

DIETER HOFMANN (1941-2020)



Probably the most successful German coach of all times, Dieter Hofmann, passed away of COVID-19

The former head coach of the GDR national team, Dieter Hofmann, died in Freiburg on 18 April 2020 due to a lung disease caused by the Covid-19 virus.

Dieter Hofmann left his mark on several generations of gymnasts. Before German reunification, his gymnasts won 52 gold, silver and bronze medals at international competitions. The highlight of his coaching career was doubtless the Olympic Games in Seoul, where the team of the GDR won the silver medal behind the USSR in the team final. Besides this great success, his gymnasts won one gold, one silver and 3 bronze medals at the finals.

In the transition period after the fall of the Wall in Berlin, he ended the head coach of the Federal Republic of Germany, Franz Heiland, looked after the reunited German national gymnastics team at the historic cross-country friendly competition GER-USA-USSR in the no less historic Munich Olympic Hall.

After German reunification, he found a new purpose in life in the northern Swiss town of Liestal, where he expanded the local performance centre with his typical dynamism. His strategical, analytical and didactical thinking was well appreciated all over the world. Due to this endless enthusiasm, he taught in several courses of the FIG Coach Academy. His contribution to the development of gymnastics is well documented in the Age group development and competition program for Men's Artistic Gymnastics, which was created and compiled mainly by him and Hardy Fink as the Director of the Coach Academy.

After his retirement, he settled in the Black Forest near Freiburg. Not only because of its geographical proximity to the Institute for Sport and Sports Science at the University of Freiburg he was a very welcome guest at the annual Freiburg International Gymnastics Congress, an event that brings together important scientists and trainers.

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