadership skills. He has a lot of experience and I think he has the talent to be a great short-track speed skater. We’re great friends and I’ve tried to help him along the way. I’m excited to see what he can do.

Q Even though you eventually won, I thought your rumba in “Dancing with the Stars” deserved better marks.

A (Laughing). I agree.

The author is now a licensed psychologist and professor at Boston University. Baltzell says “This is the book I wish I had had when I was an Olympic hopeful. It’s about how to develop the many aspects of a champion mindset and use them to prepare for moments of high-pressure performance—it’s about how to thrive under pressure.” A number of prominent athletes, coaches, musicians, and psychologists offer testimonials for Living in the Sweet Spot, including former NFL quarterbacks Phil Simms (Super Bowl XXI MVP) and Jason Garrett (now Dallas Cowboys head coach).

One of the testimonials comes from Michelle Guerette, a two-time Olympian, 2008 single-scull Olympic silver medalist. She says that in her best races, “the x-factor was positive mindset - love the craft, love the chance to be pushed to the limit.” She found Living in the Sweet Spot to be “a real training tool for extreme performers seeking to be at their best when it counts.”

Baltzell serves as a consultant to many elite athletes and musicians and has been featured in interviews both locally in Boston and nationwide on programs such as CBS Sunday Morning. Further details about the book and how to purchase the book can be found at www.fitinfotech.com/livinginthesweetspot.html. The book is also available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, and other major book retailers.

Garrett has found the information presented in Living in the Sweet Spot to be relevant to his work as a professional coach. “I’ve always been interested in how to perform better—for myself and now for our players,” said Jason Garrett in his testimonial for the book. “Performance at the highest level is always a challenge. This book provides some excellent practical ideas of how to achieve and sustain high levels of performance from the psychological perspective.”

LIVING IN THE SWEET SPOT: PREPARING FOR PERFORMANCE IN SPORT AND LIFE
Author: Dr. Amy Baltzell

Olympian’s new book helps athletes prepare for life’s big performances.

Author Dr. Amy Baltzell, a 1992 Olympian (Rowing), brings together the best practices in sport psychology with innovative research in the new field of positive psychology to demonstrate how top athletes can reach and maintain that unique balance of achievement and happiness—life in the sweet spot.

The issues that all types of performers face when under pressure come to life in this book. Examples are drawn from the performance struggles faced by athletes, musicians, and by the author herself as an Olympic athlete and America’s Cup sailor. Every chapter contains practical, effective reflective exercises that help readers rise to the challenge of performing their best when it counts.

“Never be afraid to go out on the limb to live up to your expectations.”
- Picabo Street (skiing, 1994, ‘98, ‘02)
Olympic Day is an International Olympic Committee (IOC) property that is celebrated worldwide on June 23 to commemorate the birth of the Modern Olympic Movement which took place in 1894 when Baron Pierre de Coubertin met with the initial members of the IOC in Paris. The USOC has increased the level of U.S. participation in Olympic Day over the last two years by hosting 187 events in 177 cities in 2009 and 330 events in 220 cities in 2010.

In 2010, 375 Olympians, Paralympians, Coaches and Hopefuls participated in Olympic Day festivities across the United States and the U.S. Olympic Family surpassed the success of 2009 through increased participation among the Athletes’ Advisory Council (AAC), Multi-Sport Organizations (MSO), National Governing Bodies (NGBs), U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association (USOPA) and more.

As a result of past Olympic Day success, the interest of organizations across the United States has increased five-fold to interest by more than 1,500 locations in 2011! While the USOC and the USOPA are not able to commit to all of these interested sites, the bar has once again been raised where the participation by Olympians and Paralympians is more critical than ever.

Last year, the most participation came from athletes who participated in the 1996, 2008 and 2010 games, while the most represented sports were athletics, swimming and rowing. The USOPA Chapters that held the most events with the most athlete participation were California, Tri-States and Colorado. See below for the top 5 lists in each category. With this increased interest in 2011, it’ll be interesting to see what years, sports and states will rise to the occasion this year!

The majority of Olympic Day activities in the United States are scheduled June 17-26, 2011. If you are interested in participating in a 2011 Olympic Day event, please email OlympicDayMailbox@usoc.org or call the Olympic Day Hotline at 719-866-4535.

### Top 5 Performances by USOPA Members

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WILLIE BANKS, Athletics, 2010 Olympic Day events at Camp Pendleton and Carson, California. As you can see from this photo, I had to call on all my years of jumping to seek out a victory from some very talented and spirited competitors at the Camp Pendleton Olympic Day event last year. Seriously, my Olympic Day experience at Camp Pendleton was extra special for me in that I was able to give back not only to the community in which I was raised, but also to children whose parents are fighting for me and our country. The Carson, CA, event was another special time for me in that I was able to reconnect with some old and not-so-old friends while also conveying the spirit of Olympism and physical fitness to area youth.

Olympic Day is a special event each year and one that gives back exponentially more than you’ll give out. It allows Olympians and Paralympians to share their experiences with their local communities to spread the spirit of Olympism throughout the United States and inspire Americans to pursue their dreams. Olympic Day is one of the strongest partnerships between the USOPA and USOC and is a relatively easy way for the USOPA to continue its involvement in the U.S. Olympic Movement in a turn-key manner. I strongly encourage each of you to support the Olympic Day event(s) in your community by speaking to and/or interacting with youth and the general public to share your story and promote the Olympic Spirit. Thank you!
"I am always happy to show my support for the USOC and Olympic Day celebrations. Sharing my Olympic moments makes me appreciate the journey it took to get to the top of the podium even more."
- Dominique Dawes, three-time Olympic gymnast and co-chair of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition

"I love representing USA Volleyball, especially given the success our sport has seen during the last Olympics," Gardner said. "Kids feed off seeing and touching a gold medal, our huge stature, and meeting us in person. I would not miss this same opportunity in the future."
- Gabe Gardner, two-time Olympic volleyball player

"Participating in the Olympic Day Celebration last year was one I will not soon forget. Seeing the wide eyed kids as I educated them about the Paralympics and the spirit behind both the Paralympic and Olympic games was incredible for all involved. I walked away confident that they would take away the spirit and enthusiasm for the games and remember it for years to come."
- Melissa Stockwell, one-time Paralympic swimmer

"Olympic Day is a fun and easy way for Olympians to engage with the kids in their community and encourage them to be their best. The most important and rewarding decision we can make as Olympians is to choose to be a positive role model."
- Misty Hyman, one-time Olympic swimmer

"Olympic Day is a great opportunity for us to interact with the community and kids and share the Olympic spirit and excitement of the Games. We held interactive sports stations that gave kids the chance to "play" with different Olympians. For young kids to be able to interact with all the athletes in a setting like that is just invaluable. It's something that they will take with them and remember for a lifetime."
- Connie Paraskevin, two-time Olympic speedskater and three-time Olympic cyclist
I N  H O N O R

ASU basketball honors Joe Caldwell during Home Opener

Not long ago, **Joe Caldwell** received a phone call from Arizona State basketball coach Herb Sendek.

“Joe,” Sendek said, according to Caldwell’s memory. “We want to hang your jersey up in Wells Fargo Arena.”

The line went silent.

“Joe?” Sendek said.

“Coach,” Caldwell finally said, “you’re about to make me cry.”

Caldwell, 69, was honored at the home opener against Alabama-Birmingham. He is the first former Sun Devils basketball player to have his jersey honored, but there will be more.

Lionel Hollins was also honored on Feb. 17. Byron Scott, Lafayette Lever and Alton Lister will follow, but their respective dates have not been chosen. Eddie House, Ike Diogu and James Harden likely will be honored in the future.

A loss no doubt would sour the occasion. It also would mark the first time since 1989, Bill Frieder’s first season, the Sun Devils would start 0-2. ASU, breaking in seven newcomers, lost its season opener at New Mexico, a game in which the Sun Devils never found their shooting touch.

