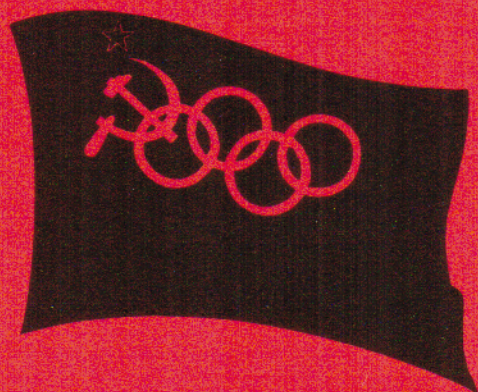# HOLLOW GLORY

BALTIC ATHLETES
ON SOVIET OLYMPIC TEAMS
1952–1976

G GUBINS
1979

G GUBINS

HOLLOW GLORY

BALTIC ATHLETES
ON SOVIET OLYMPIC TEAMS
1952–1976

In 1980, for the second time in modern Olympic history, the Games will open under the auspices of an aggressive, totalitarian and imperialistic regime. In 1936 Hitler used the Berlin Olympics as a propaganda vehicle for his racist Nazi regime and Brezhnev will do the same for his equally racist Communist regime with the Moscow Olympics.

"What kind of glory could the best of the world's youth win at an Olympic Games opened by Leonid Brezhnev (or his successor) in Moscow's Lenin Stadium on July 19th, 1980?" wrote the Russian dissident Vladimir Bukovsky and a group of prominent British politicians, union leaders and writers in a letter published in "The London Times" on August 22, 1978. "The world, including citizens of the Soviet empire, knows that their national heroes and heroines would be lending their prestige to an oppressive regime which denies self-determination to people living as close as 500 miles from Dover. The yachting events are even planned in the waters of Estonia, a captive country whose forcible incorporation into the U.S.S.R. is not even now recognized by the major powers at present drifting towards participation (in the Games) . . ."

The opening of the Olympic Regatta in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, is set for July 21st, the date on which, in 1940, the communist-imposed parliament of occupied Estonia convened and, with armed Russian soldiers standing guard in the Assembly Hall, passed a Resolution that proclaimed Estonia a Soviet Socialist Republic.

Coincidence or a shrewd political move, one may ask. Undoubtedly the latter, since what better way of painting a rosy picture of these "celebrations" to the free world than through the pens of the scores of unsuspecting and sometimes politically naive western journalists present? How many wities for the yachting event were built with the forced labour of Baltic political prisoners?

The outcry against linking peaceful sporting competition with a regime that has perpetrated more aggression and generated more terror than any other within memory started with Soviet participation at the 1952 Helsinki Games and peaked in 1956 in Melbourne when, just before the opening of the Games, Russian tanks crushed

1952 – Helsinki

The entry of the Soviet Union into the Olympic Games in 1952 marked the renewed entry of politics into the sports arena. The U.S.S.R. had come to realize that in the climate of the Cold War the sports arena could be an ideal battle ground on which to demonstrate the professed superiority of their ideology. The way to ensure victory was to create well-paid, full-time professional athletes and teams and send them to compete against the amateurs of the rest of the world.

The Soviet Union amassed 553.5 points at Helsinki but the United States was on top with 614. After the Games, the president of the International Olympic Committee, Avery Brundage, was moved to comment that if the Games were to turn into a competition of only two nations, the original Olympic spirit could be completely destroyed.

During these Games the Estonian wrestler Johannes Kotkas won the gold medal in the heavyweight division of Greco-Roman wrest-

The Estonian wrestlers Johannes Kotkas; gold medal (Helsinki), Kristjan Palusalu; two gold medals (Berlin), and mr A. Englas.

ling, a sport in which Estonians have traditionally excelled. At the 1936 Berlin Olympics, his countryman Kristjan Palusalu, then wrestling for independent Estonia, had won gold medals in the heavyweight divisions of both Greco-Roman and free-style wrestling. Before his victory at Helsinki, Kotkas had already three times won the European championship, twice for independent Estonia but the third time, at Prague in 1947, for the Soviet Union. During that competition he outscored his last two opponents while wrestling with a broken rib. He was also an eight-time Soviet national champion.

In basketball, the strong Soviet team won the silver medal, losing only to the United States, 58–86 in the qualifying round and 25–36 in the final game. Eight of the twelve players on the Soviet team were Balts: Lithuanians Stepas Butautas, Stasys Stonkys, Kazis Petkevicius, Justinas Lagunavicius, Estonians Joann Lossov, Ilmar Kullam, Heino Kruus and the Latvian Maigonis Valdmanis. This does not come as a surprise, since Baltic basketball fame dates back to the very first European championships in 1935 at Geneva, where

The "Russian" Olympic basketball team in 1952 at Helsinki. From the left: 1st Lossov (Est), 2nd Petkevicius (Lith), 3rd Lagunavicius (Lith), 4th Valdmanis (Lat), 5th Stonkus (Lith), 6th Butautas (Lith), 8th Kullam (Est). Missing is the Estonian Kruus.

