

Olympic Champion Oleg Protopopov's Legacy Lives On – Oct. 31, 2023



Oleg Protopopov, a double Olympic champion in the realm of pairs figure skating, has died at 91. Together with his partner Ludmila Belousova, Protopopov clinched gold at the Olympic Games in Innsbruck (1964) and Grenoble (1968), and four times emerged as the champions of the world and Europe (1965-1968).

Revolutionizing Figure Skating

Competing with his spouse Ludmila Belousova, Protopopov was a pioneer in pairs skating, introducing many elements that are now mandatory in competitions. Their contributions have significantly revolutionized pairs figure skating with their innovative elements and performances. Their legacy extends beyond the Olympic Games with multiple victories in world and European championships.

A Legacy Remembered

The Skating Lesson, a trusted figure skating community source, announced Protopopov's death, highlighting his enduring impact on the sport. Protopopov's wife and skating partner, Ludmila Belousova, passed away in 2017. Protopopov's career and legacy extend beyond his Olympic success. He and Belousova were trailblazers, introducing new elements and pushing the boundaries of pairs figure skating.

Inspiring Future Generations

Protopopov's achievements were globally acknowledged and celebrated. They were inducted into the Figure Skating Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, USA. Their innovative elements and performances will continue to inspire current and future generations of figure skaters. In 1979, while on tour in Switzerland, Protopopov and Belousova sought political asylum and did not return to the Soviet Union. They spent the rest of their lives in Switzerland.

The passing of Oleg Protopopov marks the end of an era in figure skating. His contributions will forever be remembered, and he leaves behind a legacy of innovation and excellence that has left

an indelible mark on figure skating. The figure skating community and fans worldwide mourn the loss of a true legend and pay tribute to Protopopov's remarkable career.

<https://youtu.be/GTKrB71kOaw?si=Abr5Vvo3MuKYos2c>

Protopopovs

I had the pleasure of seeing the Protopopovs perform together at 2015 Evening with Champions. Ludmilla was 79 years old and Oleg was 83 at the time of the performance. The skating world has lost a legend. May they both rest in peace.



Obituary - <https://www.legacy.com/news/celebrity-deaths/oleg-protopopov-1932-2023-gold-medal-winning-olympic-figure-skater/>