

Six olympic medals for Switzerland

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1968)**

Heft 1542

PDF erstellt am: **20.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689614>

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. J. KELLER (Chairman), GOTTFRIED KELLER (Vice-Chairman), G. BODMER (Press Attaché Swiss Embassy), O. F. BOEHRINGER, J. EUSEBIO, A. KUNZ, C. NATER, R. M. SUESS, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY MRS. MARIANN MEIER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2. Published Twice Monthly at 23 LEONARD STREET, E.C.2. Telegrams: PAPERWYSE STOCK LONDON

Vol. 54 No. 1542

FRIDAY, 8th MARCH 1968

SIX OLYMPIC MEDALS FOR SWITZERLAND

After the *débâcle* of the Olympic Games at Innsbruck in 1964 when the Swiss failed to get any medals, Grenoble has proved an unexpected success: two silver and four bronze medals! With that, Switzerland is about where she was at the Olympic Games at Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956, and only the successes of 1948 at St. Moritz were even greater for the Swiss winter sports athletes.

Alois Kaelin won a silver medal in the Northern Combination, and Willy Favre achieved the same success in the Giant Slalom. Miss Fernande Bochatay (Valais) saved the honour of the Swiss women skiers when she won a third place. Wicki, Candrian, Hofmann and Graf secured a bronze medal for Bobsleigh, and a few hours later, the biggest sensation of the whole Games was caused by the first Central European ever to win the 50 km. *Langlauf*, the Ski Marathon: the Swiss Josef Haas was only 29 seconds behind a Norwegian and a Russian and thus overtook the whole Skandinavian team (except the winner). The only disappointment was that the Swiss favourite Dumeng Giovanoli failed to get a medal in the Slalom by 13/100ths of a second!

The successful athletes were given great receptions in Geneva, Berne and their local home towns. In Zurich, the huge crowds turned riotous, and the Grenoble heroes had to be moved away in secret. The President of the Swiss Confederation sent congratulatory messages to the successful medalists.

The position for the World Cup after Grenoble is as follows: Killy of France has 155 points, the Swiss Giovanoli is second with 92, Edmund Bruggmann 5th, Willy Favre and Jean-Daniel Daetwyler 11th and 12th, and amongst the remaining contestants are Kaelin, Sprecher, Minsch, Frei and Huggler. The Swiss skiers have done very well in several European competitions, and at the Winter University Games at Innsbruck, Miss Heidi Obrecht got a gold medal.

The Pre-Olympic Year 1967 was a successful one for Switzerland on the whole, and Swiss sportsmen of one kind and another gathered the astonishing number of 43 World and European Championship medals (3 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze of the former and 10 gold, 9 silver and 10 bronze of the latter). The successes were spread

over car racing, casting, cycling, rowing, canoe, shooting and archery, sailing, motor boat racing, water skiing where Miss Eliane Borter got a silver and a bronze medal. Two ladies distinguished themselves in equestrian events, Miss Marianne Gossweiler as member of the Swiss team which was third at the European Dressage Championships, and Miss Monica Bachmann who got a bronze medal in the *Springreiter-Europameisterschaft für Amazonen*.

At the Pre-Olympic Games in Mexico, the Swiss did well, and Werner Duttweiler was in the centre of attention as Decathlon competitor. He was chosen as best individual athlete of the year by the Federation of Swiss Sports Journalists in Basle. They chose the Swiss Football Team as best team of any event, not so much for achievement as for excellent spirit and team work. Albert Maier received the distinction as distinguished patron of the sports, and the film producer Charles Zbinden was awarded the gold medal for artistic productions in connection with sport, in his case above all for the Berne Gymnastic Festival Film — originally became known through his EXPO film "Melody of Sport".

Finally a few figures and items of interest: the new Central President of the Federal Gymnastic Society is René Schaerer (Basle). The ETV has 294,000 members, 7,000 more than in January 1967. Of these, over 198,000 members are actively engaged in gymnastics.

2,900 more men took part in the *Feldschiessen 1967*, a total of 221,246. In the Federal Pistol *Feldschiessen*, all Cantons took part with a total of 22,627 men.

Last summer, when the parachute jumpers met at Nashville, Tennessee, to compete for the "Dead Center Trophy", the victory went to a young Swiss, Giovanni Fischer, Zurich, who surprisingly beat such experts as the "Golden Knights" and the professional parachutists of the U.S. Army. He has been Swiss champion twice as a member of the "Squadra Paracadutistica Ticinese".

For the first time, the turnover of the Swiss *Sport-Toto Gesellschaft* went down by 5.5m. francs to 68.6 million.

(Based on news received by courtesy of "Basler Nachrichten" and "Agence Télégraphique Suisse.")