“We’re looking forward to making progress and moving forward,” senior guard Jamelle McMillan said.

For Caldwell, Sendek’s phone call was unexpected. During his NBA days, he remembers looking at the jerseys hanging in Boston Garden, wondering if anyone ever would think so highly of him. He wasn’t sure the day would come.

Once ASU decided to do so, the first choice was obvious. Caldwell starred for ASU from 1961-64, averaging 18.2 points and 11.2 rebounds. He graduated as the school’s career scoring leader and suited up for the 1964 USA Olympic team, which won the gold medal in Tokyo.

Later, the Detroit Pistons selected Caldwell with the second pick of the NBA draft, making him the highest-drafted player in ASU history. Caldwell spent a combined 11 years in the NBA and ABA, but when he looks back over his career, it’s not what he remembers most.

Having the gold medal placed around his neck in Japan always will be a special moment, Caldwell said. But having his jersey honored in Wells Fargo Arena ranks right up there.
“Those are two of the highest honors anybody could possibly receive,” said Caldwell, a Tempe resident. “My mom told me a long time ago: Good things happen with hard work. I’m so proud.”

Bill Russell receives 2010 Medal of Freedom from President Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama presented Basketball Hall of Fame member and human rights advocate Bill Russell the 2010 Medal of Freedom in the East Room of the White House on February 15, 2011 in Washington, DC. Obama presented the medal to twelve pioneers in sports, labor, politics and arts.

Maryland’s Andrew Valmon named U.S. track and field coach for 2012 London Olympics

Maryland track and field Coach Andrew Valmon received arguably the biggest honor of his coaching career when he was named the head coach for the U.S. men’s track and field team that will compete at the 2012 Summer Games in London.

One thing is for certain: He got handed one big job.

Valmon, a two-time Olympic medalist in the 4x400 relay, will take over the program as the United States tries to rebound from a tough go of it in Beijing.

“It’s a great honor to have the opportunity to represent the U.S. in any capacity,” Valmon, 46, said. “But it’s also a challenge. That’s what we do this job for, the challenges.”

Valmon has plenty.

A few months after the Beijing Games, a USA Track and Field-appointed committee chaired by Carl Lewis lambasted the Olympic program in a scathing report. It decried the lack of professionalism among the athletes, the chaotic relay program and a “culture of mistrust” among coaches and athletes.

“People have been taking the right steps, dealing with the issue head on,” said Valmon, who claimed gold medals at the 1988 and ’92 Games. “That’s how we can surpass some of the woes of the past, by not turning a deaf ear to the problems.”

Valmon said he would continue to fulfill his full-time responsibilities at Maryland, even while gradually preparing himself for next summer’s post. He will be joined in London by University of Miami Coach Amy Deem, who was appointed Thursday to lead the U.S. women.

In 2009, Valmon served as an assistant coach for the U.S. team that competed at the world championships in Berlin. Last year, he was head coach of the team that represented the United States at the world indoor championships in Doha, Qatar.

Valmon, who resides in Rockville, began his career as a volunteer assistant at Georgetown in 1995, working his way up to head coach before moving over to Maryland to undertake a rebuilding of a once-venerable program. Progress has been made, he said. He began his career with the Terrapins with just three scholarships and now he has seven.

He said he believes the skills he has acquired dealing with student-athletes will help him next summer.

“One word that comes to mind is to be able to facilitate,” Valmon said. “Make sure at the time of competition, these athletes are ready. Being a college coach has helped me have those skills on a day-to-day basis.”

Valmon is married to two-time Olympian Meredith Rainey Valmon, and the couple have three children.

Valmon said he will attend this year’s U.S. outdoor championships in Eugene, Ore., in June - with his Maryland athletes - and will travel to Daegu, South Korea, for the August world championships. There, he said, he will try to get to develop relationships with the athletes that he will be leading next summer.

“If you have a clear, defined policy, and you’re up front with the athletes, you can’t fail,” Valmon said. “They might not be happy with you, but you can’t fail.”

Tom Gompf presented the George M. Steinbrenner Sport Leadership Award

Tom Gompf was presented the 2010 George M. Steinbrenner III Sport Leadership Award on Dec. 9, 2010 at the annual United States Olympic Foundation Luncheon and Awards Ceremony in New York City.

The award is presented annually by the USOF to honor an outstanding member of the Olympic family who has contributed to sport through management, sport organization endeavors or the

The triumph can't be had without the struggle.
- Wilma Rudolph, Olympian, Athletics
enhancement of competitive opportunities, and who has displayed qualities of leadership, ethical conduct and dedicated responsibility during a longstanding commitment to sport.

Gompf has been an instrumental force within the diving community at every level. He has been an athlete, coach, judge, administrator and official. A past president of both USA Diving and United States Aquatics Sports, he has also served as chair of the FINA Technical Diving Committee and was a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors.

NCAA names Silver Anniversary winners

The NCAA has named six former student-athletes as recipients of its Silver Anniversary Award that annually recognizes distinguished individuals on the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of their college athletics careers.

The 2011 recipients are Lisa Caputo, Teresa Edwards, Joe Girardi, Tim Green, Bo Jackson and Scott Verplank. Winners will accept their awards at the 2011 NCAA Convention.

Jearl Miles Clark elected to Track Hall of Fame

Olympic relay medalist and 400-meter world champion Jearl Miles Clark heads the 2010 class for the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Jearl was inducted at a ceremony in Virginia Beach, Va.

Other inductees announced Thursday by USA Track and Field are Dyrol Burleson, a three-time NCAA champion at 1,500 meters or the mile; Roy Cochran, 1948 Olympic gold medalist in the 400 hurdles; Ralph Craig, 1912 Olympic champion at the 100 and 200; and journalist James Dunaway. Cochran and Craig will be enshrined posthumously.

Three-time Olympian and two-time World Cross Country Championship winner Craig Virgin also was elected to the Hall in 2010 balloting, but asked that his induction be delayed until next year, when the ceremony will be in St. Louis, near where he lives.

Cammi Granato and Angela James are inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame

Granato and James are the first female players inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, and it’s their pioneering efforts along with their skills that are being recognized.

Their journey began like so many others.

Cammi Granato couldn’t wait to come home from school and play hockey in the basement of her family’s home in Downers Grove, Ill., outside Chicago. One of two girls among six kids, she’d wrestle and tussle with her brothers and play goal
if that's what it took to get in the game. She dreamed of wearing a Blackhawks uniform someday and was crushed when she realized that door was closed to her.

For Angela James, playing hockey was something all the kids did in her Toronto neighborhood. It didn’t matter that she usually was the only girl as she refined the skills that earned her the nickname of the Wayne Gretzky of women’s hockey.

Their pioneering trails converged on November 8, 2010 in Toronto, where they became the first female players inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

James, who was at her peak before women’s hockey made its Olympic debut in 1998, and Granato, a two-time Olympian and captain of the champion U.S. team at the Nagano Games, earned this because they popularized the game and led strong growth among women participants in the U.S. and Canada. Their career statistics matter less than their perseverance each time someone told them no, girls can’t do that.

“Proud would probably be an understatement,” Tony Granato, a former King and one of Cammi’s older brothers, said of her enshrinement. “You think about growing up playing hockey and all the things that she had to go through.

“To open the doors to women hockey players is, I think, courageous on their part because I think they understand where the game’s come and how exciting it is. I still think it took a lot of courage to say, ‘Let’s look at the girls and see if we can find someone deserving.’ They found a couple that belong in that class of player.”

Mariel Zagunis of U.S. wins second Sabre World title

Mariel Zagunis of the United States retained her individual sabre world title, beating Olga Kharlan of Ukraine 15-11 in the final at the World Fencing Championships.

Zagunis also won gold in the individual sabre at the 2004 and the 2008 Olympics, as well as last year’s worlds in Turkey.

Olena Khomrova of Ukraine and Sophia Velikaia of Russia shared bronze.