Latvia won the title, and the subsequent championships of 1937 and 1939, which were won by Lithuania.
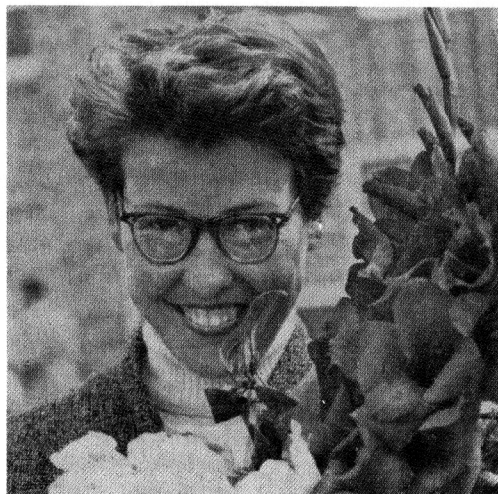
In track and field, the Estonian Bruno Junk won the bronze medal in the 10 km walk, while the Latvian Pēteris Zeltiņš was disqualified in the same event. The Latvian Otto Grigalka placed fourth in the shot put (16.78 m) and sixth in the discus throw (50.71 m). Another Latvian, Edmunds Pīlags, was eliminated during the heats of the 400 metres. He was also on the Soviet 4 × 400m relay team which came third in the heat.

Among the Soviet boxers was the Lithuanian Algirdas Socikas, who was eliminated during the preliminary bouts.

1956 – Melbourne

When the ship carrying the Soviet Olympic team docked at Melbourne, the Hungarian uprising had already started and the first task of the Hungarian athletes, after arriving at the Olympic Village, was to tear the detested Communist emblem from the flag of independent Hungary. When Russian tanks ruthlessly crushed this Hungarian attempt to regain freedom, several countries withdrew their athletes in protest and there was a noticeable political tension throughout the Games.
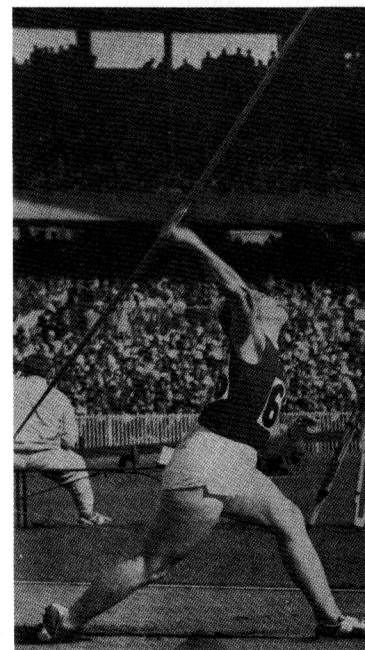
Of the Baltic athletes at Melbourne, Inese Jaunzeme, the 24-year-old Latvian medical student from Rīga, was the most successful. Her

Inese Jaunzeme after her victory at Melbourne.

53.86-metre javelin throw won her the gold medal and set a new Olympic record. (The previous record of 50.47 metres had been held by the Czechoslovakian Dana Zatopkova since 1952.)

For Inese Jaunzeme, who had started participating in competitions in 1949, the trip to Melbourne came unexpectedly. In the summer of 1956 she surpassed the 50-metre mark for the first time (50.84 m) and was summoned to report to the Soviet track and field all-star training camp at Tashkent. There she achieved 52.68 metres and received her travel papers for Melbourne.

Inese Jaunzeme at the Melbourne Olympic Stadium.

Her throw at Tashkent placed Inese fourth in the world on the eve of the Olympic Games. First at that time was the Estonian Virve Roolaid with 53.32 metres. Virve did poorly at Tashkent because of a hand injury and did not qualify to participate at Melbourne.

