

Track and Field



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European Record Holder at 38

The late Adolfo Consolini of Italy ranks along with American Al Oerter, 4-time Olympic champion, as the greatest discus thrower of all time. During his 32-year career at the highest level of the sport, he won all the possible titles. He also displayed an amazing consistency: from 1946 to 1960, whether in Olympic competition or in the European Championships, his throws always ranged between 52.21 m and 53.78 m.

Consolini took up the discus at 19, after meeting Boyd Comstock of the USA in Rome. Despite his nearly perfect discus throwing form, he didn't get much distance during his first tryouts. But after three months of intensive training, he hit the 40 m range. At 24, he set his first world record with a throw of 53.34 m. He improved on that in 1946 with a 54.23 m throw and in 1948, at the age of 31, hit the 55.33 m mark. Fortune Gordien and Sam Iness of the USA prevented him from making any further inroads on the world record, but he continued to improve the European record with a 55.47 m in

1950, and a 56.98 m, his best mark ever, in 1955. From the time of his international debut until 1966, Consolini participated in 453 events, of which he won 375. He was Italian champion 15 times and took first place in the annual world listings 6 times.

Consolini died on Dec. 20, 1969, in Milan after a brief illness. He was nearly 53. Several months before his death he could still throw the discus more than 45 m.

ADOLFO CONSOLINI

Born Jan. 5, 1917, in Costermano, ITA

Died Dec. 20, 1969, in Milan

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1948 OG: gold medal (52.78 m, an Olympic record)

1952 OG: silver medal

European Champion 1946, 1950, 1954

National Champion of Italy 15 times

Just another record