“When things go wrong – as they will! And the times get tough – as they do! If you are going to win – as you wish! Keep your eye on the prize – as you must!”
- Milt Campbell (athletics, 1952, ’56)
Won Woo-young of South Korea won the men’s title by defeating Nicolas Limbach of Germany 15-9 in the final. Cosmin Hanceanu of Romania and Veniamin Reshetnikov of Russia shared third place.

**IN THE NEWS**

**Teresa Edwards re-joins the WNBA**

The Georgia women’s basketball legend was named the director of player personnel by the Tulsa Shock earlier this month.

The new title comes with a heavy workload because the Shock went 6-28 and finished in the cellar of the WNBA’s Western Conference last season.

“It’s good to be busy, but this is another level,” said Edwards, who was recently honored as one of six winners of the 2010 NCAA Silver Anniversary Award. “It’s not a small job for anyone on any team in the league. It’s going to be work and nobody’s going to give us anything.”

The Shock are currently going through an image renovation.

The franchise relocated from Detroit to Tulsa before the 2010 season and hired former Arkansas and Tulsa men’s coach Nolan Richardson as the head coach and general manager.

“Once I got a chance to meet him in person, he’s a great charmer,” Edwards said of Richardson. “I’ve never had any problem working with men. (Georgia women’s basketball coach Andy) Landers can certainly attest to that. I knew coach Richardson was a man I could learn a lot from.”

“Pulling together a nucleus of players that represents Tulsa and his style of basketball is his No. 1 item on the agenda,” Edwards said of Richardson. “We need a roster of players who are going to be happy playing in Tulsa and who are going to be happy playing for Coach and his philosophy, which is what I love. He’s a ‘Get after it, let’s go get our win’ type of coach. We’re building.”

Richardson made his reputation with pressure defense and quick-strike offense as he led Arkansas to three trips to the NCAA Final Four and won the 1994 national championship.

Edwards likes Richardson’s aggressive philosophy and wants to help apply it in the WNBA.

“It just feels like where I’m supposed to be,” Edwards said. “In women’s basketball, we’re accustomed to trying to build a sport and trying to stay professional. We need to try to make sure the sport remains strong here in the States after working so hard for so many years to have dream realized for a lot of young ladies.

“We’re crossing over into a point where little girls will never know that there was a time when we didn’t....
have women’s basketball. They’ve grown into it and they’re aspiring to be professionals one day without even knowing how it was, like in my time.”

Edwards won the NCAA’s Silver Anniversary Award as a distinguished individual on the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of her college athletics career. She is being recognized alongside former Auburn running back Bo Jackson, former Oklahoma State golfer Scott Verplank, former Northwestern baseball player Joe Girardi, former Syracuse football player Tim Green and former Brown field hockey and lacrosse player Lisa Caputo.

Edwards was a two-time all-American at Georgia and is the only U.S. basketball player to compete in five Olympic Games. The Cairo native is the fourth Georgia athlete to earn the NCAA honor since its inception in 1973, joining Fran Tarkenton (1986), Dr. Thomas Lyons (1996) and Dr. Kathryn McMinn (2009).

Olympic Champion runner Earl Young is staying in the fast lane

After Cal Berkeley’s Jack Yerman handed him the baton and the lead in Rome’s Olympic Stadium and he promptly frittered it away, Earl Young heard a piercing whistle above the din of 65,000 and the pounding of his feet and heart.

He’d recognize Oliver Jackson’s whistle anywhere. And he knew what his Abilene Christian coach was saying.

Earl, get your backside in gear!

Young got the message and lead to his teammates, Glenn Davis and Otis Davis, and the United States won the gold in 1960’s 4x400 relay.

Young called the medal a “relief” for a 19-year-old boy a long ways from home.

In fact, he’d arrived in Abilene just two years earlier from San Fernando, Calif. A born quarter-miler – that’s what his father told the doctor in the delivery room – he was drawn to Abilene Christian by Jackson’s scholarship offer and the fellow he brought along on the recruiting visit: Bobby Morrow, one of the greatest sprinters ever.

In 13 months, Jackson helped Young cut three seconds off his best high school time.

Might have helped that Young added four inches to his inseam, growing to 6-4.

“Earl scared me to death,” Yerman said of their training for the Olympics. “He’d take one step, and I’d take one-and-a-half.”

Young’s stride at full gallop reportedly was eight-feet long.

Like all of Jackson’s runners, Young was also well-conditioned. On a bus to the Border Olympics, James Blackwood took a sleeping Young’s pulse and found it to be 31 beats a minute.

He wasn’t sleeping, teammates said. He was hibernating.

Young’s potential was so enormous at 19 that his Olympic coach, George Eastment, predicted he’d one day run the 400 in 44 seconds, nearly a full second better than the world record.

He never got that fast. Young figures it was Jackson’s penchant for relays and Young’s own reluctance to blow through the first 200 meters. But he wasn’t exactly grinding, either.

We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort
- Jesse Owens, Olympian, Athletics
One of only two Americans in the 400-meter finals in Rome, he finished sixth. But his time of 45.9 tied the previous Olympic record.

And as Roosevelt Lofton, ACU’s current track coach put it, “Forty-five nine, even today, is flyin’.

Now 69, looking as fit as he did on the cover of the June 19, 1961 cover of Sports Illustrated, Young has lived in Dallas more than 40 years. He’s worked as a consultant in Madagascar and is president of a company that markets medical procedures.

His old school had him out to honor the 50th anniversary of his gold medal. Among the dignitaries was his Olympic teammate, Yerman, who flew in from Paradise, Calif.

Asked the last time he’d seen Young, Yerman said, “Not since I handed him the stick.”

And the second-place Germans caught only a fleeting glimpse since, at that.

MILESTONES

Beth Barr-Bullard (swimming, 1988)

Beth and her husband, Michael have a new baby girl, Ava Adele Bullard born on July 18, 2010. Ava joins Luke (6) and Hutch (4), her big brothers and they are both so proud of their new sister. She was born in the 7th month at 7:00 p.m. and was 7lbs. We are so lucky to have her.

Julie Goskowicz Koons (short track speedskating, 2002)

Julie and husband Jeff announce the arrival of Madeline Rose Koons was born on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 3:14 pm. She was 7 lbs, 7 oz and 19.75 inches.

IN MEMORIAM

Britton Chance (yachting, 1952)

Chance, a biophysicist who did pioneering research on how living organisms produce and manage energy and helped develop diagnostic tools, like one for the detection of breast cancer, died on November 16, 2010 in Philadelphia.

Dr. Chance, who was also a world-class yachtsman and won an Olympic gold medal in sailing in 1952, was 97. His death was confirmed by his daughter Jan Chance O’Malley.

Over a lifetime of research, Dr. Chance focused on the observation and measurement of chemical reactions within cells, tissue and the body. But unlike most researchers, he also had expertise in mechanics, electronics and optics, and a great facility
Britton Chance was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on July 24, 1913, and grew up there and in Haverford, near Philadelphia. His father was an engineer and ran a construction company that built power plants.

As a boy he had twin gifts for sailing and ingenious problem-solving; he was a teenager when he invented and patented an auto-steering mechanism for ships that detected when they were veering off course.

He earned his gold medal at the Helsinki Olympics as the skipper of a three-man crew in the 5.5-meter yacht class.

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Weissmuller knew mom. He came up through Lincoln Turners,” her son, Alan, said. Weismuller, a swimming phenom and the pride of Lane Tech, was a four-time Olympic gold medalist. He went on to fame in Hollywood as Tarzan.

Mrs. Elste went to Lakeview High but had to drop out at 14 to help earn money for the family after her father had a stroke. She joined a traveling circus with a German muscleman, the “Great Ziegfried,” who rode in a horse-drawn chariot. “These girls would ride on his shoulders on the chariot,” Alan Elste said. On the road, she met fellow performers Donald O’Connor and Tom Mix. And, “She sent every penny home,” her husband said.