After her success at Melbourne, Inese Jaunzeme returned to her medical studies and received her degree in medicine. she continued to practice her sport but never again achieved record-braking results. In 1960, when the sports world was getting ready for the Rome Olympics, Dr. Inese Jaunzeme achieved her personal best with a throw of 55.73 metres, ranking fifth in the world, but at the Soviet

olympic trials Inese was not successful and was not chosen to participate at Rome.
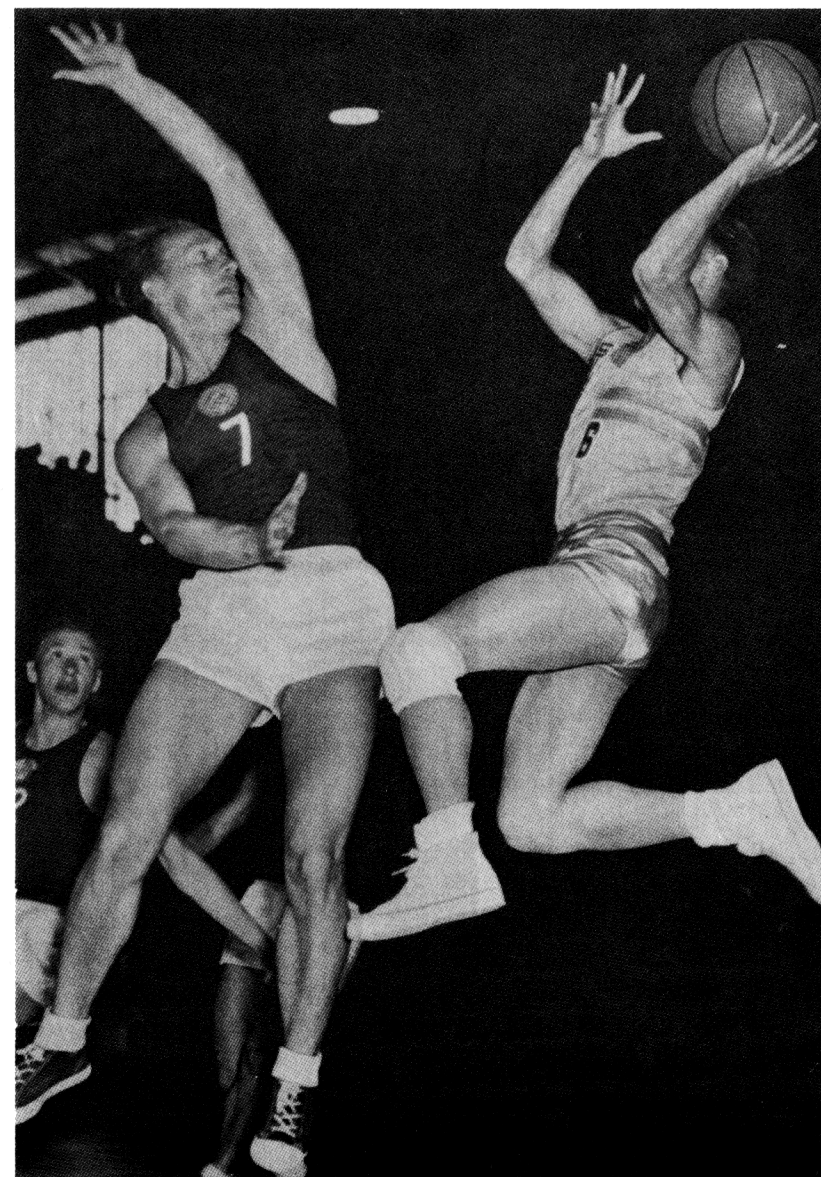
The Balts achieved excellent results in the 20 km walk, where the Lithuanian Antanas Mikenas won the silver medal (1h 32:03.0) and the Estonian Bruno Junk the bronze (1h 32:12.0). The young Estonian Uno Palu represented the Soviet Union in the decathlon and placed a respectable fourth.

The Latvian Otto Grigalka once again competed in the discus and with a throw of 52.37 metres placed fifth. In 1955 he had become the Soviet record-holder with his 55.50-metre throw. He did not participate in the shot put, although the previous year he had broken the Soviet record for this event (17.20 m).

On the basketball court the meeting of the American and "Russian" teams was again awaited with great anticipation. On the Soviet team were three Latvians, Jānis Krūmiņš, Maigonis Valdmanis and Valdis Muižnieks, and three Lithuanians, Stasys Stonkus, Kazis Petkevicius, and Algirdas Lauritenas. The gold was won by the Americans and the silver by the Soviets, who lost to the U.S.A. 55–85 in the qualification round and 55–89 in the final.

The spectators lavished special attention on the 26-year-old, 2.18 m tall Latvian, Jānis Krūmiņš, a slow, bear-like giant who did not at all look like the ideal basketball player. But his size was an undeniable asset under the baskets, and in later years Krūmiņš learned to use his asset to the full, helping the Soviet team score many important international victories.

