

BIOGRAPHIES

Hans Fogh - an Olympian Success Story

A modern-day Viking

Between winning the Danish Dinghy championship as a 19 year-old in 1957, Olympic silver for Denmark in 1960 and Canadian Olympic bronze in 1984 and until today lies a lifetime of adventure and accomplishments for Hans Fogh.

Known as one of the finest yachtsman of his era, Hans was ranked among the world's top ten competitive sailors. He has claimed three World Cups in the Soling class, eight North American, six European, and four Canadian titles. He has won more titles than any other Canadian sailor, was a member of six Olympic teams, and is one of the few sailors in the world to excel in two of the seven classes of Olympic yachting.

Among his many achievements, Hans can count two Olympic medals (a silver for Denmark in 1960 and a bronze for Canada in 1984) as well as four World Championship medals. The 24-year span between his first and second Olympic medals stands as an Olympic record.



Hans Fogh

Hans represented Denmark four times, in 1960, 1964, 1968 and 1972; and after becoming a Canadian Citizen in 1975, he represented Canada twice, in 1976 and 1984.

In 1985, he was the recipient of the Olympic Champion Award at the Tribute of Champions; in 1985, he also was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and into the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1986, he was awarded the title of Yachtsman of the year.

From Land to Sea

Hans was born in Rødovre in 1938. He has one older brother and three younger sisters.

He left school at the age of 14 and started working as an apprentice gardener in his uncle's green house. He had worked there for five years when he decided that his heart lay elsewhere - namely in sailing.

Taking over his uncle's gardening and greenhouse company was not exactly the way teenaged Hans saw his future. His parents were not too pleased with their son's ambitions, but that changed as Hans' talents in his chosen field became obvious.

Hans sailing career started small. At his aunt and uncle's summer cottage, he spent a lot of time in a rowboat, but soon found that a sailboat was much more fun. At 15, he began crewing for his brother in a Snipe and at 17 he had saved enough money from his gardening job to buy his own small Dinghy sailboat.