She met Warren at the Turner Hall on Roosevelt Road. “We bummed around three or four years before we talked about getting married,” he said. Then one day she received word of a miracle in housing-short postwar Chicago. “She called and said, ‘Uncle Edo has got an empty apartment.’ I said, ‘All right.’ I gave her an engagement ring.”

They wed before the London Olympics. “When they found out she was married, everybody she competed against, and they were hoping she’d get pregnant.”

“We didn’t have any furniture in our apartment, except the bedroom set -- what else do you need?” her husband said. “But we had a balance beam in the living room. It was only eight inches high and she did all her balancing on the beam. She had powerful legs for 5 feet 2.”

Mrs. Elste shared the 1948 bronze medal with her team. Women weren’t given individual medals for gymnastics in those days. Said sport historian A.B. Frederick: “I just don’t think they thought about giving medals to women.”

Her family wonders about what might have been -- if she had been able to compete, at her peak, if the Olympics hadn’t been canceled in 1940 and 1944.

She wasn’t a world-class athlete to her son. She was “unconditional love,” he said.

They enjoyed their German traditions. “She made the best sauerbraten,” said her husband. They sang “O Tanenbaum” around the Christmas tree. They had a dachshund, and a German shepherd mix. They loved eating at the restaurant Zum Deutschen Eck (“The German Corner”).

After the war some Holocaust survivors settled in Morton Grove. Even though Mrs. Elste came to the U.S. in 1923, her son remembers her and a neighbor with a camp tattoo, consoling each other about what had been lost. “They would cry and hold one another and speak to each other in German,” he said.

She was a jewel of a wife, her husband said. “In February it [would have been] 63 years” since they wed. “Wonderful years.”

Even in her 50s, she was still competing at Turner events.

Mrs. Elste is also survived by three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**James (Jim) E. Fuchs (athletics, 1948, ‘52)**

Fuchs developed a new way to heave the shot to compensate for a leg injury and used the technique to set world records and dominate shot-putting over two remarkable seasons, died in Manhattan on October 8, 2010. He was 82.

His death was confirmed by his daughter K. C. Fuchs, who said he had had numerous illnesses.

Fuchs, who won 88 consecutive meets and set four world records, went on to become a successful businessman in the communications and human resources fields. He also collaborated with George M. Steinbrenner, the Yankees’ principal owner, to establish a foundation to provide educational scholarships to the children of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Track and Field News ranked Mr. Fuchs (pronounced Fewsh) the No. 1 shot-putter in the world in both the 1949 and 1950 seasons, during which he set four world records for the standard 16-pound shot, the last of which was 58 feet 10 3/4
inches on April 29, 1950. The current world record is 75 feet 10.2 inches, set by Randy Barnes in 1990.

Fuchs won bronze medals in both the 1948 and 1952 Olympics, and he was a gold medalist in the shot-put and discus at the first Pan American Games, in 1951.

He earned the nickname The Magnificent Wreck for his competitiveness in the face of adversity, injury and sickness. When he won his first Olympic medal in London, he had strep throat and a 104-degree temperature. When he captured his second in Helsinki, he had a badly injured hand.

He took up the shot-put after injuring his left knee playing high school football in Chicago. As he recuperated from surgery, at Yale, he began experimenting with shot-put exercises. He found that his injury did not permit him to perform the usual shot-put technique, which involved coming to a stop before “putting” the metal ball, known as the shot.

So he came up with a more fluid catapult motion that eliminated the need to stop and cock. Not only did his method help him win, but it also became widely copied and helped others succeed. He called it “the sideways glide.”

In 1953, Parry O’Brien surpassed Fuchs’s record with the “backwards glide,” an even more radical technique using a 180-degree turn. He used it to shatter the 60-foot barrier, which had loomed as a goal in shot-putting much as the four-minute mile had in distance running.

James Emanuel Fuchs was born in Chicago on Dec. 6, 1927, and was a schoolboy sensation on the football field for Hyde Park High. He became known as the fastest big man in America, but injuries plagued his football career at Yale, where he was a fullback.

In track, at 215 pounds, he ran 100 yards in less than 10 seconds, but he hurt his leg in the dashes, and his Yale coaches restricted him to the discus and the shot.

Fuchs dominated shot-putting without lifting weights, something virtually all shot-putters do now. He told The Los Angeles Times in 1994 that he believed he could have easily surpassed 60 feet had he gained weight through strength training.

Fuchs spent 20 years as a communications executive, working for NBC, Curtis Publishing and Mutual Sports, of which he was president. From 1971 to 1994, he was the chairman and chief executive of Fuchs, Cuthrell & Company, which specialized in corporate executive outplacement. He later led other companies, including one that developed environmentally friendly inks.

Bud Greenspan Leaves Us A Lifetime of Inspiring Stories And Moments - By: Mike Moran

A sudden, gentle gust of wind disturbed the trees and briefly caressed the eternal Olympic flame as the sun set on Christmas Day at ancient Olympia in Greece, site of the original Olympic Games. Not to worry, it was just the soul of Bud Greenspan wafting by, on its way to the Gods and Olympus. The revered Olympic filmmaker died peacefully and quietly at home in New York City on Christmas Day at 84, losing a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease and leaving behind a treasure of millions of feet of film and stories that will define the Modern games for generations yet unborn.

Greenspan was to the Olympic Games and the athletes of the world what John Ford was to the American West. Ford gave us his

“Success is piece of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.”

- John Wooden
Stagecoach and Fort Apache, Greenspan gave us the iconic The Olympiad Series, Wilma, 16 Days of Glory, official films for Games in Los Angeles, Calgary, Lillehammer, Atlanta, Nagano, Sydney, Salt Lake, Athens and Torino. His gifts to us also include memorable cinema; Jesse Owens Returns To Berlin and Pride Against Prejudice, The Larry Doby Story.

Along the Golden road of his life, Bud earned eight Emmys, a Peabody, the Olympic Order from the International Olympic Committee, and induction into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame by a grateful USOC. He dealt in reality, not illusion or fantasy, and over four decades, did more than anyone in history to bring the incredible stories of Olympic athletes from 30 nations into millions of households, sharing with the world the uniqueness of those who chase the Olympic dream and the glory of the competitive spirit. He often shoved aside criticism that his work was journalistically incomplete and politically naive, his usual response to journalists was, “I choose to concentrate 100% of my time on the 90% of the Olympics that is good. I find the goodness in people, and I present them as people first and athletes second.” He viewed the Games as a catalyst for brotherhood and the triumph of the human spirit, “They are two weeks of love. It’s like Never Never Land. Like Robin Hood shooting his arrow through the other guy’s arrow. It’s a privilege to be associated with the best in the world. They bring things forward that they don’t ordinarily do,” he said in 2002 to ESPN.

His Olympic journey spanned six decades, and he covered the Games as a writer, radio voice and cinematographer. As the sports director of a New York radio station in 1948, he made his first Olympic broadcast from London, using a pay phone at historic Wembley Stadium as the athletes of the world came together after the horrors of World War II in a city still displaying the ravages of the Blitz of 1940. But above all else, he was a story teller, an extraordinary creator and presenter of the tales and lives not before discovered about athletes from across the globe that left audiences in tears and inspired by his scenes. We became friends in 1980, not long after I joined the USOC as its spokesman. Over the next 30 years, I enjoyed cherished moments with him, and his companion and partner, Nancy Beffa, in New York restaurants like JoJo, the Sea Grill, Redeye Grille and even Hamburger Hamlet. At the Games when he visited the Main Press Center, he was dressed in his usual photographer’s jacket or red turtleneck; at the USOC offices in Colorado Springs, fund-raising events in New York, even my wedding in 2002 at ‘21” in New York. I still have the note he penned with my gift that day which reads, “One for the ages, Michael.” While the marriage lasted less than an Olympic quadrennium, the note endures. Periodic visits to his studio on 57th Street in Manhattan were the equivalent of boarding an H.G. Wells Time machine. Stacks of publications, shelves groaning with cans of film, tables crammed with Olympic memorabilia, and the smell of his pipe. Out of earshot, his friends used to wonder aloud if the trademark position of his Clark Kent-like glasses atop his shaved pate were the result of Velcro strips implanted by surgery.