A bronze medal was won by the Lithuanian boxer Romualdas Marauskas who shared third place with the Chilean Carlos Lucas in the light heavyweight division. The Estonian wrestler was also a member of the Soviet team but he did not participate.
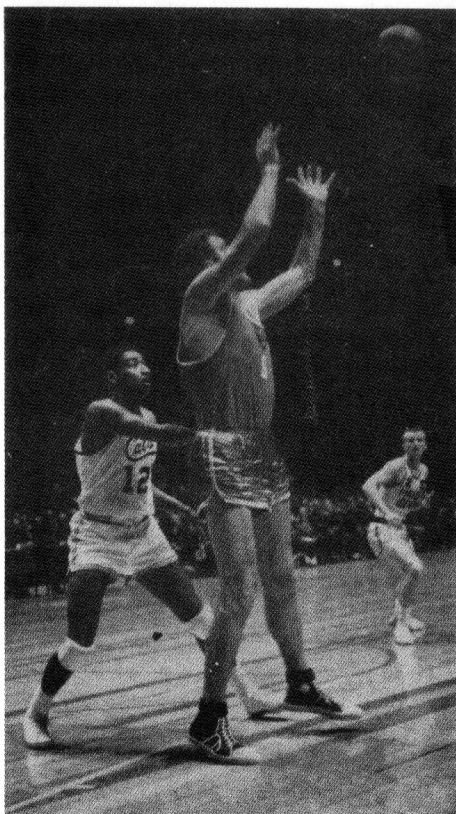

The Lithuanian Kazis Petkevicius (7) battling with the Filipino offense.

1960 – Rome

At the XVIIth Olympic Games in the Eternal City of Rome, Baltic athletes once again collected a goodly share of medals for the Soviet Union. Of the seventeen Baltic athletes participating, eleven returned home with medals.

On the Soviet basketball team this time there were four Latvians, the three Melbourne veterans, Jānis Krūmiņš, Maigonis Valdmanis and Valdis Muižnieks, and a newcomer, Cēzars Ozers. In the centre of attention, once again, was Krūmiņš, who had to keep close watch on his five pairs of size 56 basketball shoes sought by souvenir hunters, and for whom Italian craftsmen had built a special 2.40 m long bed. History repeated itself for the third time in a row as the Soviets were beaten by the Americans 81–57 in the final and had to settle for their "usual" silver medal.

The Latvian giant Jānis Krūmiņš.

In track and field, the Lithuanian Birute Kalediene-Zalogaityte won the bronze in women's javelin with a throw of 53.45 metres. In 1957 she was the world record-holder (57.49 m). The Estonian javelin thrower Mart Paama participated in the men's javelin and placed eleventh (74.56 m). The Latvian pole vaulter and European record-holder (4.65 m), Jānis Krasovskis, was not able to repeat his earlier success, finishing thirteenth.

The young Latvian athlete, Bruno Habārovs won two bronze medals in fencing; placing third in the individual épée and helping the Soviet team to a third place finish in the épée team competition. Habārovs was the first, and is so far the only Balt to have broken the hegemony of the traditional fencing nations. in 1959, completely unknown, he won the World Fencing Championship at Budapest and the World Junior Fencing Championship at Paris.

In water sports, the Estonian Alexander Tsutselov was awarded the silver medal for his performance in the International Finn class yachting competition. The Lithuanian team of Antanas Bagdonavicius, Zigmas Jukna and Romualdas Vaitkevicius rowed to second place in the coxed pairs. There were also three Estonian swimmers on the Soviet team, Uve Voog, Eva Maurer and Veiko Siimar. Only the latter reached the finals of his event, placing eighth in the 200 m breast stroke.

In cycling, the Latvian Imants Bodnieks was eliminated in the heats of the 1,000 m sprint.

The Estonian Hanno Selg placed tenth in the modern pentathlon individual competition and helped the Soviet team to the silver medal.

1964 – Tokyo

Although an impressive Baltic team of thirty-four athletes won eight silver and one bronze medal for Moscow at Tokyo, everything was not going according to plan in the Soviet quest for gold. The Americans won 36 gold medals, while the Soviets got only 30. After the sudden and unexpected political demise of Nikita Khruschev, the new Brezhnev–Kosygin team immediately started to look for scapegoats: the plan had called for the Soviets to win 50 gold medals.

In track and filed, the 24-year-old Estonian Rein Aun scored an impressive 7,842 points in the decathlon to win the silver. A bronze

medal was won by the Latvian Jānis Lūsis in the javelin with a distance of 80.57 metres. He had first entered the international sports scene with his victory at the 1962 European championships at Belgrade (82.04 m), setting a new Soviet record of 86.04 metres that same year. In the 400 m hurdles the Soviets were represented by Latvian Imants Kukličs (8th in the heats with 53.3 sec.) and Edvins Zāgeris (4th in the semi-finals with 52.2 sec.). –The Estonian Rein Telps placed fifth in the 800 m semi-final (1:49.1 min.). In the Women's 800 m final, the Estonian Laine Erik crossed the finishing line in sixth place (2:05.1 min.) and the Latvian Renate Lāce finished sixth in the 100 m semi-finals (11.7 sec.). She also helped the Soviet 4 × 100 m relay team to forth place in the finals. At the 1963 World Student Championships at Pôrto Alegre, Brazil, Renate Lāce had won the 100 m and 200 m events.

