



# OLYMPIAN INSIGHT

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**From the desk of  
Dr. Liston Bochette  
Secretary General**



Dear Fellow Olympians,

On behalf of the WOA I am pleased to share "Olympian Insight" with you on a weekly basis. This news profile will feature a special question and answer column with a fellow Olympian. In addition to this weekly edition I am proud to announce that a monthly news bulletin will also be delivered to you through the Internet. In the case of occasional or urgent matters of special interest I will be sending you "flash news". Hopefully these communication tools will help make you proud of the WOA.

My entire staff at the Secretary General's office is working hard to bring the global community of Olympians closer. In the coming months we will be able to share stories and information leading up to the World Olympians Association General Assembly. For those able to attend, you will find information that will prepare you for a memorable event.

Please enjoy this news profile and special interview with a truly great Olympian. Through this series of articles other non-Olympians can share the wisdom and knowledge of our life experiences in the Olympic Movement. We are all family unlike any other and through improved communication we will be drawn even closer. Let's remember the great times and share our memories and emotions of those moments from yesterday together.

I am dedicated to the Olympic experience and being able to bring Olympians together. I look forward to serving as the Secretary General and meeting as many of you as possible through the Internet and at Olympic activities.

Yours in Sport,

## World Olympians Association

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*This week's interview is with Al Oerter, four time Olympic champion and former Olympic and world record holder who competed for the United States of America in the discus. Oerter won gold medals in 1956, 1960, 1964 and 1968, setting a new Olympic record every time. Al is currently living in Florida with his wife Cathy. We asked him to reflect back on his Olympic experience as well as to share some of his views and thoughts with the Olympic Family.*

**Q:** Looking back on your Olympic experience, what is your fondest memory?

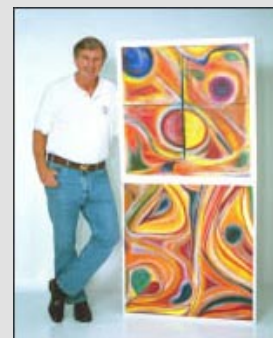
**A:** The fondest and most consistent memory I have of the four Games I was a part of is the association with athletes from around the world who had chosen to do the same thing I did. To be on the floor of an Olympic stadium in an Olympic final with the best there was in my event was worth the 1460 days of training leading to the Games. It's not the medals or ceremony surrounding the Games, it is the association with people of great talent and purpose.

**Q:** What would you like to share with everyone concerning what Olympians can do in today's world?

**A:** Today as in the past, Olympians can demonstrate to the world what energy, purpose and a willingness to put oneself on the line can achieve. Beyond all the hoopla, corporate interference, nationalism and excessive media nonsense lies the true nature of the Games and that is the effort a human makes to get more out of themselves than they ever thought possible. This in the best of competitive environments, the Games.

**Q:** What have you been doing recently?

**A:** In 1980 I did a piece of abstract art in support of the 1984 Olympic Team and today I do this full time and have had several one man shows. If anyone is interested in viewing what I do they can visit my website at [www.aloerter.com](http://www.aloerter.com) and click on paintings. My website also includes pages for the sale of cards, pictures and a signed discus that I use the proceeds from to support our recreational centers in Florida.



(Courtesy of [www.aloerter.com](http://www.aloerter.com))

**Q:** Is there a particular moment from any of your Olympic Games that you would like to share with others in the Olympic Family?

**A:** Perhaps for many athletes there is a single moment that defines the Olympic experience for them. For me it is a combination of working for 1460 days with ever increasing intensity, making the team, entering the Olympic stadium,

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Thank you to all the friends that support the World Olympians Association...

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*The conclusion of this interview will be in next week's edition. I would like to personally thank Mr. Al Oerter for sharing his time with us. I would also like to thank Olympians worldwide for making the World Olympians Association a successful reality. The staff at the Secretary General's office in Miami looks forward to working with you in the future. I hope that you have enjoyed the inaugural issue of "Olympian Insight."*

feeling the energy of the competition and the crowd and getting that first throw out there that defines the Games. In other words it is more of a four year experience rather than that single moment.

Q: What would you like to say to younger aspiring Olympians?

A: What I say to aspiring Olympians has been consistent over four decades:

- there are no shortcuts
- you get out of it what you put into it
- listen to advice but listen to yourself first and foremost
- work harder and longer than anyone else on earth
- if you don't enjoy it stop
- pay no attention to other competitors
- if you win work harder and smarter for next time
- if you lose work harder and smarter for next time
- never forget why you started or where you came from



Q: Today's world and the Olympic Movement itself are rapidly changing. How can our leaders in sport successfully impart the Olympic ideals to our young people?

A: I believe the Olympic ideals are alive and well in our young people. The title 'Olympian' still means something important to many people both young and old but it is being rapidly corrupted because of greed, self importance, corporate influence, incompetent leadership, drugs, cheating and the 'selling' of the Games. Why the Games have remained a highly thought of endeavor is a testament to the general positive attitude that folks have regarding the experience of athletes from all countries competing for very illusive goals. Global corporations must be prevented from assuming control over any sport and our Olympic leadership must be held accountable to those athletes they support. We no longer need athletes from professional leagues in the Games as their value to the growth of the Games has been non-existent.