Somebody at the USOC of my time was always hitting him up for film or a special video for some event or incident, and though he had a business to run and a living to earn, he almost always produced it and rarely sent an invoice. His business, Cappy Productions, was named after his beloved late wife, Cappy Petrash, who died in 1983, a year before his role in the story of the critical 1984 Los Angeles Games. Bud told the Los Angeles Times that “We didn’t have children and Cappy would say, ‘The films will be our kids, they’ll live long after we’re here.’ He added, “And that, in a sense, is immortality, and that is exactly what I think we’re here for, to leave something for this generation and generations not yet born.”

The USOC honored him and his life at a nice club down in the financial district in New York in 2007, with IOC President Jacques Rogge and Peter Ueberroth lauding him as he sat in a wheelchair near the dais. The USOC also announced then the creation of a special Bud Greenspan Scholarship for Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, and this is where Nancy wants donations sent, no flowers, please. Bud told her recently, using an old Red Barber quote, “If you’re going to send someone flowers, make sure they’re around to smell them.” As I was closing down our media office in 2002 at my last Games in Salt Lake City, Bud appeared in the doorway to say goodbye and give me a hug. Luckily, I got to see him many more times in New York over the next three years when I was part of the NYC2012
team that valiantly carried out a beautiful bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. He gave me an extraordinary gift in 2005, a copy of his grand “Hymn of The Nations” video, a ten-minute production which I use ahead of my occasional Olympic speeches here and there, and which always makes at least half the audience tear up with its unbridled display of joy by athletes of the world. Today, as Christmas is over and a New Year about to be born, the Olympic family has lost one of its greatest members. But left behind are thousands of Olympic athletes who became his friends and mourn his death today. As a kid who was raised a catholic and taught by Jesuit priests and Sisters of Mary in my 1940s and 1950s, my mind’s eye bring me an image of Bud Greenspan arriving in heaven, where he is greeted by Jesse Owens, Bob Mathias, Wilma Rudolph and Al Oerter, prepared to show him the ropes and how things go up there. “Bud, just so you know, Tuesdays are home video night after dinner,” says Owens. “Did you bring along anything?”

George Harris (judo, 1964)

Harris, an inspirational man, a leading figure in judo and a member of the first United States Olympic Judo Team, passed away on January 7, 2011 at the age of 77.

“From the time we first met in 1955, George was my brother,” said Ben Nighthorse Campbell, retired U.S. Senator and a fellow member of that first Olympic judo team in 1964. “He may be gone but he will always be with me.”

Other members of that first team included James Bregman and Paul Maruyama. Yosh Uchida was their coach.

Maruyama described Harris as a “a gentle giant, a true hero. A great Judoka has passed away. The always smiling, the always optimistic, the always kind and caring George Harris was, simply put, just a wonderful human being.”

Losing Harris, said Maruyama, “there is suddenly a feeling of emptiness and loneliness to realize that a giant member of the small squad is no longer with us. A true example of the Judo spirit, Olympic ideals, and sportsmanship in athletics, we and the entire judo community will all miss gentle George.”

Harris was born in Kittrell, North Carolina. He was a boxer early on and didn’t venture into judo until he was about 21 in the military, he said in a video interview recorded at Jack Krystek’s School of Judo in Ozone Park, New York.

Harris ascended some of the highest podiums on the world stage in addition to competing in the Olympics. He twice medaled gold at the Pan American Games. He was a four-time national champion and took the Air Force championship six times. In the Air Force, he taught hand-to-hand combat to military police.

USA Judo Board President Lance Nading said, “George Harris’s humble nature never detracted from his ability to inspire young judoka to train their hardest and make every effort to achieve their dreams.

“In his more than five decades of serving judo in whatever capacity he was needed, he touched and positively impacted a countless number of lives,” Nading said. “He clearly embodied all of the founding Judo principals we hold so dear. All of American Judo will miss George for a long time to come.”

Friends said that Harris passed away peacefully in his wife’s arms.

Said Jim Bregman, another of his Olympic teammates, “I loved George. We were Judo brothers and I will miss him. The Judo World has lost one of it’s greatest dancers.”

Frederic Maxcy “Rip” Hewitt (field hockey, 1948)

Hewitt, 94, of Annapolis, died September 26, 2010. He was born Sept. 16, 1916, in Baltimore, and was the son of James Richard and Caro Maxcy Hewitt. He graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1935, where he lettered in lacrosse, football and ice hockey, and later served as president of the Poly Alumni Association. In 1941, he received his B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Maryland, where he was the president of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Delta Phi Chapter and played several sports, including football and lacrosse. He coached junior varsity lacrosse from 1940 to 1941, and was a life member of the University of Maryland Terrapin Club.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers in 1941, serving in the European Theatre, and earned the Bronze Star, Ninth Army, Rhine River Campaign. He was discharged as Major in 1946, whereupon he enlisted in the Maryland National Guard, and served as Commander of the 121st Engineers Battalion, 29th Infantry Division. He retired in 1961 as Colonel after 20 years of military service. He played lacrosse for the Mt. Washington Lacrosse Club from 1932 to 1942 and 1946 to 1951, where he served as assistant coach and head coach from 1952 to 1956.

In 1948, he was a member of the U.S. Men’s Field Hockey Team at the London Olympics. Rip worked in HVAC sales and contracting and was a partner and later president of Taze & Hewitt Engineers before his retirement in 1980. He was a past president of the Baltimore Engineering Society, the Baltimore Rotary Club, the Lacrosse Hall

“Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love you are doing, you will be successful.”

- Albert Schweitzer, Nobel Peace Prize recipient
Samuel G. Kooistra (waterpolo, 1956)

Kooistra who helped the USA Men’s Olympic Team to a fifth place finish at the 1956 Games in Melbourne, Australia passed away on September 18, 2010. Sam was elected into the Waterpolo Hall of Fame in 1977. He was a member of the Illinois Athletic Club and attended Northwestern University.


Honors included: AAU All American 12 Times; AAU Nationals indoor 1967 Current Award; Listed in Sports Illustrated as one of the Top World Water Polo Players; inducted into the Roseland – Pullman Area Sports Hall of Fame Chicago Area and the Pan American Games Highest scorer in 1973.

He was a retired District Chief, C.F.D. Beloved husband of the late Diann M. Loving father of Samuel R. (Roberta), Kevin (Mary) and Andrew. Dear grandfather of Brian (Sarah), Christopher, Scott, Jillian, Sara, John and Carrie. Fond brother of Beatrice. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Dorothy Franey Langkop (speedskating, 1932)

Dorothy, 97, graduated from Earth peacefully the morning of January 10th, 2011. At age 14 in St. Paul, Minnesota, she won the state junior titles for tennis and diving. As a senior in high school in 1932 she held two speed skating world records in the 100 yards and 500 meters. At the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY, she won the bronze medal in the 1000 meters.

Dorothy won the national speed skating championships 1933, ’34, ’35, and ’36. She held an unprecedented 12 world records out of 14 possible events for women. In 1938 Dorothy did the unthinkable becoming a professional figure skater as no speed skater had ever crossed over to figure skates before her.

By 1942 she starred on Broadway at the International Casino. The Adolphus Hotel gave her a six-week contract to bring her Broadway show to Dallas in October 1943. “The Dot Franey Ice Revue” was such a sensation that the Adolphus held her show over for the next 14 years, where she created, produced, directed and starred in a new show every 6 weeks. Shortly after her show opened in Dallas she met the love of her life, Eugene Langkop, an ex-professional Baseball player, dynamic salesman, and a man of great depth and integrity. They were married in 1945 and had two sons, Gene in 1948 and Jimmy in 1951. Her life was now complete.

