

Hans Günter Winkler, Olympic Champion Equestrian, Dies at 91

By Daniel E. Slotnik

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Hans Günter Winkler, a German equestrian who was a dominant force in show jumping for decades, competing at every Olympic Games from 1956 through 1976 and winning seven medals, died on Monday in Warendorf, Germany. He was 91.

The cause was cardiac arrest, a representative for the German Equestrian Federation said.

Winkler won five Olympic gold medals, one silver and one bronze, the most of any Olympic show jumper. He also won world championships in 1954 and 1955.

In Olympic show jumping, a rider must successfully guide a horse over a series of obstacles within a time limit. Events are scored by applying penalties, called faults, when a riders falls off the horse or when a horse strikes obstacles, refuses to jump or exceeds the allotted time to finish the course. The rider and horse with the cleanest run win.

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