



Al Oerter

September 19, 1936 - October 1, 2007

Fort Myers, Florida

Alfred Oerter Jr. - American discus thrower who won four straight Olympic gold medals and made longevity look like a competitive strategy - died in Fort Myers, Florida, on October 1, 2007. He was seventy-one. Born September 19, 1936, he captured gold in 1956, 1960, 1964, and 1968, a streak unmatched in the event and rare in any Olympic sport.

He competed through injuries that would have ended softer careers, treating the circle as a place where preparation outlasted fashion. Later he became an artist and advocate for athletes, carrying the same stubborn craft into new work. Florida winters held his later years; the Olympics held his legend.

New York roots taught grit; the Games taught focus under flags. He threw as if tomorrow's medal already depended on today's footwork.

He died in Fort Myers on October 1, 2007. Somewhere a discus is still leaving a hand that trusts the spin.

Oerter's gift was repeated excellence - winning when the world expected someone new. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so October 1 remembers the four-time Olympic champion who made American strength look patient.

Services

Died in Fort Myers, Florida, October 1, 2007. Discus thrower; four Olympic gold medals (1956, 1960, 1964, 1968).

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