In 1957 Dorothy suffered a dove hunting accident when a friend’s shotgun accidentally went off about 3 feet away from her left foot. The doctors insisted on immediate amputation, but Dorothy refused. She
went to Chicago for 12 reconstructive operations. In less than a year after the accident, at age 45, Dorothy won the Dallas City Golf Championships.

In 1959 she won the Mexican National Championship in Saltillo, Mexico. Dorothy and Mickey Mantle teamed up in 1960, ’61 and ’62 to win the Dallas City Mixed Foursome Golf Championships. In 1962 she founded the Texas State Junior Golf Championships to showcase the young girl golfing talent in Texas. Today this championship trophy is named “The Dorothy Franey Langkop Trophy.” In 1981 Dorothy founded the Texas Senior Games for senior citizen athletes. In 1983 she became the first women president of the U.S. Olympians. Until her death she held the title of "Honorary Executive Director of the United States Olympians & Paralympians.” The welfare of all U.S Olympians remained Dorothy’s passionate cause to the end of her life. Her ever loving husband, Eugene passed away in 1998 leaving a huge hole in the lives of Dorothy, Gene and Jimmy. As the Olympic Torch passed through Dallas on December 12, 2002 Mayor Ron Kirk chose Dorothy as the final torch carrier up the steps of Dallas City Hall. She will always continue to carry the torch and inspire us. Dorothy was born on October 25, 1913 in St. Paul, Minnesota and her life ended within minutes of being admitted to St. Paul Medical Center in Dallas, where she was a past president of the St. Paul Auxiliary and volunteered countless hours. She went to one of her homes to go home.

Willie Banks tribute to Dorothy
As President of the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association I want to extend our deepest condolences to Dorothy’s family and friends. As a friend and admirer of Dorothy, I want to express how deeply saddened I am by this news. As so many have said, the world has lost a special person. The Olympic Movement has lost a true champion and hero. Olympians have lost our matriarch. But one thing will not be lost in the pain that we all must feel now, Dorothy’s warm spirit and passion for life. We will all find comfort that she is waiting for us in Heaven to greet us, as usual, with bright eyes and warm hugs.

God Bless you Dorothy!

Chris McNeill (skiing, 1976, ’80)

Family and friends of two-time Olympian McNeill remembered him on Monday, February 7, 2011 as a loving family man who always gave 110 percent and encouraged those around him with his ever-present desire to learn.

“He always tried to help me learn,” said daughter Dori McNeill. “He always wanted to absorb as much information as he could.”

Those who were closest to the family still were in shock after the sudden death of 56-year-old McNeill. He was a two-time Winter Olympian, a father and a husband who split his time between winters in Steamboat Springs and summers in Dillon, Mont.

Routt County Coroner Rob Ryg said McNeill was headed to Saturday morning’s Winter Carnival street events with his brother-in-law when he started feeling ill. His brother-in-law decided to drive directly to Yampa Valley Medical Center, but McNeill passed out before they arrived.

Family members said Chris had not been feeling well the past several days and had seen a doctor. Ryg said McNeill died on Saturday, February 5, 2011 from a pulmonary embolism, which is a
blockage of the main artery of the lung or one of its branches, after arriving at the hospital.

“We are still in shock,” said Gary Crawford, a former U.S. Ski Team Nordic combined jumper who traveled, trained and competed with McNeill. He remembers McNeill as a great competitor who always was willing to encourage young athletes at the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club through his words and his actions.

“He was one of the strongest guys I’ve ever known,” Crawford said. “He would do upside-down pushups in the gym, and nobody got higher off the takeoff when we were jumping than he did.”

Rick DeVos, executive director of the Winter Sports Club, said the news of McNeill’s death came as a surprise to everyone. DeVos said McNeill has been involved with the club throughout the years, and his daughter Dori is a member of the cross-country program. She was an attendant in Winter Carnival celebration and attended the night events after learning about her father’s death.

“I did it for him,” Dori McNeill said. “He would have wanted it that way.”

DeVos said he visited with McNeill as the proud father escorted Dori during the carnival’s opening ceremonies.

“It’s just so hard to believe,” DeVos said. “Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and the entire McNeill family.”

McNeill grew up in Steamboat and worked for the Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. for the past 25 years. He began as a ski instructor at the ski area, and in 1996, he became a special coach for the Billy Kidd Race Camp.

“He was a true coach,” McNeill’s wife, Lenny, said. “He was a born coach that loved to see athletes reach their full potential.”

He managed the program from 1998 to 2000. In 2001, McNeill returned to instructing and continued to oversee the Billy Kidd Race Camp for the ski area. He also was a videographer for special ski groups such as the Women’s Ski Camps, Crescent Ski Club and many others.

“Being Olympic athletes, Chris McNeill and I shared a common bond and a passion for skiing and the outdoors,” Billy Kidd said. “I saw him share every day that same dedication in the Billy Kidd Performance Center, taking the time to help people ski better, enjoy the slopes and life. His influence in skiing was a model for future generations and brought credibility, honor and tradition to the Ski Town USA legacy.”

McNeill graduated from Steamboat Springs High School in 1972. He excelled at athletics throughout high school, playing football and wrestling. But his true talent showed on the jump hill, where he won the junior national championship in 1972 before taking a spot on the U.S. Ski Team from 1972 to 1980.

McNeill represented the United States as a special jumper at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, and at the 1980 Winter Games in Lake Placid, N.Y., where he placed 23rd in the 70-meter jump.

Roger Perricone worked with McNeill at Steamboat Ski Area, and said he was one of the good guys who brought the same skills he used as an Olympian to the Billy Kidd Race Camp. He said his energy level, his dedication and his commitment made the Billy Kidd Race Camp what it is today.

“He was one of those guys who had the experience he needed to do just about anything,” Perricone said. “He was a hard worker, and he never wanted to put anyone out.”

When he wasn’t in Steamboat Springs, McNeill spent his summers in Montana, where the McNeill family has owned and operated Diamond Hitch Outfitters since 1972. His family said McNeill loved training horses and mules, and as an outfitter he provided backcountry tours and excursions.

C. Robert Paul - Olympic Historian

By: Allan Abrahamson

Paul’s years as press chief at the U.S. Olympic Committee came well before my time covering the movement.
Even so, when I started on the beat in 1998, he made a point of introducing himself. If I ever needed to know anything about the early years of the USOC, he said, be sure to call. If he didn’t know the answer, he said, maybe he could help point me in the right direction.

Bob died on Friday, January 14, 2011. He was 93.

Over the last several months, the American Olympic scene has lost the likes of George Steinbrenner, Bud Greenspan, Dorothy Franey Langkop and, now, C. Robert Paul.

It’s worth taking a moment or two, here at what is still the start of this new century, to think back on the incredible span of Olympic history that got us to where we are now, and to some of the people who delivered the USOC to where it is today — indeed, got it to Colorado Springs from New York, from Olympic House on Park Avenue.

Bob Paul is one of them, one of the few who was there at the beginning of the modern USOC.

When I was a (much) younger writer, it was not uncommon for editors to be at their desks smoking big fat cigars. Bob was one of those kind of guys.

When he moved west to Colorado, he never drove, his wife dropping him off at the office before 7 in the morning in a huge Pontiac Bonneville they had picked up somewhere, then coming back most evenings to pick him up.

Bob was, as I would learn, an amazing story-teller.

Did you know, for instance, that the 1920 Antwerp Olympic gold medal featherweight freestyle match was not only between two Americans but, indeed, an all-Ivy League final? Bob Paul knew. It was among the first stories he told me:

Charles Ackerly, former captain of the Cornell University team, defeated Sam Gerson, the former captain of the Penn team, for the gold medal.

The amazing thing, when you think about it, is not that Bob knew such stories. Of course he did. He was steeped in Olympic and Ivy League lore. To call him “old-school” would be gentle.

