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August 12, 1986

## Services for Herbert Mols Scheduled for Wednesday

A Mass of Christian Burial for Herbert J. Mols, a founder of the Empire State Games and Western Region director since they began in 1978, will be offered at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Christ the King Catholic Church, Snyder. Burial will be in the Cayuga County village of Aurora.

Mols, 71, of Amherst, died early Sunday (Aug. 10, 1986) in Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital after suffering a heart attack at the Games the night before.

Known as "The Father of the Western Region," he had a long career in amateur athletics going back to Fosdick Masten High School, Cornell University and the 1936 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.

He served as manager of the U.S. basketball team at the March 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. The U.S. team lost to the Soviets, 51-50, in a controversial game in which the Americans claimed the Soviets scored the winning basket during an extra three seconds of play.

He also was manager of the U.S. basketball team in the Pan-American Games in Cali, Colombia, in 1971, and of the American entry in the 1970 Pan Am Games, which ran up a 10-3 record on a tour of the Soviet Union, Poland and Finland.

Mols was athletic director of Park School in Amherst for 27 years until retiring in 1973. He coached football, basketball, baseball and track, and during his first eight years there he also taught biology, chemistry and physics. He was instrumental in organizing the Conference of Upstate Private Schools, in which Park competed.

He was director of the Niagara District of the Amateur Athletic Union from 1973 to 1981 and in that position first proposed an "Olympics of New York State" in 1976. The idea became a reality, and for the past two years the Games have been held in Buffalo, drawing a total of 348,885 spectators.

Mols was to have officially closed the ninth annual Games here Sunday, but members of his family stood in his place.

Born in Buffalo, Mols and was on



Herbert J. Mols

the cross country, track and swimming teams at Fosdick Masten. He graduated from Florida High in Tallahassee, Fla., playing track, football and basketball.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Cornell, where he played basketball, baseball and football.

After working in the U.S. Forest Service in New England for several years, Mols enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and served as a radar specialist at Guadalcanal, Saipan, Palau and Okinawa.

Mols, who had been chairman of the Amherst Recreation Committee during the 1950s, was named to the Amherst Avenue of Athletes by the town's Chamber of Commerce in 1981. For many years he was a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

His wife, the former Ruth M. Cass, died in 1981. He is survived by two sons, Gary of Victoria, British Columbia; and David of Honolulu; three daughters, Sandra Hughes of Wilton, N.H.; Susan Bushee of Washington, and Mary Siedman of Bolinas, Calif.; two brothers, Charles of Tampa, Fla., and Robert; a sister, Charlotte van Nynegan of Orlando, Fla., and 17 grandchildren.

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