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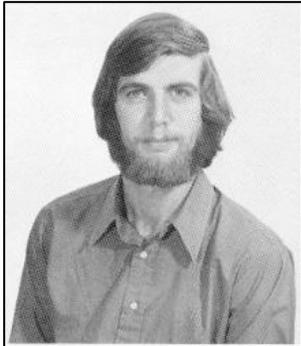
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LLOYD SIGLER DIES

Was Final Great AAU All-Around Champion

Lloyd Sigler, 1947-2011 Obituary



Lloyd Sigler, former decathlete, former track coach at Salisbury State University (MD), and the last of the exceptional AAU All-Around champions, died Tuesday, Aug. 16,

2011 at his home near Quantico, VA.

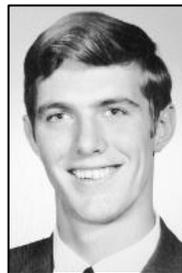
A long time FBI agent, Sigler was a competitor in several national decathlon meets in the 1960s and 70's but made a name for himself in the old AAU All-Around event. He won a record five consecutive national AAU titles (1974-78) in this one-day, ten event contest that was the decathlon's precursor in the beginning of the 20th century. The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) discontinued the event after 1978 (it had existed since 1884), then was itself supplanted by The Athletics Congress (TAC) a year later as the national track and field governing body. The move was engineered by the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, signed by President Jimmy Carter.

Sigler, a collegiate track star, took to the All-Around like a duck takes to water. A big man (6-3, 198), he had exceptional endurance and trained vociferously for the race walk, hammer and weight throws and

dominated an event whose heritage included Jim Thorpe, Malcolm Ford, Harry Gill, Martin Sheridan, Bob Richards and Avery Brundage. Sigler was one of the subjects in my 2005 book *All Around Men: Heroes of a Forgotten Sport*, (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press). I published a companion *All-Around Record Book* and Sigler dominated the last five chapters. *Sports Illustrated* once featured him in a 1975 'Faces in the Crowd' section. Soon afterwards he received a surprising and unsolicited letter from then 87 year old Avery Brundage, former IOC president, who chastised him as a professional because he 'coached' track and field. Imagine!

Sigler graduated from Towson State College in 1968, earned a master's degree at the University of Tennessee, took the track coaching position in the 1970s at Salisbury State, a time when he earned his All-Around honors. At age 34 he joined the FBI and spent nearly 30 years as a decorated agent. For a decade every FBI response to a national

emergency was organized by Sigler. For example, after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center towers, it was Sigler who organized FBI actions at Ground Zero. In 2004 he supervised the American security detail at the Athens



Olympic Games. An important yet virtually unknown figure in the track world who always worked in the background, Sigler nevertheless followed the decathlon event closely and always had time to talk about some of its current deca stars. He was a big fan of both Tom Pappas and Bryan Clay.

I never knew someone so loyal and dedicated. He competed in my Eastern Decathlon Championships in Emmitsburg, MD for twenty straight years. Twenty-- although he was late in arriving about 17 of those times. He kept the AAU All-Around event alive and even hosted it's final hurrah in 1978. He was fond of saying that he was still waiting for the medals from the national office. The Track and Field community hardly knew him but he was always in the background. But he'll be missed.

The cause of death was a heart attack. A funeral service was held in Fredericksburg, VA on Saturday, August 20 and the following day the family scattered Lloyd's ashes at the family farm in Princess Anne, MD. He is survived by wife Rachel, 4 sons and daughter Katherine. He was 64 year old.

Rest in peace Sig.

Frank Zarnowski
[58 2nd Ave, Emmitsburg, MD 21727]
August 22, 2011

References:

All-Around Men: Heroes of a Forgotten Sport, Lanham, MD, Scarecrow Press, 2005. (Sigler was the subject of chapter 25).

The Complete All-Around Record Book, Emmitsburg, MD: DECA, The Decathlon Association, 2005. (Sigler's career, pp. 95-102).

Hello Again...The focus of day two at the 42nd NCAA decathlon in Des Moines, IA, was the weather. Severe thunderstorms