The truly amazing thing is that such a man not only could but would leave the East for Colorado Springs to help build up the USOC. Of course he and the others — Col. F. Don Miller, Baaron Pittenger, Jerry Lace, to name three of the 10 who set out in what might as well have been a covered wagon – had a mandate. Nonetheless, to do what they did takes vision and a special courage. It took belief in something a lot bigger than the Ivy League.

Here’s how desperate it was for some in that original group of 10. The office manager, James McHugh, one of those who made the trip out from New York, wore a watch on his left arm that was still set to New York time. On his right wrist he wore another watch set to Colorado Springs time. McHugh lasted a year on Mountain time before retreating to the sanctuary and comfort of Nathan’s Famous and Broadway.

Bob Paul, though, persevered. He learned to love the West. After he formally retired from the USOC in 1990, he became its informal archivist, historian and a special assistant to the executive director.

Ferdinand Paul Schoettle, Jr. (yachting, 1956)

Schoettle (Andy) died November 24, 2010 in Vero Beach, Florida from cancer. He was the son of Louise White Schoettle of Villanova and Ferdinand P. Schoettle of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Professionally, Andy was a nationally recognized scholar of federal and state tax law and policy. He received his A.B. degree from Princeton University. He received his LL.B. degree with high honors and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Harvard University. During law school, he was an Editor of the Harvard Law Review. After graduating from law school, Andy clerked for Judge Learned Hand of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He then worked for the United States Treasury Department in the Office of Tax Legislation Counsel and for Senator Joseph Clark. From 1963 to 1966, he practiced law at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in Philadelphia.
He joined the University of Minnesota Law School faculty in 1967. As a professor of law, he taught courses in state and local taxation, federal taxation, law and public policy (including tax policy), and economics for lawyers. He was a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institute, Visiting Professor at Uppsala University in Sweden and a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School. He formally retired from teaching in 2008. Andy’s passion in his life was sailing. Over his sailing career, Andy owned and raced a variety of boats including J boats, Scows, Lasers and Finns.

He began sailing in Mantoloking, New Jersey on Barnegat Bay, and he raced on the East Coast, in the Mid West, and in Europe, winning or placing in top positions in many regattas. He skippered a 5.5M in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia finishing fourth and was on the United States Olympic team in the 1960 Olympics in Naples, Italy. He was inducted into the Barnegat Bay Hall of Fame this past summer.

Outside of sailing, Andy had a love for the outdoors. He spent a great deal of time in the mountains around Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He loved to hike, ride horseback and fly-fish on the Snake River. Andy is survived by his two sons, Michael and Derek Schoettle, a daughter, Katherine Long, six grandchildren, and four siblings Michael B. Schoettle, Joan Carville, Polly Miller, and Lucile Ford. There will be a Memorial Service in remembrance of Andy’s life this June in Mantoloking, New Jersey. Donations are being accepted in his name to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA.

Wes Santee (athletics, 1952)

Santee, a Kansas track star, Olympian and member of the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, died November 14, 2010 after a fight with cancer. He was 78.

Daughter Susie Santee said her father died at his home in Eureka.

Santee, an Ashland native, set world records in the 1,500 meters and the indoor mile. He also won NCAA championships in the mile and 5,000, and won the NCAA cross-country championship in 1953 when his University of Kansas squad won the team title.

Wes Santee, who died Sunday, November, 11, 2010, set world records in the 1,500 meters, ran in the Olympics and won NCAA championships at Kansas.

“Wes Santee was one of KU’s all-time greats, not just in track and field, but in the history of Kansas athletics,” Kansas interim athletic director Sean Lester said, “He loved KU and the entire Kansas family will miss him. Our hearts go out to his family.”

Santee is best known for his competition with Roger Bannister of England and John Landy of Australia.
from 1952 to 1954 to be the first runner to break 4 minutes for the mile. Bannister eventually did it, with a time of 3:59.4 on May 6, 1954. Their competition was the subject of an ESPN documentary and movie and a book, “The Perfect Mile” by Neal Bascomb, published in 2004.

“I am not exceptionally disappointed,” Santee said the day Bannister broke the barrier. “There still is the challenge to see who will be the first American to break the 4-minute mile.”

But Santee never broke the 4-minute barrier. It was Don Bowden of California who became the first American to accomplish the feat, with a time of 3:58.7 in 1957, after Santee’s career had ended. As a 20-year-old college sophomore, Santee made the 1952 U.S. Olympic team in the 5,000, a distance he had run only a few times. He was the best American at 1,500 that year, but Amateur Athletic Union officials refused to allow him to compete for the Olympic team in that event on the grounds that he had already made the team in the 5,000 — an arbitrary ruling that had no legal basis. Santee ended up competing in the 5,000 at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, but didn’t win a medal.

His feud with the AAU culminated in the organization ruling him ineligible for further amateur competition for allegedly accepting too much expense money from meet promoters. A U.S. senator intervened on Santee’s behalf, but a court ruled that the AAU had the power to ban him because of its control over amateur sports.

At one point, Santee had run three of the four fastest mile times in history.

One of those came in June 1954, in a race in the Los Angeles Coliseum against Olympic champion Josef Barthel.

“Barthel passed me after the third lap right at 3:00 flat,” Santee told The Associated Press in an interview in 2005, the year he was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. Santee sprinted and passed Barthel, more intent on winning the race than on breaking 4 minutes.

“I tied up coming off the curve,” he said -- but he held on to win in 4:00.7.

In 1955, Santee set indoor world records in the 1,500 and the mile and improved his time in the outdoor mile.

Then, in the Olympic year of 1956, the AAU declared him ineligible and ruled that anyone who competed against him would also be ineligible for amateur competition. That ended his career -- at the age of 24.

Clarke Currie Scholes (swimming, 1952)

Before Scholes died, he made arrangements for his friends to get together and have a party at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

You may remember him over the past four decades as a tall, rugged-looking, white-haired man who took part in Grosse Pointe Theatre productions. In many ways they were his family.

The man whose name sounds like a Swedish drinking toast died of heart failure at Henry Ford Hospital on February 5, 2010.

The passing of the five-time All-American and three time NCAA swimming champion, who is enshrined in three Halls of Fame, was reported by Tim Staudt, a sports anchor for WILX Television in Lansing.

“Clarke Scholes, a 1952 Olympic gold medalist, an MSU athletics Hall of Famer, died in Detroit. Scholes, who had heart problems, was 78. (He was 79.) He won the 100-meter freestyle in Helsinki in a then-Olympic-record time of 57.4 seconds. He won five NCAA swim titles for Michigan State from 1950-52 and two years ago was enshrined in the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. He went on to become a manufacturer’s rep after his college days.”

Someone took the time to update Scholes’ biography on Wikipedia Feb. 12 and record his death, but otherwise Scholes, a Grosse Pointe Park resident, went unnoted.

Scholes, also a fixture at the Detroit Athletic Club pool for years, had huge shoulders and chest. He was enshrined in the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1980—three decades ago.

As I wrote three years ago, it took a lobbying campaign by his friends at the Grosse Pointe Theatre to get him into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

Tim Reinmen, Mike Trudel and Dan Follis, all Grosse Pointers, pushed to put Scholes — probably Michigan’s all-time greatest swimmer — where he properly belonged, with the likes of Steve Yzerman, Joe Louis, Ty Cobb, Joe Dumars and Ernie Harwell. Scholes graciously thanked all three men when he accepted induction into the Hall.

Reinmen described the induction program at the Max Fisher theater in Detroit as “a fabulous night.” The loudest cheers of the night — except those for Steve Yzerman — were for Clarke. It was because of the loyal fans that were there.”
“A special moment was when Frank Beckmann (a fellow inductee as a sports broadcaster) asked for Clarke’s autograph. I was surprised at how many autographs he was signing. Fans were still coming up to him when we walked out. It choked us all up.” Scholes told the Grosse Pointe Senior Men’s Club that his Olympic victory was “the greatest thrill I ever had in my life. For one day, I was the best person in the world at what I did.”