Lithuanians were also well represented in track and field. Birute Kalediene finished fourth in the women's javelin (56.31 m), Adolfas Aleksejunas was seventh in the 3,000 m steeplechase (8:39.0 min.), and Adolfas Varanauskas placed eighth in the shot put (18.41 m). Kestutis Orentas was eliminated in the 5,000 m qualification (13:54.0 min.), as was Antanas Vaupsas in the long jump (7.43 m).

In basketball the Soviets once again had to settle for the silver, although before the game they had boasted that they would end the American winning streak. The Americans got the gold again, beating the Soviets 73–59 in the finals. As at previous Games, the contribution of Latvians Jānis Krūmiņš, Juris Kalniņš, Valdis Muižnieks and the Estonian Jaak Lipso was noteworthy.

In cycling, the Latvian Imants Bodnieks won a silver medal in the tandem, while another Latvian Dzintars Lācis was eliminated in the second round of the 4,000 m team pursuit. The cycling team also included the Estonian Ants Vāravas who did not start.

Volleyball, included in the Olympic Games for the first time, saw the 20-year-old Latvian Astra Biltauere help the Soviet women's team to a silver medal, the gold going to the Japanese.

In water sports, the Estonian Alexander Tsutselov placed twelfth in International Finn class yachting and eleven Lithuanian oarsmen of the Vilnius Zalgiris rowing club participated in two rowing events. Their coxless four placed seventh and their eight, supplemented by Russian oarsmen, fifth.

In fencing, the Latvian Rome Olympic bronze medalist, Bruno Habārovs, was eliminated in the second round, but in boxing, the Lithuanian two-time European champion, Ricardas Tamulis, went on to win the silver medal in the welterweight division.

1968 – Mexico City

The XIXth Olympic Games in Mexico City were the most elaborate yet. Thanks to the excellent track and the 7,000-foot altitude, new records were achieved in some of the track and field events.

A new Olympic record in the javelin was set by the Latvian gold medal winner Jānis Lūsis (90.10 m). Lūsis was the favourite to win because on June 23, 1968 in the town of Saarijärvi, Finland, he had set the new world mark of 91.98 metres.

The Estonian javelin thrower Mart Paama also participated but did not reach the final round. His compatriot, long jumper Toinu Lepik, placed fifth (8.09 m).

Two Baltic athletes started in the decathlon, the Estonian Rein Aun, who four years earlier had won the silver at Tokyo, and the Latvian Jānis Lanka. However, neither was able to finish the gruelling two-day competition.

In the women's track events, the Estonian Laine Erik finished fifth in the 800 m semi-finals (2:06.0 min.), as did the Latvian Ingrida Verbele in the 400 m (54.0 sec.). The Latvian long jumper Helena Ringa was eliminated in the qualification round.

In the modern pentathlon, the Lithuanian Stasys Saparnys placed tenth with 4,656 points and helped the Soviet team to the silver medal.

In women's volleyball, the Latvian Tatjana Veinberga helped the Soviet team avenge its loss to the Japanese at Tokyo and win the gold.

A silver medal was won in the heavyweight class boxing by the Lithuanian Jonas Cepulis, who was defeated only by the American George Foreman.

Another silver was won by the Estonian weightlifter Jaan Talts, who achieved a combined total of 507.5 kg in the middle-heavyweight division and also set a new world record in the jerk (197.5 kg).

On the Soviet basketball team were the Lithuanian Modestas Paulauskas and the Estonians Jaak Lipso, Priit Tomson and Anatoli

Krikun. This time the "traditional" Soviet silver medal went to the Yugoslavs and the Soviets had to be satisfied with the bronze.

Among the Soviet cyclists were Latvians Imants Bodnieks and Dzintars Lācis.

In the rowing competition there were three Latvians on the Soviet four: Elmārs Rubins, Guntis Niedra and Vitolds Barkāns, and four Lithuanians on the Soviet eight, which won the bronze medal: Zigmas Jukna, Antanas Bagdonavicius, Jozanas Jagelavicius and Vitautas Briedis.

1972 – Munich

The XXth Olympic Games in hospitable Munich were tainted by political discord and tragedy. Even before the Olympic flame was lit, the Rhodesian athletes had to leave, because several of the new African states threatened to boycott the Games. At the same time not one voice was raised against the happenings in Uganda . . . Then came Black tuesday, the day eleven Israeli athletes lost their lives at the hands of terrorists. Among the dead was Elizar Heflin, a native of Rīga, Latvia, who had enjoyed freedom for less than four years in Israel.