That night he told the senior men that he had a date with a beautiful Finnish woman. He was basking in his glory as they left a restaurant and he heard a group say: “Skoal.” He turned to accept his recognition and found the group toasting each other, not him.

So this week if you are tipping a drink or a brew or two — say “Scholes” as a tribute to a great man from Grosse Pointe Park.

Walter Staley (equestrian, 1952, ‘60, ‘64)

Staley, who represented the U.S. at three Olympic Games, has died in eastern Missouri.

The 77-year-old Staley died Sunday, October 10, 2010 at Audrain Medical Center. His cause of death was not immediately available.

Staley was part of the U.S. equestrian team in 1952 in Helsinki, Finland; in 1956 in Stockholm, Sweden; and in 1960 in Rome, Italy. He was captain of the 1960 team.

The 1952 team won the bronze medal. Staley also won a gold medal at the Pan American Games in Mexico City, Mexico, in 1955.

Tony Van Dorp (waterpolo, 1964, ‘68)

Van Dorp passed away on November 18, 2010, after a year long battle with cancer. He was a member of the 1964 and 1968 Olympic water polo teams, played goalie for El Segundo and Long Beach Phillips “66” teams and was the premier goalie in the United States in the 1960’s. Tony had a distinguished twenty-one year military career as an air traffic controller in the U.S. Air Force. He was a veteran of the Vietnam war. Born in 1936 of Dutch parents, he gained U.S. citizenship in 1957. Tony had the unique experience of facing his younger brother in the 1964 and 1968 Olympics. His brother, Fred, played for the Dutch national team. Tony is survived by his three children, Fred, Helen, Kristie, and four grandchildren.

Van Dorp was among a group of athletes highlighted in a water polo feature in Sports Illustrated leading up to the 1968 Olympic Games. Below is an excerpt of the article written at the time:

But that’s where Tony Van Dorp, the 31-year-old goalie, comes in. Van Dorp is big (6’5”, 210 pounds) and smart and he is a veteran of international water polo. Born in Indonesia, he played for the Dutch National Team in 1954 and 1955 and has since been an AAU All-America for three straight years. He cruises in front of his net like some kind of mustached destroyer, rising out of the water to repel almost sure goals. On penalty shots, when a fouled opponent sets up 10 feet away with one chance to whip the ball past him, Van Dorp is the picture of composure. Gazing into the bleachers, up at the clouds, winking at friends, he will do anything he can to unnerve the shooter. At Winnipeg he stopped 50% of the penalty shots aimed at him. The going average is somewhere around 10%. “He steadies us,” says Ashleigh, who plays in front of Van Dorp. “He’s been around and he talks to us a lot. And we know that with him in the net one mistake isn’t about to kill us.”
The first requisite for success is the ability to apply your physical and mental energies to one problem incessantly without growing weary.

- Anonymous

Continued from page 1

The Olympians for Olympians Relief Fund (OORF) is a grant program for Olympians who have faced a crisis due to accident, illness or injury. The program provides these grants as a way to demonstrate the Olympic Alumni’s solidarity with all Olympians. It reminds me of when my aunt would send me $10 in a get well card when I was sick even though I was an adult and needed the money less than she did. She was not trying to heal me, she was just hoping to bring a smile to my face and let me know she cared. The OORF program is changing to reflect its mission and the change in our financial circumstances. The good news is that Olympians will be responsible for the success of the program financially. We will soon be seeking contributions from you to help your fellow Olympians. I hope that you will contribute when you get your brochure in the mail.

There is also good news from Washington, DC! In the final hours of 2010, the U.S. Congress unanimously passed a Resolution commending the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team and supporting Olympic Day and World Fit (a USOPA generated program). This is the first time that Congress has ever passed a resolution commending a program initiated by Olympians. We have the commendation, now we have to make sure that the program to eradicate obesity continues to grow. I hope that Olympians will embrace this opportunity to get involved at your local chapter to help promote the World Fit program. We need your help. This year we expect 100 middle schools to join in program and we need at least one Olympian for every school. Your responsibility is simple and your fellow Olympian Gary Hall Sr., the program director, will provide all the tools to help you and the program become a success.

Finally, a bit of sad news…the honorary executive director of the U.S. Olympians and Paralympians Association, Dorothy Franey Langkop (speed skating, 1932) passed away on January 10, 2011. It was a very sad day for all Olympians. Dorothy was not only the honorary executive director; she was the heart of the organization. Long before the USOC had any interest in keeping the Olympic Alumni a vibrant organization, Dorothy was our “family’s matriarch”. Without her support of the organization we would not exist. She lived a long and colorful life, for 97 years. Her passion was the Olympic Movement and she made it her life’s work. She will be sorely missed. But we can’t overlook the “wonderful news” in this sad story…Dorothy will undoubtedly be welcomed into heaven by Olympians who have been waiting for her warm smile and loving embrace.
Dorothy Franey Langkop, USOPA Honorary Executive Director attending one of her last meetings in Chicago in 2006 surrounded by members of the United States Olympian Board.

Back Row (L to R): Debra Clark; Jack Elder; Micki King; Dick Fosbury; Mel Pender; John Naber; Dorothy Franey Langkop; Anne Cribbs; Willie Banks; Gary Hall, Sr.; Willye White; Carol Lewis; Ollan Cassell; Sonny Tanabe; Connie Paraskevin; Cindy Stinger. Front Row (L to R): Arlene Limas; Cathy Marino; John Stillings; Gene Kotlarek; Jeff Blatnick.

Tom Gompf receives high marks from the attendees as he receives the George M. Steinbrenner Sport Leadership Award during a ceremony at the annual United States Olympic Foundation Luncheon and Awards Ceremony in New York City.

Top Row (L to R): Micki King; John Deininger; Bruce Wigo; Todd Smith; Tom Gompf; Steve McFarland; Linda Paul; Gary Myers; Chase Russell; Fran Munson; Dr. Sandra Gompf. Second Row (L to R): Dr. Tim Gompf; Dr. Beth McFarland; Trey Russell. Bottom Row (L to R): Tom Metz; Marion Metz; Cynthia Potter; Carol Ann Omack; Tracey Russell; Will Gompf; Julie Gompf; Holt Russell. Photo by: Jennifer Lowery

John Naber and Willie Banks with Dorothy Franey Langkop.

We will miss you Dorothy.
Sport is part of every man and woman’s heritage and its absence can never be compensated for.”

- Pierre de Coubertin, father of the modern Olympic Games
Steve Mesler
The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) has selected Steve Mesler, 2010 Olympic bobsled champion, to attend the International Olympic Academy (IOA) International Session for Olympic Medalists, June 21-27, 2011, in Athens and Olympia, Greece. Mesler will be joined by 49 Olympic medalists from around the world at this third international session, which is centered on Olympism and will focus on communications methods of Olympic values by Olympic role models.

Evan Lysacek becomes 4th figure skater to win Sullivan Award
Reigning Olympic champion figure skater Evan Lysacek of Naperville has added the Sullivan Award to his laurels. The award has been given by the Amateur Athletic Union to the country’s top amateur athlete annually since 1930. Lysacek received the 81st Sullivan Award from the last figure skater to win it, 2002 Olympic champion Sarah Hughes, on Monday, March 14, 2011 during a ceremony at the New York Athletic Club. “To know the names who have received this in the past and to see mine next to them is surreal,” said, Lysacek. “It was a really special moment for me, and I want to applaud the AAU for shedding light on a diverse group of athletes from different sports.” The four other finalists were a world champion water skier, college football player, college basketball player and baton twirler. Michelle Kwan (2001) and Dick Button (1949) are the only other figure skaters to win the award. In recent years, the AAU has emphasized community service and achievements beyond the playing field in selecting the winner.

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