There were fewer Baltic athletes at Munich than at previous Games, nevertheless they were responsible for four golds and three silvers.

Quite unexpectedly, the young Estonian high jumper Jüri Tarmak outdid the world's best to win the gold with his 2.23-metre jump. Another member of the Soviet high jump team was the Lithuanian Kestutis Sapka.

In the men's javelin, the Latvian Jānis Lūsis was in the lead right up to the last throw with his 90.46 metres, when the West German Klaus Wolfermann surpassed him with 90.48 metres and left Lūsis in second place with the silver medal. Thus Jānis Lūsis completed his set of Olympic medals–bronze at Tokyo, gold at Mexico City and silver at Munich. On July 6th of that same year Lūsis had again set a new world record with his 93.80-metre throw at Stockholm. His previous record of 91.98 metres, set in 1968, had been broken in 1969 by the Finn Jorma Kinnunen (92.70 m).

Despite the fact that for almost ten years Jānis Lūsis had been among the top-ranking javelin throwers of the world, in 1972, the year he set a new world record and won the Olympic silver medal,

he was not listed among the ten best U.S.S.R. athletes chosen by the federation of Soviet sport journalists . . .

The Latvian sprinter Juris Silovs also received a silver medal in helping the Soviet 4 × 100 m relay team finish second (38.50 sec.).

The Lithuanian Romualdas Bite started in the 3,000 m steeple-chase and another Lithuanian, Rimantas Plunge was on the roster for the shot put.
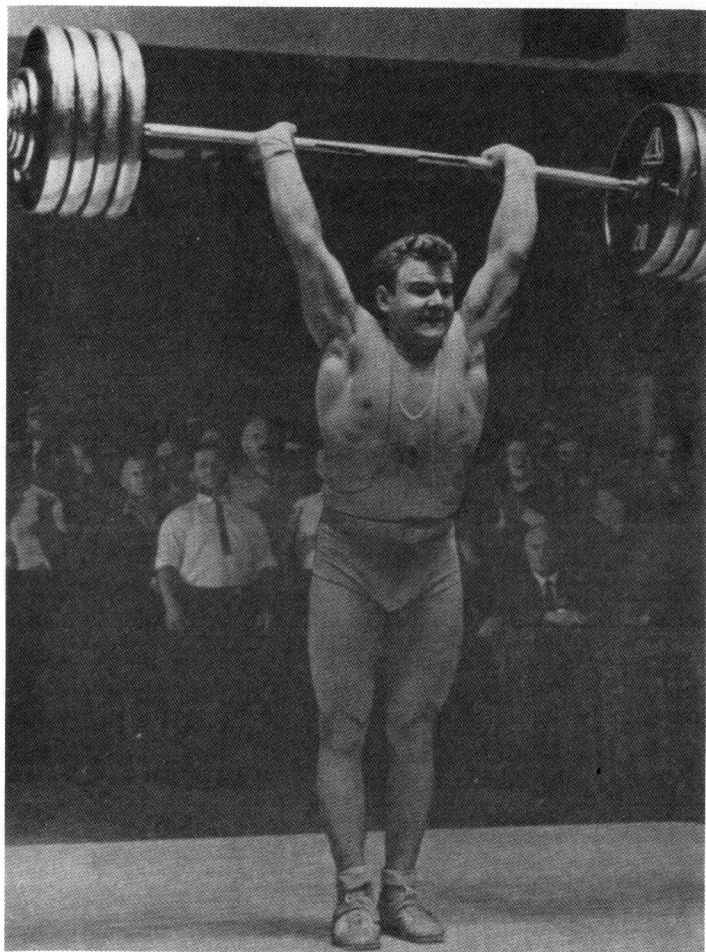

The Latvian javelin thrower Jānis Lūsis, twice world record holder, winner of three Olympic medals, four times European champion and twelve champion of the U.S.S.R. He retired from active sport in 1977, at the age of 38, to become a coach.

In the 800 m distance for women, the young Lithuanian runner Nijole Sabaite finished only one tenth of a second (1:58.7 min.) behind the West German Hildegard Falck to win her silver medal.

The outstanding Lithuanian basketball player, Modestas Paulauskas, was the sole Balt on the Soviet basketball team this time. The basketball finals ended with a Soviet 51-50 victory and a scandal, which resulted in the Americans declining the silver medal.

In weightlifting, the Estonian Jaan Talts added a gold medal to the silver he had won at Mexico City. The Lithuanian Vladas Cesjunas

The Estonian weightlifter Jaan Talts; silver medal (Mexico City), gold medal (Munich)

also received a gold medal in the 1,000 m Canadian pairs canoeing competition.

Other Baltic participants were the Latvian goalkeeper Jānis Vilsons on the handball team, which placed fifth, and the Latvian Biruta Hercova-Hercberga in the new Olympic sport of water slalom.

1976 – Montreal

The Montreal Olympics, which were the most expensive Games in history, saw ten of the fourteen participating Baltic athletes win medals.

The Estonian cyclist Arvo Pikkus earned a gold as a member of the Soviet 100 km team. Another gold medal was won by the Lithuanian A. Neneniene who was a member of the Soviet women's handball team. The first-placed Soviet Women's basketball team was helped to its victory by the Lithuanian Angelika Rupsiene and the 2-metre-tall Latvian Uljana Semjonova.

The Latvian Aivars Lazdenieks and the Lithuanian Vitautas Butkus both won silver medals in rowing, on the Soviet coxless four.

The Soviet men's volleyball team lost to Poland in one of the most exciting matches of the finals, to win the silver medal. Pāvels Sevilanovs, a native of Riga, Latvia, was a first stringer on the Soviet team.

For the first time since 1952, there was not a single Balt on the Soviet men's basketball team.

In track and field, the Latvian sprinter Juris Silovs participated in the 100 metres (eliminated in the quarter finals) and helped the Soviet 4 × 100 m relay team to a bronze medal. The Latvian Inta Klimoviča was on the Soviet women's 4 × 400 m relay team and won a bronze.

Included in the Soviet team was also the Latvian medal-winning veteran of the three previous Olympic Games, javelin thrower Jānis Lūsis. This time he had to be content with an eighth place finish (80.26 m). Other Baltic track and field athletes were the Estonian long jump Toinu Lepik (7.49 m in the preliminaries) and his compatriot Enno Sellik who finished eleventh in the 5,000 metres.

In swimming, the Lithuanian A. Jozaitis quite unexpectedly won the bronze in the men's 100 m breast stroke (1:04.23 min.), but the Latvian Aigars Kudis, who was the 1976 Soviet champion (2:21.5

min.), was eliminated in the qualification round of the 200 m breast stroke. It is interesting to note that his Latvian first name "Aigars" was Russified to "Igor" by the Soviet sports authorities.

The Latvian sprinter Juris Silovs, winner of two Olympic medals on the Soviet 4 × 100 m relay teams.

The Winter Olympic Games

Even though Baltic athletes have not taken as active a part in the Winter Olympics as in the Summer Games, they have still come up with a gold medal. That was won in 1964 at Innsbruck by the Estonian speedskater Ants Antson in the 1,500 m event (2:10.13 min.). In the 10,000 m distance he placed fifth (16:08.7 min.). That winter his was the only gold medal that went to the Soviet team.

At the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, the Latvian speedskater Nikolajs Štelbaums started in the 10,000 m distance but was disqualified. In 1952 he had been the world record-holder for this distance (16:18.9 min.).

In 1968 at Grenoble, the Latvian speedskater Lāsma Kauniste-Avotiņa placed fifth in the 1,500 m (2:25,4 min.) and eleventh in the 1,000 m (1:35.3 min.) and 3,000 m (5:16.0 min.) distances. The previous year, at the World Championships at Deventer, Holland, she had won the silver medal. She returned to Grenoble in 1969 to win the world championship.

In 1976 at Innsbruck there were five Latvians on the Soviet luge team. In the men's singles Dainis Bremze placed eighth and Aigars Kriķis thirteenth. Together they were eighth in the pairs event, while another pair, V. Ķuzis and R. Upatnieks finished ninth. In the women's competition the reigning European Champion, Vera Zozula, also finished ninth.

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The Balts are also indirectly responsible for the Soviet achievements in ice hockey. In 1972, after the first Canada-U.S.S.R. series, the Soviet coach Vsevold Bobrov stated at a press conference: "It all started with the Baltic Republics..." He is right. Although the Russians had practiced the old Scandinavian version of ice hockey, called "bendy" (with a hard rubber ball, short sticks and eleven-man teams) for years, they were first introduced to the standard game in the winter of 1940/41 after they had occupied the Baltic States. After the end of World War II it was the Rīga hockey players with their pre-war international experience who coached the Soviets and brought new life into their game.

Of the Balts, the Latvian Harijs Mellups stands out in Soviet ice hockey history. He was their first outstanding goalkeeper and set the standard for subsequent net minders. He and another Latvian, Roberts Šulmanis, played for the Moscow Air Force team, who at the time were the Soviet all-stars. Their careers ended tragically–the entire team was killed in a plane crash near Sverdlovsk in the winter of 1950. The world learned of this much later, for the Soviet press is tight-lipped about such matters.

*

We could also include in the Baltic group the athletes scattered throughout the Soviet Union, whose Baltic refugee parents had found themselves behind a closed border at the end of World War I.

Elvīra Ozoliņa, who won the gold medal at the Rome Olympics in the women's javelin (55.98 m), is of Latvian parents. In 1960 she was also the world record-holder (59.55 m). At Tokyo she placed only fifth, although she had been ranked as a favourite. Later Elvīra married the outstanding Latvian javelin thrower Jānis Lūsis and moved from Leningrad to Rīga.

At the Rome Olympics there was also a young runner with the distinctively Latvian name, Edvīns Ozoliņš, on the Soviet 4 × 100 m relay team which won the silver medal. Among the Soviet athletes at the Melbourne Olympics was the Latvian-born high jumper Valen-

tina Balode from Uzbekistan who placed eleventh in the women's competition (1.60 m). At Rome she was fifteenth (1.65 m). Of Latvian descent is also the shot putter Viktors Lipsnis who placed fourth at Rome (17.90 m).

*

Such is the saga of the Baltic athletes who have gained distinction at the world's most prestigious sporting event, the Olympic Games. Their true national identities have usually been concealed, their achievements being attributed to the "Russian" Lūsis, the "Russian" Talts and the "Russian" Sabaite.

Undoubtedly there will again be Baltic athletes among the competitors at the Moscow Games, marching under a flag they did not choose, their true feelings suppressed, their greatest moments of glory debased by the sounds of an alien anthem.

The recently released Ukrainian historian and freedom-fighter, Valentin Moroz, has publicly stated that the idea of holding the Olympics "behind barbed wire" is a matter for the conscience and self-respect of individuals and governments of the free world. Where is our conscience and our self-respect? Will we allow the cheers from Lenin Stadium to drown out the cries from the Gulag Archipelago?

MEDAL WINNERS

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Helsinki 1952	J. Kotkas (Est) Wrestling	S. Butautas (Lith) S. Stonkus (Lith), K. Petkevicius (Lith) J. Lossov (Est) J. Lagunavicius (Lith) I. Kullam (Est) H. Kruus (Est) All in basketball	B. Junk (Est) Walking

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Melbourne 1956	I. Jaunzeme (Lat) Javelin	A. Mikenas (Lith) Walking J. Krūmiņš (Lat) M. Valdmanis (Lat) V. Muižnieks (Lat) S. Stonkus (Lith) K. Petkevicius (Lith) A. Lauritenas (Lith) All in basketball	B. Junk (Est) Walking R. Murauskas (Lith) Boxing
Rome 1960	E. Ozoliņa (Lat) Javelin	J. Krūmiņš (Lat) M. Valdmanis (Lat) V. Muižnieks (Lat) C. Ozers (Lat) All in basketball A. Tsutselov (Est) Yachting Bagdonavicius (Lith) Z. Jukna (Lith) R. Vaitkevicius (Lith) All in rowing H. Selg (Est) Modern pentathlon E. Ozoliņš (Lat) 4 × 100 relay	B. Kalediene (Lith) Javelin B. Hābarovs (Lat) Fencing – 2 medals
Tokyo 1964		R. Aun (Est) Decathlon R. Tamulis (Lith) Boxing J. Krūmiņš (Lat) J. Kalniņš (Lat) V. Muižnieks (Lat) J. Lipso (Est) All in basketball	J. Lūsis (Lat) Javelin

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Tokyo 1964		I. Bodnieks (Lat) Cycling A. Biltauere (Lat) Volleyball	
Mexico City 1968	J. Lusis (Lat) Javelin T. Veinberga (Lat) Volleyball	S. Saparnys (Lith) Modern pentathlon J. Cepulis (Lith) Boxing J. Talts (Est) Weightlifting	M. Paulauskas (Lith) J. Lipso (Est) P. Tomson (Est) A. Krikun (Est) All in basketball Z. Jukna (Lith) Bagdonavicius (Lith) J. Jagelavicius (Lith) V. Briedis (Lith) All in rowing
Munich 1972	J. Tarmak (Est) High Jump M. Paulauskas (Lith) Basketball J. Talts (Est) Weightlifting V. Cesjunas (Lith) Canoeing	J. Lūsis (Lat) Javelin J. Silovs (Lat) 4 × 100 relay N. Sabaite (Lith) 800 metres	
Montreal 1976	A. Pikkus (Est) Cycling team A. Neneniene (Lith) Handball team A. Rupsiene (Lith) U. Semjonova (Lat) Both in Basketball	A. Lazdenieks (Lat) V. Butkus (Lith) Both in rowing P. Sevilanovs (Lat) Volleyball	J. Silovs (Lat) 4 × 100 relay I. Klimoviča (Lat) 4 × 100 relay A. Jozaitis (Lith) Swimming

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| **Innsbruck 1964** | A. Antson (Est) Speedskating | | |